

MFT5351-140 Diverse Couples Assessment and Treatment

Spring 2023

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

- Jan 18, 2023 - May 10, 2023
- This course meets online, synchronous (Wednesday night 6:00-8:45pm) and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. I-Shan Yang

Email: i.yang@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 6-7pm by appointment only via WebEx

Instructor will respond to emails within 48 hours during business days, exceptions include holidays, school closures, etc.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp) [<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

For updates on COVID information, please monitor the University Website:
<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>

Course Overview and description

Learn models and skills necessary for effective treatment of couple relationship problems. Integrate issues of diversity into a systemic conceptualization of couple problems.

Prerequisite(s): MFT 5301.

Course Objectives

- Assess how contextual issues affect individual lives and relational dynamics (SLO-3)
- Formulate treatment plans based on individual issues, relational dynamics, and contextual issues (SLO-4)
- Develop collaborative relationships with other mental health professionals and agencies within the local community (SLO-6)

Student Learning Outcomes

- Student will be able to demonstrate comprehension of various therapeutic models from a systemic framework
- Student will be able to describe assessment procedure and treatment interventions for couple therapy
- Student will be able to integrate issues of diversity into a systemic conceptualization of couple problems,

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

1. Lebow & Snyder (2022). *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy*, 6th Ed. Guilford Publications
2. Gottman, J. S., & Gottman, J. M. (2015). *10 principles for doing effective couples therapy*. WW Norton & Company.
3. Additional articles will be posted on Canvas

Course Requirements

1. *Discussion Posts (30 pts)*
There will be 3 discussion posts through the semester. Student will respond to prompts based on either the readings, videos, class discussion. Initial responses should be 250-400 words. Student will then reply to at least 2 different classmates with post (100 words each). If you didn't respond to any post, you will only be awarded for partial credits (5 pts for initial post).
2. *Interview reflection paper (40 pts)*
There are two steps in this assignment: first, you will select a couple (can be your family, friends, co-workers etc.) to conduct an interview. A list of questions will be provided on Canvas. The length of the interview should be 45-55 minutes (similar to your first sessions). Second, once you complete your interview, you will turn in a one page paper (double-spaced, size 12 font, with 1 inch margin) reflecting on your experience. For example, how did you prepare your interview? Do you ask

all the question? How did you feel when asking these questions? What are some questions you planned to ask but didn't? How did the couple respond to your questions?

3. *Quizzes (50 pts)*

There will be 5 quizzes through the semester. They will be in multiple-choice or true/false format. Student will be quizzed on information related to course readings, videos, class discussions. Quizzes are timed and individual questions are locked after answering. Students will not be able to take quizzes after the deadline has passed. Quizzes will be open on **course date from 8am to 11:59pm**.

4. *Couple analysis paper and presentation (80pts)*

For this assignment, you will select a couple (from real life or TV shows) to analyze using a theory we discuss through the semester. You will compose a paper (4-5 pages, excluding title and reference page, in APA style) addressing your assessment on the presenting, providing justification on the theory you choose and propose a simple treatment plan (format will be provided on Canvas). Once you turn in your paper, you will prepare a PowerPoint presentation (15-20 minutes) to demonstrate your case and analysis.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Assignment items	Points
Discussion posts	30
Interview reflection paper	40
Quizzes	50
Couple analysis and presentation	80
Total	200

Grades:

A= 180-200 B= 160-179 C= 140-159 D= 120-139 F=119 or less

Posting of Grades

- All grades will be posted on Canvas where students can monitor their progress
- All assignments will be graded within 7-10 business day from the due date, excluding holidays, school closures etc.

Grading Policies

- Any late assignments will receive 10% grade deduction each day.
- Assignment(s) that is turned in more than 5 days after its due date will not be graded and will receive a zero.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	1/18 Real time via WebEx	Introduction and syllabus	Syllabus	
2	1/25 Online	Couple Therapy Overview	Handbook:Ch1 Gottman: 1 st principle	Discussion Post#1
3	2/1 Real time via WebEx	Behavioral Approach	Handbook: Ch 3 &4 Gottman: 2 nd principle	
4	2/8 Online	Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy	Handbook: Ch.6 Gottman: 3 rd principle	Quiz 1
5	2/15 Real time via WebEx	Intergenerational Factors in Couple Therapy	Handbook: Ch.9 Gottman: 4 th and 5 th principle	
6	2/22 Online	Narrative Couple Therapy	Handbook: Ch. 10 Gottman: 6 th principle	Quiz 2
7	3/1 Real time via WebEx	Solution-Focused Couple Therapy	Handbook: Ch. 11 Gottman: 7 th principle	
8	3/8 Online	Integrative Systemic Therapy for Couples	Handbook: Ch. 14	Quiz 3
	3/15	Spring Break-No Class		
9	3/22 Real time via WebEx	Socioculturally Attuned Couple Therapy	Handbook: Ch. 12	Discussion Post #2
10	3/29 Online	Special Topics: Work with Older couples	Handbook: Ch. 20	Reflection paper due
11	4/5 Real time via WebEx	Special Topics: Work with LGBTQ+ Couples	Handbook: Ch. 23 Additional articles on Canvas	
12	4/12 Online	Special Topics: Couples with mental health diagnoses	Handbook: Ch 24, 25,26	Quiz 4

13	4/19 Real time via WebEx	Special Topics: Infidelity & Intimate Partner Violence	Handbook: Ch. 17 &18 Gottman: 9 th Principle	Discussion #3
14	4/26 Real time via WebEx	Presentation-1		
15	5/3 Real time via WebEx	Presentation-2		Couple Analysis paper due
16	5/10	Final wrap up	Handbook: Ch. 30	Quiz 5

Important University Dates

All important dates can be found via the link:

https://catalog.tamuct.edu/undergraduate_catalog/general-information/academic20calendars20and20final20exam20schedule/
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select "Chat with Canvas Support," submit a support request through "Report a Problem," or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdpId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlssso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Library & Archives

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing

approximately 631,525 eBooks and 75,149 journals, in addition to the 97,443 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](https://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

OTHER POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/bit) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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