

SYLLABUS
Coun 611: INTRODUCTION TO MARRIAGE & FAMILY
COUNSELING/THERAPY
Fall 2014

INSTRUCTOR

Linda Ball, Ed.D

Preferred contact, e-mail: linda.ball@tamuc.edu

(903) 886-5637 (main office)

(903) 886-5649

OFFICE HOURS*: To be set at the beginning of Fall semester**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

611. *Introduction to Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy.* (3 sem hrs). A survey of the historical development and principal conceptualizations of marital and family counseling/therapy. Goals include an initial examination and comparison of various theories currently employed in the field with an emphasis on interview techniques. Subject areas to be covered include the various schools of family counseling/therapy, along with current trends and issues in marriage and family counseling/therapy. –*TAMUC Graduate Catalog*

This course uses lecture, discussion, videotapes, role-play, assigned readings, examinations, case studies, research/reflection papers, and experiential exercises to explore the marriage, family, and relationship counseling field. *Students are encouraged to reflect on their own family and relationship experiences as they may impact their training and practice as professional counselors.*

TEXTBOOK:

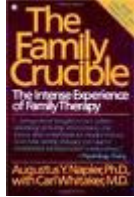
Gladding, S. T. (2010). *Family therapy: History, theory, and practice* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

**Supplemental:**

McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R. & Shellenberger, S. (2008). *Genograms: Assessment and intervention* (3rd ed.). NY: Norton



Napier, A. (1978). *The Family Crucible*. NY: HarperCollins
 Paperbacks ISBN: 9780060914899; ISBN10: 0060914890; Imprint




COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce counselor trainees to the theories, therapeutic processes, and techniques involved in marriage, family, and relationship counseling.
2. To assist counselor trainees in developing their own approach to marriage, family, and relationship counseling relevant to school and agency settings.
3. To promote self-assessment and self-exploration by counselor trainees concerning their family of origin experiences in order to promote optimum functionality as a professional counselor.
4. To familiarize students with the marriage, family, and relationship counseling literature.
5. To introduce students to current issues and trends in the marriage, family, and relationship counseling field.
6. To familiarize students with specific issues pertinent to marriage, family and relationship counseling (e.g., gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and culture).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Regular class attendance is required. As this is an accelerated course, more than one (1) absence will jeopardize successful completion of the course, i.e. **grade will be lowered.**
2. Appropriate (as defined by instructor) level of interaction/participation during classroom discussions and presentations is expected. Concerns/Infractions will be addressed individually by the instructor and recommendations made.

- Faculty are required to include in their course syllabi the following statement: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)

3. One multiple-choice exam, with a section of application questions will be given. (approximately 50 questions.)
4. Outside projects (all graded on a  system): ✓+ = ~95+; ✓= ~85; ✓- = ~75
 - a. **GENOGRAM PROJECT.** The Genogram Project has 4 parts:
 - 1) a basic 3-generational genogram;
 - 2) the same genogram with relational patterns added;
 - 3) systems analysis based on your FOO; and
 - 4) reflection on how your FOO has influenced you.

The supplemental *Genograms* text is helpful in the preparation for this assign : accuracy of genogram representation, demonstrated knowledge of family systems constructs, overall presentation (neatness, clarity), thoroughness, and depth of interaction with

material. Further directions and samples will be provided..

b. **CASE CONCEPTUALIZATION.** Using the “Hoover” family, select a family approach and apply this approach to the family. A handout with guidelines will be given, though basically you will include background information, assessment of the family along the lines of healthy functioning, constructs associated with this approach applied, role of the therapist, goals of treatment, and how you might use the techniques of this approach with a rationale for use. Again, your grade will be based on demonstrated applied knowledge of the constructs of the approach you select, overall presentation of the material, and thoroughness.

6. I'll determine your grade on this basis: The following components will be equally weighted:

1. Final Exam: 1/3 of your grade
2. Genogram: 1/3 of your grade
3. Case conceptualization: 1/3 of your grade

Thus, averaging the above:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| A | 90 & up |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |

REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

~ Faculty are encouraged to include in their course syllabi the following statements:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library Rm 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148**

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF CONTENT

DATE	TOPIC (May Vary)	READINGS	DUE
Week 1	Introduction to course and class		Video
Week 2	Labor Day	No Class	Rest AHHH
Week 3	Characteristics of Families; Family Systems Concepts	Gladding Chapters 1, 2	
Week 4	Family Systems		

	Concepts Hx & Process of Family Therapy		
Weeks 5 & 6	Bowen Family Therapy	Gladding Chapter 9; use of genograms	
Week 7	Experiential Family Therapy, esp. Satir Model	Gladding Chapter 10	Genogram Project
Weeks 8 & 9	Structural Family Therapy	Gladding Chapter 12	
Week 10	Strategic Family Therapy	Gladding Chapter 13	
Week 11	Solution-Focused Family Therapy	Gladding Chapter 14	
Week 12	Narrative Therapy	Gladding, Chapter..., Notes	
Week 13	Cultural Diversity in Family Therapy	Gladding Chapters 3	
Week 14	Special Populations; Ethics, Integration,	Gladding: Single/Blended Families 4, 5 Ethics, 15	Case Conceptualization
Week 15	Catch up	<i>Whew... Do I hear an Amen?!</i>	
Week 16	Final Examination		