



COUN 615
Marital Counseling / Therapy
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2015

TIME: Tuesdays, 7:10 -10 P.M.
Instructor : Amir Abbassi, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT (903) 468-3272 (Office)
E-mail: amir.abbassi@tamuc.edu

Office Hours:

In McKinney on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
In Commerce, by appointment only

COURSE INFORMATION

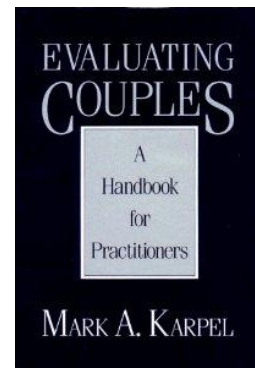
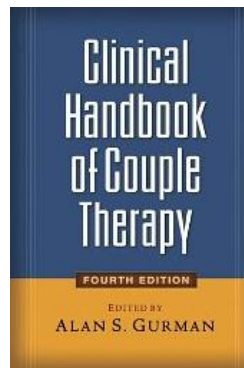
Materials – Text, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required:

Gurman, A.; (2008) Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy, (Fourth Edition)
Karpel, M; (1994) Evaluating Couples: A Handbook for Practitioners; A Norton Professional Book

Reserved Readings

Recently published manuscripts related to course topics occasionally may be assigned as outside reading. Copies will be available through eCollege as copyright laws permit.



Supplemental Materials

As copyright laws permit, supplemental materials will be distributed and/or made available via eCollege. These materials may include, but are not limited to, diagrams, charts, summarizations, tables, and lecture outlines.

Course Description

A Study of counseling theories applied to marital and other dyadic relationships. Emphasis will be placed on the assimilation, integration and application of information pertaining to such topics as marital/divorce developmental tasks theory, object relations theory, systemic family of origin theory, interaction patterns in marriage, divorce process, and post divorce adjustment. Techniques and historical development of marriage enrichment, marital therapy, and divorce therapy interventions will be included.

Prerequisite: Counseling 611 or consent of instructor

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students should be able to:

1. Become familiar with basic theories and historical development of marriage enrichment, marital therapy, and divorce therapy interventions.
2. Apply theory to intervention strategies with couples.
3. Begin to develop a personal approach toward marital therapy and apply to counseling.
4. Become familiar with current research and developments in marital therapy.

<h2>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</h2>

Couple Interview

Students will interview and tape a couple. The student will provide the interviewees with a consent form. The videotape and written summary of the interview (not a transcription) will be submitted on the due date. This assignment is not a counseling or assessment process. The intent is to help the student be aware of how different events impact a couple and to assess your reaction to their relationship.

Presentations

Each student will be required to present an overview of an approach discussed in the Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy. The text may be used as a major resource, but additional material should also be brought in. The instructor will provide an outline of key concepts required in the presentations.

Exam

One Final Exam. Each student will be required to present the class with 10 questions upon the completion of their presentation of an approach. Students are required to cite the page that

the question was gathered, and the correct answer. Upon the completion of all presentations, a selection of the questions will be presented as the final exam.

Grading

Grading in this class will include both points and percentages so that students can determine at any time in the class where they stand. The grade book will be available through eCollege and students may access it at anytime they wish.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Grades	
Exam	20%
Presentation	40%
Couple Interview Tape & Summary	20%
Participation	20%

Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Access to a computer with

- Internet access (high-speed preferred)
- Word processing software (Microsoft Word preferred)
- As a student enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce, you have access to an email account via myLeo - all my emails sent from eCollege (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the eCollege email system or your myLeo email as our spam filters will catch yahoo, hotmail, etc. and I will not check for your email in spam.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Access and Log in Information

This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience, eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you experience issues while taking your exams or at any other point, feel free to contact the support desk.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Help:** Click on the '*Help*' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Policies

Attendance & Participation:

1. I consider class attendance and participation to be one of the most important, yet underrated elements of a student's education. There are numerous elements that go into class participation:
 - a. Good attendance (According to University rules, students may be dropped from the class for excessive unexcused absences). For this course that will translate into no more than 2 absences.
 - b. Somewhat frequent contributions to class discussion.
 - c. Reading assigned work and course material (if any are assigned).
 - d. Interactions with all members of the class ["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)].

Students are required to attend all class meetings or participate in online instruction, as offered by the instructor. Recovering missed lecture content or assignment information is the responsibility of the student. Office appointments or emails will not be used to substitute for class attendance or online

study. Fellow students may provide notes for recovery of missed information. Failure to prepare and participate effectively will negatively impact the learning processes devised for the class. Ineffective participation on a consistent basis may result in instructor's use of alternative instructional methods, such as pop-quizzes and reading reports, among others. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" (Student Guide Book, pp. 67-73).

Lecture and readings:

Material from course lectures will not always be found in your text. I plan on incorporating class discussions and class activities into each lecture.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due on specific dates, as assigned. Assignments will be accepted after the due date, however point deduction will be applied to late assignments.

Withdrawal Policy

Every student has the right to drop the course without penalty until the drop-date. Students dropping the course during this period will be given a DP (drop while passing). A grade of DP is GPA neutral, but a grade of DF counts as an F on your transcript.

If you choose to stop attending class (logging in to eCollege), you may be dropped from the course due to excessive absences (7 consecutive days of no activity). If you are not satisfied with your grade in the course and wish you to drop, it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. Once a grade of DP or DF has been registered, I will not be able to change it.

A student may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Student Conduct

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. You are adults and will be treated as such. Discriminatory, rude, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated in this class and students will be asked to leave or drop the class (these same rules apply for online discussions). If a student continues to act in the same manner during future classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop the student from the course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly work free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution.

Texas A&M University-Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. As the University states, "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." These policies are stated in detail in the Student's Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read this document and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this

class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment grade of 0 on the examination or homework assignment. The maximum penalty is expulsion from the University.

Texas A&M University-Commerce further does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of academic **dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Visit the following websites:

<http://www.plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

University Policies

Requests for Special Accommodations

Requests from students with disabilities for reasonable accommodations must go through the Academic Support Committee. An individual instructor cannot decide to make accommodations for you without that Committee's approval.

ADA Statement

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 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule of the class. Any alterations will be announced in class, in eCollege or via email by the instructor. Students who do not check eCollege or their email assume responsibility for missing alterations to the course.

Week	Chapters	Assignments
Week 1 09/01	Introduction	
Week 2 09/08	Ethics In Couple Counseling	AAMFT Code of Ethics
Week 3 09/15	Transgenerational Couple Therapy	Presenter:
Week 4 09/22	Cognitive Behavioral Approaches to Couple therapy	Presenter:
Week 5 09/29	LGBT Couples	Presenter:
Week 6 10/06	Structural Couple Therapy	Presenter:
Week 7 10/13	Post Modern Approach Narrative and Solution Focus	Presenter:
Week 8 10/20	Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy	Presenter:
Week 9 10/27	Sexual Dysfunction and Couple's Therapy	Presenter:
Week 10 11/03	TCA conference	
Week 11 11/10	Violence, Trauma, Infidelity and Divorce in Couple Therapy	Presenter:
Week12 11/17	Social Constructionist Video Tape Due	Presenter:
Week13 11/24	Sound Marital: An Empirically Derived Couple Therapy	Presenter:
Week 14 12/01	Happy Thanksgivings	
Week 15 12/08	Couple therapy and addiction issue (alcohol, drug, gambling & sex)	Presenter
Week16 12/15	Final Exam	