

SYLLABUS
COUN 513: Communication in Marriage
Spring 2017

INSTRUCTOR

Linda Ball, EdD

e-mail: linda.ball@tamuc.edu (preferred method of contact)

(903) 886-5637

(903) 886-5649

OFFICE HOURS: To be determined by first week of Spring Semester

CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Coun 513. *Communication in Marriage*. Three semester hours.

Theories and techniques of verbal and nonverbal communication in marriage relationship are studied.

COURSE OBJECTIVES include, but are not limited to, the following.

Students should be able to:

1. Understand the behaviors and patterns of verbal and nonverbal communication in marital relationships.
2. Understand the individual (emotional and developmental) and family (developmental and multigenerational) dynamics that contribute to and influence marital communication.
3. Understand the systemic context in which communication is perceived, defined, and responded to by individuals within marital dyads.
4. Know the characteristics of functional and dysfunctional marital communication.
5. Become familiar with several approaches to marital therapy.
6. Become familiar with current models of marital enrichment program.
7. Become aware of current research on marital functioning.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Berger, R. & Hannah, M.T. (Eds.). *Preventive approaches in couples therapy*. Philadelphia: Brunner/Mazel

*Gottman, J., & Gottman, J. S. (2014). *Level 1 clinical training Gottman method couples therapy: Bridging the couple chasm*. Seattle, WA: Gottman Institute.

***The department will purchase this manual directly from the Gottman Institute and students will reimburse the department, via check. You will receive the manual the first day of class.**

On Reserve in Library or through online resource

Selected articles/programs

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION/COURSE FORMAT

The class will consist of lectures, discussions of assigned readings, audio and video tapes of theoretical presentations and clinical applications.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and to be prepared to discuss assigned readings. Attendance and participation will be considered as part of your final grade. You will be responsible for any material missed due to an absence. You will also be responsible for material assigned, but perhaps not discussed in class.

Note due dates on all assignments and assume a professional position on this. Specific requirements include:

Couple Interview

You will be required to interview one (1) couple, at a selected stage of marriage from the following.

Stage 1:	0-3 years
Stage 2:	4-8 years
Stage 3:	9-15 years
Stage 4:	16-25 years
Stage 5:	25+ years

Bonus Stage:
50+ years

Indicate whether the couple is within their first marriage or remarried, with or without children.

This should be an informally structured interview designed to discover how the couple makes the marriage work. As such, no specific set of questions is required. This allows you, the interviewer, the privilege and freedom to explore the unique set of dynamics that exists in your couple. Also, videotaping or recording the interview will allow you to be fully involved in the process, while simultaneously providing you with the recording to reflect on later. Provide a permission to record document and execute with signatures (form will be distributed). Areas to tap into, using your own style of engagement, are: How long have you been married?; Initial attractions; How did you know this person was the one for you?; Qualities you love and appreciate in your partner; How do you express that to each other?; Discoveries/surprises along the way; How do you handle conflicts?; What characteristic or quality would you say contributes the most to the success of your marriage?; What advice or suggestions for a successful marriage would you give to couples contemplating marriage? Any other areas that naturally flow out of the interview can be addressed as well. Summarize your interview by incorporating the above information as well as your observations of the couple in areas of style of communication, level of connectivity, ways of interacting, verbal/non-verbal patterns, seating arrangement, etc. Include any personal reaction you might have had to the couple.

Reflective Paper

You will keep a working written reflection of readings and their application to your personal and professional development, particularly pertaining to your own style of communication. At the end of the semester you will write an integrated personal reflection on your progress throughout the course regarding your style of communication within relationships, working with couples, your fit, and your walked path into an increased level of self-awareness and hopefully congruence. As this assignment is partly developmental in nature, you may be asked to show your written reflections after you have turned in your paper.

Presentation

You will participate in a group presentation of a preventative approach (couples enrichment programs, etc.) in couples therapy. You may select from the approaches we discuss, or from another source with

permission from the instructor. You are encouraged to be creative, yet professional, in your presentations. Use of technology is required.


Case Conceptualization

Using the couple from our initial class video, select an approach and apply this approach to “our class couple.” A handout with guidelines will be given, though basically you will include background information, assessment of the couple along the lines of healthy functioning, constructs associated with this approach applied, role of the facilitator/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.

Exam

Multiple choice short answer format based on assigned readings

GRADING

All components, save the exam, will be graded on a  system): ✓+ = 95; ✓ = 85; ✓- = 75

The following components with assigned percentages will be reflected in arriving at your final grade:

1. Attendance & participation 15% (More than 3 absences results in one letter grade reduction, and in order to receive the Gottman level one completion certificate you must make up any work missed.)
2. Interview 20%
3. Reflective Paper 10%
4. Presentation 20%
5. Case Conceptualization 15%
6. Exam 20%

Thus, averaging the above with assigned percentages:

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

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with Disabilities:

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

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Faculty members teaching courses must also include in their syllabuses the following disavowal of discriminatory practices by the university (I have touched it up to name the university correctly, and to eliminate an unnecessarily ugly passive voice construction):

[Texas] A&M [University]-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, [we will maintain] an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression ~~will be maintained~~.

CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

"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) "Graduate students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work." (See Section A13.12, Academic Honesty, A&M-Commerce Procedures.)

UNIVERSITY CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER

Check <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/> regarding class cancellations. Also, KETR radio on 88.9 FM and television channels 4, 5, and 8 (channel 7 for Tyler & Longview Area).

Course Calendar (with flexibility intended)

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Course overview, communicating expectations	Opening Video	
Week 2	History of the institution of marriage and current statistics	In class, Open discussion	
Week 3	The Research: What makes Relationships Succeed or Fail?	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 4	The Sound Relationship House Theory.	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 5	Aspects of Assessment	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 6	Assessment, con't	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 7	Intervention	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 8	Conflict Management	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned

Week 9 (week of March 13-17)	<i>Spring Break</i>	(NO CLASS)	
Week 10	Conflict Management, con't	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 11	Working with resistance	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 12	Building Friendship...	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 13	Putting it all together, the process of therapy	Follow topic in manual...	Readings in Gottman manual Other material as assigned
Week 14	Preventative measures...		Presentations
Week 15	Marital Conflict and the Children		Interviews Case conceptualization; Reflection paper
Week 16	Final Examination		

University mandates for course syllabi... some overlap from above.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset) http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.
JavaScript is enabled.
Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio](https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical) <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](#) and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: It is strongly recommended you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio (eCollege) technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511 (toll free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not a legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.tamuc.edu). <https://leo.tamuc.edu>

Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>


The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

FREE Mobile APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses – Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses
- View course filters on activities

- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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Gee Library- Room 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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