



A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

SWK 361: ISSUES IN FAMILY TREATMENT

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Lyndsey L. Norris, LMSW

Office Location: HEN 323E

Office Hours: T, TH 11:00 am-12 pm & 1:00-3:00 pm or by Virtual by appointment

Office Phone:

Office Fax:

University Email Address: Lyndsey.norris@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **EMAIL**

Communication Response Time: Usually within 2 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Texts:

Thomlison, B. (2016). Family Assessment Handbook: An Introduction and Practical Guide to Family Assessment 4th Edition. CA: Thomson, Brooks/Cole.

Course Description

This elective course is designed to enable students to understand the theories and the process of helping families. Information is provided on diverse family structures and work with families facing divorce, death, domestic violence, and other social problems.

PROGRAM GOALS:

1. Prepare students for competent and effective generalist social work practice with diverse client systems.
2. Provide students with a foundation of knowledge for professional development, graduate education and lifelong learning
3. Develop student capability to improve human service delivery systems and promote social justice
4. Socialize student to the profession of social work

CORE COMPETENCIES

Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) requires a competency-based approach to identify and assess what students demonstrate in practice. In social work, this approach involves assessing students' ability to demonstrate the competencies identified in the educational policy. Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following competencies for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP).

Students achieve programmatic goals listed above through demonstration of the following **bolded competencies** for Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP).

Competency 2.1.1 Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly

Competency 2.1.2 Apply social work ethical principles to guide professional practice

Competency 2.1.3 Apply Critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments

Competency 2.1.4 Engage diversity and difference in practice

Competency 2.1.5 Advance human rights and social and economic justice

Competency 2.1.6 Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research

Competency 2.1.7 Apply knowledge of human behavior and the social environment

Competency 2.1.8 Engage in policy practice to advance well-being and deliver services

Competency 2.1.9 Respond to contexts that shape practice

Competency 2.1.10 (a)-(d) Engages, assesses, intervenes and evaluates individual, families, groups, organizations, and communities

Student Learning Outcomes (Practice Behaviors)

Each competency (outlined above) describes the knowledge, values, skills and cognitive and affective processes that comprise competency at the Advanced Generalist Practice (AGP) level. While content and activities of each course in the MSW curriculum covertly or overtly addresses each of the nine competencies, identified within each course is a set of specific practice behaviors representing observable components of one for more competencies. Content and Assessment in this course reflect the following practice behaviors:

2.1.2.1 Makes ethical decisions by applying standards of National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics and as applicable, of the International Federation of Social Workers/International Association of Schools of Social Work Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles

2.1.2.3 Tolerates ambiguity in resolving ethical conflicts.

2.1.2.4 Is able to apply strategies of ethical reasoning to arrive at principled decisions.

2.1.3.1 Is skilled at appraising and integrating multiple sources of knowledge and practice wisdom

2.1.3.2 Is skilled at analyzing models of assessment, prevention, intervention, and evaluation

2.1.10[a].3 Develops a mutually agreed-on focus of work and desired outcomes.

2.1.10[c].3 Helps clients resolve problems.

2.1.10[c].4 Negotiates, mediates and advocates for clients.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

GRADING

I DO NOT allow for Extra Credit. There are a number of opportunities for you to be successful in this course with an abundance of work. I strongly suggest you use a calendar to keep up with opening and closing dates for assignments. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**

Grading and evaluation - Grades will be determined according to the following percentage points earned against possible points.

Evaluation for the course grade will be computed according to the following formula:

Possible Points Grade

200 to 180 – A

179 to 160 – B

159 to 140 – C

139 to 120 – D

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

SWK 361 Assignments

Please note that I have left the course open so that you may work at your own pace. However, you will need to note that part of discussions will have to be completed during the week they are assigned and the responses to peers must be within the Thursday-Sunday timeline given in order to meet that guideline. As well you can reply to the prompt early in the discussion but not late. Please note that if you are working ahead, I highly encourage you to keep track through a calendar as to what assignments are due when so as to not miss a deadline. This is where many students experience difficulty and remember there are no make ups or allowance to retake a quiz.

POLICY ON DUE DATES:

I DO NOT accept Late Work. Assignments will be open when the course is open, allowing students to work ahead if they so desire. They close when they are due. However, items such as discussions will remain available as “Read Only” after the closing date. Pay close attention to things such as guidelines and timelines for posting in the discussions. These timelines are in place to help. Remember that the DUE DATE is when you have to have the assignment in but you may always turn assignments in ahead of time.

Also, please be aware that waiting until 11:30 pm to place your assignments in the drop box is not a good idea as your clock may not be set with the online program and at times the drop boxes seem to close early.

1. YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements: **Quizzes** – There are three quizzes throughout the course; each one is worth 10 points (20 questions worth ½ point each). Quizzes are open in the course and must be completed by 11:30 p.m. on the Sunday in the week they are listed. There are no allowances for opening a quiz after it has closed (in order to be completed late). Each quiz is on specific chapters and there are no overlaps. All quizzes are open book, and have extended times. Meaning, I feel that you can learn as much by going back through the material and locating it again, versus memorizing some concept. I still advise you to have notes or to have read the material to reduce flipping through pages to find the answers.
2. Discussion – There are 3 discussion assignments throughout this course. They are worth 10 points each. **To receive the points on each discussion assignment you must do all of the following:** (** note: if you do not submit both your initial post and your two responses to peers by the deadline, you will automatically receive a zero for the discussion assignment)
 - a. You must respond to the discussion prompt of the instructor by Wednesday at 11:30 pm and then respond to TWO of your peers between Thursday after 12:01am and Sunday at 11:30 pm.
 - b. Your initial post must be a true discussion of your understanding of the topic assignment and must be between 10- 15 sentences.
 - c. The comments to your TWO peers must be a minimum of five sentences and must add to the discussion. Though you are free to say things like “Interesting thought” or “Nice discussion,” these comments and those similar are not counted as part of the five sentences.
 - d. Proper grammar is expected. I highly recommend typing your thoughts and comments in a file on a word processing program and check for spelling and grammatical errors. Professionalism and professional presentation is an expectation and not an option. **Points will be taken off for sloppy spelling and writing.**

3. **Papers** – You will have three written assignments throughout the course on an assigned topic. Each paper is worth 20 points. All assignments are to be APA format with Times New Roman, 12 point font, and double-spaced. They are submitted via the corresponding file in the course for the week they are due. Do not submit them as an email. They must be a document with your last name as part of the file name and they must be a Word document (.doc or .docx extensions). A grading rubric is supplied for each paper so you know exactly what you are being graded on. Note: Points will be deducted for errors in spelling, grammar, and sentence structure. **You must copy and paste the rubric to each of your papers.**
4. **Group** – **Prior to Week 4** you will be assigned to a group and given specific instructions for the group activity your group is to complete. This assignment will be given to you (and your group members) in Week 4 and must be completed by the end of Week 8. Since the course is open, you may work ahead. It is worth 20 points.
5. **Topic Check-in** – These are scattered throughout the course. They require that you log in for that week and watch the video. For credit for this, you must complete the assignment by uploading your two paragraph paper after viewing the video and posting a one paragraph summary of what the video was about, and a one paragraph summary of your thoughts on what you saw. Be sure you upload by Sunday at 11:30 pm of the week assigned. The combined assignments are worth 20 points.
6. **Final Exam** – This is worth 40 points and is a comprehensive exam on everything you learned in the course. It pulls questions from all previous exams you have taken and to be done within the time allocated so you will need to have studied the material.

POLICY ON LATE WORK OR EXTRA CREDIT: I DO NOT ALLOW FOR LATE WORK OR EXTRA CREDIT. There are a number of assignments in the course that will allow students of multiple learning types to excel. I do not allow for make ups for any missed assignment. The reason for this is that you have ample time to complete each assignment. It is important to pay close attention to deadlines. I highly recommend using a calendar or print off a calendar and mark your assignments and due dates.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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: 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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Instructor will respond to email queries within 2 business days.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@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.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Engagement Policy

Final Evaluation and Grade Depends on both Classroom attendance and Participation

Inadequate participation or lack of required time commitment in each class significantly affects students' grades. No matter the course venue, students must engage in a comparable amount of time. Expectations of both Face-to-Face classes and those with Online components include time spent reading and studying course material.

To earn a level of competency within a specific course, students must demonstrate both mastery of content and active engagement.

Mastery of content areas is evidenced by successful completion of course assignments such as written papers, group project deliverables, tests/quizzes and other tangible products designed by instructors to evaluate knowledge and skills.

Additionally, the Social Work Profession is built upon human interactions and building human relationships – which is defined as engagement. Engagement is defined as meaningful involvement in interactions with instructor, peers, outside stakeholders as appropriate (such as contacting a social worker to interview for a required assignment). Within the classroom setting, whether virtual or F2F, students must actively participate in 80% of engagement activities as outlined by individual instructors. These activities can include participation in a live, synchronous virtual classes, attending a Face to Face course when appropriate, interacting with peers in posted discussions and collaborating in group interactive projects.

Students must meet standards for content mastery on tangible assignments and meet the threshold of active engagement 80% of the time during a semester. Instructors are experts in each course content area and set the standards for students to meet for successful completion of the course.

As we enter the Fall semester, we are all working under stresses and strains related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative we communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you **MUST** reach out to your instructor and let him or her know.

Student Conduct

Students preparing to become professional social workers must adhere to the *University Code of Conduct*, *Department Code of Conduct* and *National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Code of Ethics*.

University Code of Conduct located in the *Student Guide Book* at

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf> (pp 34- 66). On the University Website under Campus Life Documents

To become aware of University policies related to student academic and behavioral expectations for students refer to the Guidebook.

Department Code of Conduct

"Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/lab/internship practicum or to block access to online courses and may refer offenses to the [Academic and Professional Issues Committee (API)] or to the Department Head. More serious offences by be referred to the University Police Department and/or the Judicial Affairs Office for disciplinary action" (Student Guidebook p 35)

Social Work students conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner. Closely linked with professional recognition is the social worker's compliance with the profession's ethical standards. It is imperative for professional social workers to be competent and ethical in practice if the profession is to maintain the public trust. It is essential that each social work student gain a thorough understanding of the ethical principles that guide practice and actively demonstrate in behavior, both in and out of

the classroom. Student conduct is to reflect the tenets of *NASW Code of Ethics* (located at <https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp>) on the NASW website: <https://www.socialworkers.org>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Readings	Assignment/Activities
Week 1 8/30	Syllabus Chapter 10 – Critical and Reflective Thinking	Review of Syllabus and navigation of course Topic Check-in #1
Week 2 9/6	Chapter 1 Family Contexts	Discussion Board # 1
Week 3 9/13	Chapter 2 A Framework for Understanding Families	Paper #1
Week 4 9/20		Quiz 1 on Chaps 1, 2, 10
Week 5 9/27	Chapter 3 The Family System	Topic Check-in #2
Week 6 10/4	Chapter 6 Intergenerational Family Systems	Discussion Board #2
Week 7 10/11	Chapter 4 Family Assessment	Paper #2
Week 8 10/18		Quiz 2 on Chaps 3, 4, 6
Week 9 10/25	Chapter 5 Designing Family Interventions	Topic Check- in #3
Week 10 11/1	Chapter 8- Cognitive/Behavioral Strategies	Discussion Board #3
Week 11 11/8	Chapter 9 – Assessment/Evaluation	Group Assignment

Week 12 11/15	Chapter 7 – Family Centered Interventions	Paper #3
Week 13 11/22		Quiz 3 on Chaps 5, 7, 9
Week 14 11/29		Topic Check-in # 4
Week 15 12/6		Final Exam due on THURSDAY 8/9 by 11:30 pm