



**COUN 611: Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy**  
Course Syllabus: *Summer II 2022 (Online)*

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Linda Ball  
**Office Location:** Virtual and Binnion 222  
**Office Hours:** Virtual  
**University Email Address:** linda.ball@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Method of Communication:** email  
**Communication Response Time:** 48 hours, excluding weekends

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Required Textbook**

Gladding, S. T. (2019). *Family therapy: History, theory, and practice* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

McGoldrick, M. & Gerson, R. (2008). *Genograms: Assessment and intervention* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). NY:W.W. Norton.

**Supplemental Readings**

Napier, A. (1978). *The Family Crucible*. NY: HarperCollins

**Recommended Textbook**

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Author.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Catalogue Description of the Course**

*COUN 611. Introduction to Marriage and Family*

This course surveys the historical development and principal conceptualizations of marital and family therapy. Goals include an introductory examination and comparison of various theories currently employed in the field. Subject areas to be covered include the various schools of family therapy, along with current trends and issues in marriage and family therapy. Case studies and videotapes will be utilized to facilitate students' understanding of theory and skills. In addition to reading the required text, additional outside reading is strongly encouraged to supplement student development in marriage and

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



family therapy.

### **General Course Information**

This is an introductory course to develop marriage and family counseling skills, which is required for doing internship and acquiring credentials as a Marriage & Family therapist. It is designed for students already having a background in counseling yet wanting specialized skill training. It will include assignments in which each student begins exploring her/his personal family of origin, an important component of training for professional counselors. COUN 611 requires considerable effort and motivation to successfully complete. If you are currently unable to dedicate adequate time and effort toward this course, please consider taking this at another time.

### **Content Areas include, but are not limited to, the following:**

Self-evaluation as a potential marriage counselor  
Personal philosophy and methodology for marriage counseling that she/he can defend via sound rationale  
Professionalism in marriage counseling (i.e., organizations, agencies, etc.).  
Multiple aspects of relationship counseling (i.e., conjoint counseling, premarital counseling, divorce counseling, etc.)  
Family functions as a unique changing system and identify those points at which successful intervention seems most likely  
Historical development of the MFT field and current issues  
Key terms in the MFT and associate the terms with appropriate schools of thought  
Compare and contrast the theories and approaches of leading schools of thought  
Personal issues pertaining to one's family of origin and present functioning and how these issues may affect one's therapeutic relationships  
Current literature in the MFT field through journals & periodicals

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

In this class, you will utilize the Learning Management System (LMS) entitled D2L for portions of instructional and learning methods, submitting assignments, participating in online discussions, and completing quizzes. You will need to utilize other technologies such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc. If you have issues with this system, it is your responsibility to contact the help desk immediately

### **Instructional Methods**

This course consists of lecture and didactic learning methods, small group discussions, and in-class assignments, coupled with experiential learning and practical application. When we are not meeting face to face, you will be expected to participate and complete all online tasks via D2L In

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



addition to this, small lectures, discussion, activities, and workshops may be utilized during this course.

**Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

As a student in this course, you are responsible for the active learning process. Expectations of this course include the following:

1. Display professionalism at all times. Be respectful of your professor and peers.
2. Be open to feedback, as you will receive this throughout the program.
3. Prepare for classes. Complete any and all readings prior to class time.
4. Complete all assignments by the deadline.
5. Adhere to the university student code of conduct.
6. Participate. During face-to-face classes, you are expected to actively participate in all activities and discussion. In the online format, you are expected to participate in all online discussions/activities. This is crucial to your learning.
7. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition.
8. Regularly check your University email. My suggestion is to check this at least once a day as your instructors and others from the department and University may contact you. Begin your readings ASAP. Sometimes it may take more than one attempt to digest the material. Deadlines are the last possible moment something is due—not the first moment to start.
9. Work ahead. I realize this may not always be possible; however, when you can, do so.
10. Be open to the process. This degree takes time, work, effort, and growth

**Exam (100 points).** There will be one final multiple choice and True/False exam (approximately 50 items). A review of the exam will be provided online. The goal of the exam is to test your knowledge on various theories of Family Therapy covered in this course, as well as application of knowledge to practice.

**Assessment: Exam Rubric**

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-79 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (80-89 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectation (90-100 points)
Grade Percentage on Exam	Less than 80% correct on all test items	Between 80% and 89% correct on all test items	Greater than 89% correct on all test items

**Discussion Boards (4 weekly posts at 5 points each; 20 points total) in D2L.** You will have a total of 4 discussion boards (4 initial postings and 4 response postings) in this class. You are expected to give a thorough and thoughtful response to each prompt. In addition to the initial discussion, you will also respond to one of your classmate’s discussion posts. The goal of the discussion posts is to stimulate conversation surrounding research, challenge any preconceived notions relevant to research and the counseling profession, and expand your thoughts on counselors’ role in research. The rubrics for both discussion and response posts are below.

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



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**Discussion Post and Response Rubric**

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-2 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (2.0- 3.9 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (4-5 points)
Discussion Post Qualities 5 Points	Post is not complete, not written in a clear manner OR post is missing critical components of the question OR is discussed in an illogical/inconsistent manner. Post has several grammatical/APA errors; not consistent with graduate level work	Post presents most elements of the question OR all elements discussed in a brief manner. Has not responded to a peer’s post. Post is evident of graduate level work with some grammatical errors	Post presents all elements of the question(s) discussed thoroughly and clearly. Has also responded to a peer’s post. Post is evident of graduate level work with few to no grammatical errors.

**Genogram Project (50 points):** The Genogram Project has 4 parts:

- 1) a basic 3-generational genogram;
- 2) the same genogram with relational patterns added;
- 3) a systems analysis based on your FOO; and
- 4) a reflection on how your FOO has influenced you.

The *Genograms* text is helpful in the preparation of this assignment: Accuracy of genogram representation, demonstrated knowledge of family systems constructs, overall presentation (neatness, clarity), thoroughness, and depth of interaction with material are all pieces to include for this project. Further directions and samples will be provided in D2L platform

**Genogram Project Rubric**

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-19 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (20- 39 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (40-50 points)

**Case Conceptualization (50 points):** Using the “Hoover” family, select a family approach and apply this approach to the family. A handout with guidelines will be uploaded to D2L, 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.

**Case Conceptualization Rubric**

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-19 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (20- 39 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (40-50 points)

**GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale based on percentage of total points earned:

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
< 59%	F

Assignment/Assessment	Point Value
Participation in class discussion	20
Genogram	50
Case Conceptualization	50
Final Exam	100

Commented [A1]: The discussion board is missing from this area

Total points possible = 220. Your Final Grade is determined adding the point values earned from each assignment.

Assignments are due on the day noted in the syllabus.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

COMMERCE

**Desktop Support**

<b>Browser</b>	<b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>	<b>Maintenance Browser Version(s)</b>
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

**Tablet and Mobile Support**

<b>Device</b>	<b>Operating System</b>	<b>Browser</b>	<b>Supported Browser Version(s)</b>
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.  Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- 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

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



- **For YouSeeU Sync Meeting sessions *8 Mbps* is required.** Additional system requirements found here: <https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>
- 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.

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 \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <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.

## 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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



**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**

### **Brightspace Support Need Help? Student 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 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.



### **System Maintenance**

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Communication with your professors is key to your professional growth. I am here to support and guide you along your academic journey. With that being said, I cannot help you if you do not communicate with me. Please make an appointment if you have any concerns or questions. Because I teach in different locations, email is the best way to reach me. I will attempt to answer all emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday, but at times will need up to 72 hours to do so. When emailing, please use your university email and address me with courtesy and respect.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

Written assignments are due on the day noted in the syllabus. All papers are due at the beginning of the class period. Late papers will have 10% deduction per day late from the final score.

### **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.

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*





## **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>

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>

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**COMMERCE**

**ADA Statement**

**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- Room 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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.

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*



[Example] COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Topic	CACREP Standards	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction to course and class Characteristics; Family Systems Concepts of Families Hx & Process of Family Therapy	N/A	Gladding (2010), Chapters 1-3, & 7	Self- introduction on D2L Week 1 Discussion Post
Week 2	Bowenian approach Experiential Family Therapy, esp. Satir Model	N/A	Gladding (2010), Chapter 9 & 10 McGoldrick (2008) ; use of genograms	Week 2 Discussion Post
Week 3	Structural Family Therapy Strategic Family Therapy	N/A	Gladding (2010), Chapter 12 & 13	Week 3 Discussion Post
Week 4	Solution-Focused Family Therapy Narrative Therapy Special Populations; Ethics, Integration	N/A	Gladding (2010), Chapter 14,15, & 6	Week 4 Discussion Post Genogram Project Due
Week 5		N/A	<b>Final Exam</b>	Final Exam Case Conceptualization

*Summer II 2022 Syllabus/Schedule are subject to change*