

COUN 513: COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE

Course Syllabus

Spring, 2025

January 13 – May 9, 2025

(web-based)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Zaidy MohdZain, PhD.,
Office Location:	Binnion 229
Office Hours:	by appointment
University Email Address:	zaidy.mohdzain@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbooks/Readings/Podcasts

Other than textbooks, all required readings (including articles) and podcasts are available for free.

Required Textbooks:

Shapiro, J. L., and Patterson, T. (2015). *Real-world couple counseling and therapy. An introductory guide*. San Diego, CA: Cognella.

[Print ISBN: 978-1-5165-4433-2]

[Ebook ISBN: 978-1-7935-0438-8]

Sperry, L. (2025) (Ed.). *Couple and Family Assessment. Contemporary measures and cutting-edge strategies*. (4th ed.). New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group [pbk ISBN; 978-1-032-46889-1] [ebk ISBN: 978-1-003-38366]

Required Readings of information/materials/articles from:

American Counseling Association (2014). *ACA Codes of Ethics*. Author.

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2014-code-of-ethics-finaladdress.pdf?sfvrsn=96b532c_2

Pew Research Center, November 2019, “Marriage and Cohabitation in the U.S.”

link: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/11/06/marriage-and-cohabitation-in-the-u-s/>

Pew Research Center, February 14, 2020, “More than half of Americans say marriage is important but not essential to leading a fulfilling life” link: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/02/14/more-than-half-of-americans-say-marriage-is-important-but-not-essential-to-leading-a-fulfilling-life/>

Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists
<https://www.bhec.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LMFT-February-2021.pdf>

Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors
<https://www.bhec.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/LPC-February-2021.pdf>

Required podcasts:

from [KERA/Think](#). KERA is a public radio station in Dallas and the program is called Think. The following required podcasts are free and available through various internet search engines. University’s public radio station [KETR](#) also broadcasts the program

1. November 23, 2023 “The evolution of marriage”
2. November 13, 2021, “The Search for Soulmate a Path to Loneliness”
3. March 24, 2024 “The best communicators don’t talk much”.

Supplemental Readings (Optional)

American Psychological Association. (2004, Oct 8). Marital education programs help keep couples together. <https://www.apa.org/research/action/marital>

Berger, R. & Hannah, M.T. (Eds.). (1999). *Preventive approaches in couple therapy*. Brunner/Mazel.

Bubenzer, D. L., & West, J. D. (Eds) (1994). *Counseling couples*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications [ISBN: 0-8039-8421-9]

Flynn, S. V. (2023). *The couple, marriage, and family practitioner. Contemporary issues, interventions and skills*. New York: Springer Publishing.
978-0-8261-8774-1 (Print)
978-0-8261-8775-8 (eBook)
DOI: 10.18991/9780826187758

Gottman, J. M., and Gottman, J. S., (2024). *The new marriage clinic. A scientifically based marital therapy*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company [ISBN: 978-1-324-01631-1]

Guerin, Jr., P. J., Fay, L. F., Burden, S. L., & Kautto, J. G. (2007). *The evaluation and treatment of marital conflict. A four-stage approach*. New York: Basic Books Inc. [ISBN: 0-465-02112-3]

Snyder, D. K. (2024). *What happens in couple therapy. A casebook on effective practice*. New York: The Guilford Press.

[print ISBN: 9781462554744]
[etext ISBN: 9781462554775]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 (Student Learning Outcomes) 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.

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 and submitting assignments. 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

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 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. You are expected to display professionalism at all times. Be respectful of your professor and peers. Be open to feedback, as you will receive this throughout the program.
2. Prepare for classes. Complete any and all readings prior to class time.
3. Complete all assignments by the deadline.
4. Adhere to the university student code of conduct.
5. 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.

6. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 7th edition standards.
7. 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.
8. Begin your readings ASAP. Sometimes it may take more than one attempt to digest the material.
9. Deadlines are the last possible moment something is due—not the first moment to start. 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.

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.

Assignments/Assessments

Class Participation and Discussion (100 points total):

You are expected to participate in class discussion with in-depth submissions of your thoughts and reactions. Each Discussion (maximum points of 10) will begin on Monday of the week at 12:00 midnight and relevant submissions must be entered/uploaded by Friday at 11:59pm. No late submission will be graded or receive points.

The purpose of this class discussion is to assess your understanding of the materials covered in your reading assignments and your ability to apply the concepts in real counseling sessions using system theory. When submitting your postings, your discussion needs to be referred to the concepts in the reading assignments such as your textbook by using the systemic terms. So, your Discussion postings need to be cited and referenced. By doing so, you will acquire a new professional language for such things as clinical supervision, referral to other providers, etc.,

Assessment: Discussion Rubric

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0 – 6.9)	2 – Meets Expectation (7 – 8.9)	3 – Exceeds Expectation (9 – 10)
Each Discussion topic	Short, few words submissions such as “yes”, “agreed” without full sentences; sentence(s) unrelated to the topic of discussion or out of context.	Submission addresses basic content; Regurgitating content/materials from reading assignments with no indication of understanding nor ability to apply;	Submission reflects underlying understanding of the content and context; good demonstration of ability to apply concepts and/or materials to clinical settings; well-thought

	Little or no indication of well-thought out posting		off; Posting(s) are of graduate-quality, professional in nature; Citations included.
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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 (committed relationship) 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.

Genogram of a minimum 3 generations is encouraged (the higher the better) to be included in your paper. Further details such as expectations will be discussed during classes. No sample paper will be provided.

*** Read and review materials in textbooks before attempting to interview the couple. Materials in Sperry (2025) textbook especially chapters 2, 5 and 6 serve as a guide or foundation to keep in mind when you interview the couple even though you may not necessarily make them complete any of the instruments mentioned. The grading is dependent upon demonstration of understanding the concepts and materials contained in both your textbooks and your ability to apply them to the couple you are interviewing. Because this is a graduate-level class assignment, proper citations and referencing are required.

Interview Paper: Grading Rubric

Clinical description of couple 20 Points	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-9.9 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (10.0- 14.9 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (15 -20 points)
	Presenting issue 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	Presenting issue presents most elements of the question OR all elements discussed in a brief manner. Evident of graduate level work with some grammatical/APA errors	Presenting issue presents all elements of the question(s) discussed thoroughly and clearly and the narrative is within acceptable systemic theory. Evident of graduate level work with few to no grammatical/APA errors. Three generation Genogram included
Description of the dyad or unit according to the developmental stages 40 points	0 – Does Not Meet Expectations (0 – 19.9 Points)	2- Meets Expectations (20 – 34 Points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (35 – 40 Points)
	Description is not complete, not written in a clear manner. Mainly a summary of the movie without connecting to any system theory concepts outlined in reading assignments. No genogram.	Description presents some elements and discussion is brief with details unconvincingly outlined. Genogram is minimally acceptable but not professionally done.	Description presents all elements and discussed thoroughly and clearly. Utilize concepts in main textbooks and demonstrate ability to apply those concepts to the case in the movie. Genogram is detailed with relationships illustrated. Overall narrative is graduate-level work and demonstrative of ability to apply system theory concepts.
Using	0 – Does Not Meet Expectations	2 – Meets Expectations	3 – Exceeds Expectations (35 – 40 Points)

course materials and applying them to the couple or dyad. Describe self as a clinician working with couples 40 Points	(0 – 19.9 Points)	(20 - 34.9 Points)	
	Description is not complete, not written in a clear manner. No description of what occur within the counseling sessions. Narrative is heavily focused on the movie and its characters with no or little referral and/or connection to the system theory concepts as outlined in reading assignments.	Description and narrative are minimally acceptable with details left out. Brief (insufficient) description on what transpire within the counseling sessions. Insufficient/inadequate application of systems theory concepts OR intervention is heavily focused from the perspective of individual counseling intervention.	Description includes the difference in conducting individual versus family counseling based on theoretical concepts learned. Able to cite and use concepts within the textbooks on system theory in the narrative. Describe how counseling takes place within each session in detail and the overall progression towards resolutions of presenting problem in each session until termination. Narrative is congruent with systemic theory. Include techniques and methods which will be used by the counselor during counseling sessions. Graduate-level quality work with citations and references as per APA styles.

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.

Reflective Paper: Grading Rubric

Presenting issues regarding styles of communication within relationships	1 – Does Not Meet Expectation (0-9.9 points)	2 – Meets Expectation (10.0- 14.9 points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (15 -20 points)
	Presenting issue is not complete, not written in a clear manner OR post is missing critical components of	Presenting issue presents most elements of the question OR all elements discussed in	Presenting issue presents all elements of the question(s) discussed thoroughly and clearly and the narrative is within acceptable systemic


20 Points	the question OR is discussed in an illogical/inconsistent manner. Post has several grammatical/APA errors; not consistent with graduate level work	a brief manner. Evident of graduate level work with some grammatical/APA errors	theory. Evident of graduate level work with few to no grammatical/APA errors.
Description of the dynamic of working with couple or dyad 40 points	0 – Does Not Meet Expectations (0 – 19.9 Points)	2- Meets Expectations (20 – 34 Points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (35 – 40 Points)
	Description is not complete, not written in a clear manner. Mainly a summary of the movie without connecting to any system theory concepts outlined in reading assignments. No genogram.	Description presents some elements and discussion is brief with details unconvincingly outlined. Genogram is minimally acceptable but not professionally done.	Description presents all elements and discussed thoroughly and clearly. Utilize concepts in main textbooks and demonstrate ability to apply those concepts to the case in the movie. Genogram is detailed with relationships illustrated. Overall narrative is graduate-level work and demonstrative of ability to apply system theory concepts.
Self awareness and how do self fit into delivering couple or relationship counseling 40 Points	0 – Does Not Meet Expectations (0 – 19.9 Points)	2 – Meets Expectations (20 - 29.9 Points)	3 – Exceeds Expectations (30 – 40 Points)
	Description is not complete, not written in a clear manner. No description of what occur within the counseling sessions. Narrative is heavily focused on the movie and its characters with no or little referral and/or connection to the system theory concepts as outlined in reading assignments.	Description and narrative are minimally acceptable with details left out. Brief (insufficient) description on what transpire within the counseling sessions. Insufficient/inadequate application of systems theory concepts OR intervention is heavily focused from the perspective of individual counseling intervention. Too few	Description includes the difference in conducting individual versus family counseling based on theoretical concepts learned. Able to cite and use concepts within the textbooks on system theory in the narrative. Describe how counseling takes place within each session in detail and the overall progression towards resolutions of presenting problem in each session until termination. Narrative is congruent with systemic theory. Include

		or insufficient citations and referencing.	techniques and methods which will be used by the counselor during counseling sessions. Graduate-level quality work with citations and references as per APA styles.
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Quizzes 1, 2, 3 and 4

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 points will be reflected in arriving at your final grade:

Attendance & Discussion	Each Discussion 10 points	100
Interview paper		100
Reflective paper		100
Quiz 1		20
Quiz 2		20
Quiz 3		20
Quiz 4		20
Final Exam		20
Total Possible		400

Thus, final letter grade will be:

A	360 – 400	90%
B	320 - 359	80%
C	280 - 319	70%
D	240 - 279	60%
F	239 or below	50%

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.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
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

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			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
- 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](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.

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

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.

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>

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<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.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

(Tentative. Changes will be made through course announcement page)

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 January 13	Introduction Course Overview	Syllabus Pew Research Center, November 19, 2019 “Marriage and Cohabitation in U.S.” (all 4 topics)	Discussion 1
Week 2 January 20	Ethics and Professional Issues	ACA Codes of Ethics (2014) Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 2	ACA Codes of Ethics 2014 Texas’ LPC and LMFC Discussion 2
Week 3 January 27	Marriage	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 1 Podcast from KERA/Think November 23, 2023 “The evolution of marriage”	Discussion 3
Week 4 February 3	Marriage	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 3	Discussion 4
Week 5 February 10	Relationships	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 4 Pew Research Center, February 14, 2020 “More than half Americans say marriage is important but not essential to leading a fulfilling life”	Quiz 1
Week 6 February 17	Relationships	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 5	Discussion 5
Week 7 February 24	Process of Couple Treatment	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 6 Sperry (2025) Chapters 1 & 2	Quiz 2
Week 8 March 3	Process of Couple Treatment	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 7 Sperry (2025) Chapters 3, 4, 5 Podcast KERA/Think,	Discussion 6
Week 9 March 10	SPRING 2025 SEMESTER – SPRING BREAK		
Week 10 March 17	Process of Couple Treatment	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapters 8 and 9 Sperry (2025) Chapters 6, 7 & 10	Couple Interview due Discussion 7
Week 11 March 24	Counseling and Professional Consideration	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 10	Quiz 3
Week 12	Counseling and Professional	Shapiro & Patterson (2015)	Discussion 8

March 31	Consideration	Chapter 11	
Week 13 April 7	Counseling and Professional Consideration	Shapiro & Patterson (2015) Chapter 12	Discussion 9
Week 14 April 14	Self Care and Professional Development for Counselors		Quiz 4
Week 15 April 21	Self Care and Professional Development for Counselors	KERA/Think, March 24, 2024 “The best communicators don’t talk much”.	Discussion 10
Week 16 April 28	Closure		Reflective Paper due
Week 17 May 5	FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK		

Dated: December 2, 2024