

COUN 315: Philosophy of Helping Relationships

Course Syllabus, Fall 2025

Fall 2025 (August 25, 2025 – December 12, 2025)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Rusty Fox, Ph.D.

Office Location: Binnion 221 & Virtual Office by appointments

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm-4:00pm, and Fridays by appointment virtually (Inquire, if you need ZOOM/Virtual office hours at other times)

University Email Address: Rusty.Fox@etamu.edu

Preferred Method of Communication: email

Please always **list course number in Subject Field. COUN 301**

Communication Response Time: 24-36 hours, Monday-Friday; emails sent on Friday after 4:00pm Central Time will be answered the following workday

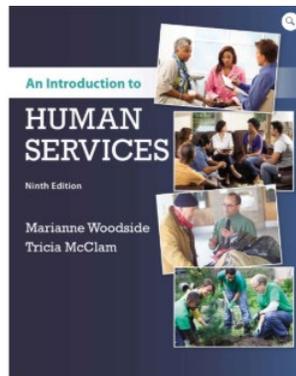
COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbook:

Textbook(s) Required:

Woodside, M., McClam, T. (2019) *Introduction to Human Services. 9th Edition*. Cengage.



Note: This course will use D2L as its Learning Management System
**You are also responsible for other readings as they may be assigned

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.



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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalogue Description of the Course

COUN 315 - Phil of Helping Relatnshp

Hours: 3

Philosophy of the Helping Relationship. Three semester hours. (1, 2) This course is designed to create an understanding of helping relationships. Basic communication skills (such as active listening, responding, and interviewing skills) for building helping relationships are developed.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstration of understanding of key theory and concepts.
2. Evidence of ability to apply newly acquired skills.
3. Skillful and appropriate use of discipline-specific vocabulary.
4. Demonstration of professionalism, and understanding of ethics and legal components of this academic field.
5. Practice of college-level academic writing, and ability to integrate content learned of this professional field of study with general content knowledge of Human Services.

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 addition to this, small lecture, discussion, activities, role-play, 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. 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 before the deadline.

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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, and central to your grade.
6. All writing assignments must be done according to APA 7th edition.
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. Some personal doubt and concern about progress and competence may be a necessary part of growth. Be CERTAIN to share thoughts and concerns with your instructor throughout the course.

Goals/Rationale of the Course

- Create an insight for you the student, to understand the inner workings of the human services profession, and its connection to the field of counseling; its history, development, and the role of the helping professional in various settings.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between human services professionals and other mental health professionals, and other professionals who support individuals and human kind.
- Provide students with information to help them better determine how congruent the field of human services and the discipline of counseling is with their future academic and professional goals

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

GRADING

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

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Exceeds Expectations (90-100 points)	Student had an insightful understanding of subject matter and was able to communicate and demonstrate the importance of the material assigned.
Meets Expectations (80-89 points)	Student had adequate understanding of subject matter and was able to minimally communicate and demonstrate the material assigned.
Student partially Meets Expectations (70-79 points)	Student demonstrates understanding of some components of subject matter, but is not able to clearly communicate or demonstrate overall comprehension of material assigned.
Does Not Meet Expectations (0-79 points)	Student did not appear to understand the subject matter, and was not able to communicate nor demonstrate comprehension of the material assigned.

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Assignments	30%
Discussions, Activities, and Participation in class	30%
Group Presentation	10%
Exam 1	10%
Exam 2	10%
Exam 3	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Learning Management System (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>

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LMS Browser Support:

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

Zoom Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

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, thoughts or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. Rusty.Fox@etamu.edu Please know I am eager to brainstorm with you, consider solutions, and to meet with you to explore options.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT: The best way to communicate with me between classes is email. Please use "Counseling 301" in the subject of your email. In the content portion of your email, be sure to include your first and last name and the best email and phone number to reach you (if necessary). I respond to my emails daily. Also, I will be more than happy to meet with you if needed. Please reach out to me so we can set up a convenient time and location. Note my regular office hours posted above. Those are specifically designed for meetings with students.

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS: We will follow university policy on attendance (links below). It will be essential that you are **present**, participating in classroom learning, and completing all assignments at the time they are due. Therefore, it is not really possible to turn in assignments late or make up for content/participation missed. Late assignments cannot be accepted. (If you have missed content, or assignment deadlines, you must either have prior approval of the instructor, or written documentation of an excused absence approved by the instructor, for any consideration or partial or optional credit). If you have any questions about missed work, it is your responsibility to obtain clarification from the 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>

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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 or in writing.

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](#)

<https://inside.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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the webpages below.

Attendance:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is paramount! Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. **Be certain you are familiar with university policy and procedures regarding academic integrity. It is a core value of higher education, and failure to comply can result in consequences from a failing grade on an assignment, to failure of a course, to dismissal from the institution.** Use of generative Artificial Intelligence presented as your own work is a violation of academic integrity, and not allowed. Be certain to ask questions and seek help from the Writing Center on proper citation and quoting on all submitted assignments. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the following procedures:

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Undergraduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

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

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.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 or have questions, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

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

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR (*Chapters subject to change, with notification*)

Week 1, August 25 th through August 31 st	Chapter 1: An Introduction to Human Services
Week 2, September 1 st through September 7 th (<i>Labor Day, Sept 1st, Campus Closed</i>)	Chapter 1 continued
Week 3, September 8 th through September 14 th (<i>Form Project Group</i>)	Chapter 2: The Human Services Professional
Week 4, September, 15 th through September 21 st (<i>Exam 1, Chapters 1 through 3</i>)	Chapter 3: History of Advocacy in Human Services
Week 5, September 22 nd through September 28 th (<i>Provide outline of Group Project</i>)	Chapter 4: Human Services and Ethical Practice
Week 6, September 29 th though October 5 th	Chapter 5: Multicultural Dimensions of Helping
Week 7, October 6 th through October 12 th	Chapter 5 continued
Week 8, October 13 th through October 19 th	Chapter 6: Models of Service Delivery
Week 9, October 20 th through October 26 th (<i>Exam 2, Chapters 4 through 7</i>)	Chapter 7: Where Do Counselors Work?
Week 10, October 27 th though November 12 th	Chapter 8: The Client
Week 11, November 3 rd through November 9 th	Chapter 8 continued
Week 12, November 10 th through November 16 th	Presentation of Group Projects
Week 13, November 17 th through November 23 rd	Chapter 9: Working Within the System
Week 14, November 24 th through November 30 th (<i>Thanksgiving November 27th and 28th - No class</i>)	Chapter 10: Human Services Today
Week 15, December 1 st through December 7 th	Dead Week – Prep for Finals
Week 16, December 8 th through December 12 th (<i>Finals Week</i>) (<i>Exam 3 – Chapters 8 through 10</i>)	Final Exam

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