



COUN 301: Introduction to Counseling Philosophy
Course Syllabus, Spring 2026
(January 12, 2026 through May 8, 2026)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

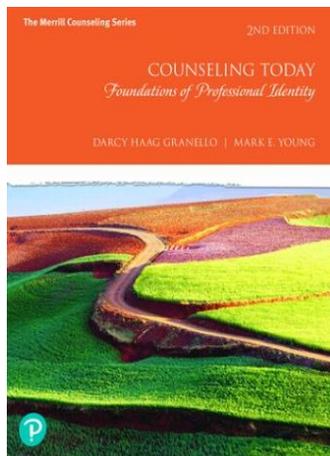
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| Instructor: | Rusty Fox, Ph.D. |
| Office Location: | Binnion 221 and Virtual Office by appointment |
| Office Hours: | Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm-4:00pm, and Fridays by appointment virtually (Inquire, if you need ZOOM/Virtual office hours at other times) |
| University Email Address: | Rusty.Fox@etamu.edu |
| Counseling Department Phone: | 903.886.5637 |
| Preferred Method of Communication: | email - Please <i>always</i> 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

Textbook(s) Required (Needed 1st day/week of class):

Granello, D. H., and Young, M. E. (2019) *Counseling Today: Foundations of Professional Identity. 2nd Edition*. Pearson



The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course will provide a structure and environment for learning. That learning will occur through an overview and orientation to the counseling profession including general professional issues such as ethics, history, credentialing, professional associations and the role of counselors in various settings.

Goals/Rationale of the Course

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

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 undergraduate-level counseling content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods

This course requires active attendance and participation. Lively discussion, interesting case studies, practical group discussions, real life application, and earnest exploration of content and informed opinions, are all part of the format for learning here. Outlining and reading the chapters before class discussions, as well as regular attendance, will be necessary and required. Please note: **Content, discussions, exams, and assignments missed cannot be made up, unless documented as a university-excused absence through the instructor.** Please be certain to read the university's policy regarding documentation required for excused absences. Again, attendance and participation, and completion of D2L Activities are required to pass this course.

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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

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

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Assignments | 30% |
| Discussions | 30% |
| Group Presentation | 10% |
| Exam 2 | 10% |
| Exam 3 (Final) | 10% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Week 1, Jan 12 th through Jan 18 th | Chapter 1: Who are Counselors? |
| Week 2, Jan 19 th through Jan 25 th | Chapter 1 continued |
| Week 3, Jan 26 th through Feb 1 st <i>(Form Project Group)</i> | Chapter 2: What do Counselors do? |
| Week 4, Feb 2 nd through Feb 8 th <i>(Exam 1, Chapters 1 through 3)</i> | Chapter 3: How are Counselors Trained and Regulated? |
| Week 5, Feb 9 th through Feb 15 th | Chapter 4: How do Counselors Integrate Personal and Professional Identity? |
| Week 6, Feb 16 th through Feb 22 nd | Chapter 5: How do Counseling Students Get the Most from Their Graduate Programs? |
| Week 7, Feb 23 rd through Mar 1 st <i>(Provide outline of Group Project)</i> | Chapter 6: How do Counselors Use Theories? |
| Week 8, Mar 2 nd through Mar 8 th | Chapter 6 continued |
| Spring Break Week , Mar 9 th through Mar 15 th | Rest, Relax (or work), Have FUN! It's Spring Break! - |
| Week 9, Mar 9 th through Mar 15 th <i>(Exam 2, Chapters 4 through 7)</i> | Chapter 7: How do Counselors Use Research? |
| Week 10, Mar 16 th through Mar 22 nd | Chapter 8: What Happens in a Counseling Session? |
| Week 11, Mar 23 rd through Mar 29 th | Chapter 9 Where do Counselors Work? |
| Week 12, Mar 30 th through Apr 5 th | Chapter 10: How do Counselors Promote Social Justice and Engage in Culturally Competent Counseling? |
| Week 13, Apr 6 th through Apr 12 th | Chapter 11: How do Counselors Collect and Use Assessment Information? |
| Week 14, Apr 13 th through Apr 19 th <i>(Group Projects due in D2L)</i> | Chapter 12: How do Counselors Make Legal and Ethical Decisions? |
| Week 15, Apr 20 th through Apr 26 th | Chapter 13: How do Couns Support Wellness in Themselves and Their Clients? |
| Week 16, Apr 27 th through May 3 rd | and Chapter 14: Counseling Tomorrow DEAD WEEK, preparation time for Final Exams |
| -FINALS May 2 nd through May 8 th <i>(Exam 3 – Chapters 8 through 10)</i> | Final Exam (for this class it is at May 7th, 8:00am to 10:00am) |

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- ✓ Assignments and Discussions must contain two components to obtain full credit.
 - The first being YOUR observations/understanding of the content,
 - and second, explained support and source of learning from the text which validates your opinion, and allows you to apply it to content.

- ✓ This means your answers may NOT be just a listing of facts or a verbatim definition. They **must** include your “understanding,” or rewording of the lists or definitions. **If you merely re-write the definition from the book as your answer, you will lose valuable points.**

- ✓ This also means, to show understanding you must be able to apply the content. You do this by **explaining and summarizing new learning from the text, and then support your opinion/thoughts through new content from that week’s chapters.** This will be essential to do well in this class.

Class Activity Participation Rubric

*Exceeds Expectations
(90-100 points)*

*Meets Expectations
(70 to 89 points)*

*Minimally Meets Expectations
(60 to 69 points)*

Below 60% is Failing to Meet Expectations

Proactive participation: **leading**, originating, informing, challenging contributions that **reflect in-depth study**, thought, and **analysis** of the topic under consideration. **Clear application of learning.** This does not mean dominating discussion or self-disclosure inappropriate to the circumstances. Full attendance in the class experience. No absence/no evident pattern of lateness.

Reactive participation: supportive, **follow-up contributions that are relevant and of value**, but rely on the leadership and study of others, or **reflect opinion/personal self-disclosure rather than study, contemplation, synthesis, and evaluation.** One absence/no evident pattern of lateness.

Passive participation: present, awake, alert, attentive, but **not actively involved or invested**; Or Uninvolved: absent, present but not attentive, sleeping, texting/surfing, **irrelevant contributions.** More than two absences/pattern of lateness evident.

**Reminder:* You must be in attendance, and meet the posted due dates in D2L in order to earn a passing grade in this course.

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COUN 301

Partnered Project

Due April 13th, with presentations to be scheduled for class, between April 13th April 24th

Get with a group of peers from this COUN 301 class (2 or 3), and create a mini-presentation package (Prezi/PowerPoint, Class presentation, and Paper) on one of the Counseling Theories listed in our textbook. (*Not Client-Centered*) Be certain to explain it's strengths and weaknesses, and where/when it might be most useful to a client(s).

- ✓ Create roughly 10 interesting slides, with graphics. Do not simply read content from, nor write narratively on slides. Make informative slides that ADD value to your presentation. Avoid replicating or simply outlining what you are also presenting.
- ✓ Write roughly a 5 page paper, APA format, including equal contribution from each of your team members, with unique content being evident from each, but all sections connected into a cohesive paper. This should inform your presentation, and include more than 3 peer-reviewed references.
- ✓ Prepare for presentation a roughly 5 minute mini-lecture on your topic. Each member of the team must contribute and present meaningful content. Plan for 5-10 minutes of questions from the class. Intentionally presenting for close to 5 minutes, will require planning and rehearsal. Connect your topic to at least one of the major concepts/techniques/ considerations learned in class this semester.
- ✓ Contact me with any questions or feedback. Rusty.Fox@etamu.edu

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>

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 or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. Rusty.Fox@tamuc.edu

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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Interaction with Instructor Statement

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 explained/reviewed 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>

ETAMU Attendance

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

[Attendance](#),

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

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M are required to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. Improperly citing or failing to cite a quote or reference is academic dishonesty, and will result in disciplinary action up to and including failing the assignment, and in severe cases, failing the course. If you have questions about requirements or academic integrity, please, always contact your instructor first. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty, see the procedures below: Do utilize our campus writing centers for support and instruction.

Generating papers or assignments from Artificial Intelligence (AI), and representing that work as your own, is **academic dishonesty**, and will result in a failing grade and disciplinary action up to an including failing this course. Be certain ALL of your assignments, discussions, and or paper are YOUR own work. East Texas A&M acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence. ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, incited, are not allowed, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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.etamu.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>

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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.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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

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East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.etamu.edu/counsel

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.



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