



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

COUNELING 689 Summer 2026

Independent Study

Course Syllabus: Summer 2026

Zoom: Mondays 4:30pm-7:10pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Lavelle Hendricks, LCDC, NCGC, ADC, C-ART

Office Hours: M-THURSDAY (9-2 PM)

University Email Address: Lavelle.Hendricks@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email **Communication Response Time:** 48 hours, excluding weekends

Mode of instruction and course access: This course meets face-to-face with assignments and supplemental materials assigned online through D2L.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Textbook

No text required

***Note: This course uses D2L as its Learning Management System

Required Supplemental Readings

American Counseling Association. (2014). *ACA Codes of Ethics*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2014-code-of-ethics-finaladdress.pdf?sfvrsn=96b532c_

Baltrinic, E. R., Jencius, M., & McGlothlin, J. (2016). Coteaching in counselor education:

Preparing doctoral students for future teaching. *Counselor Education and Supervision*, 55(1), 31-45. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ceas.12031>



- Farrell, I. C., Minton, C. A. B. (2019). Advocacy among counseling leaders: the three-tiered legislative professional advocacy model. *Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy*, 6(2), 144-159. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2326716X.2019.1644254>
- LaGuardia, A. C. (2019). Counselor education and supervision: 2019 annual review. *Counselor Education and Supervision*, 60(1), 2-21. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ceas.12192>
- Singh, A. A., Appling, B., & Trepal, H. (2020), Using the multicultural and social justice counseling competencies to decolonize counseling practice: The important roles of theory, power, and action. *Journal of Counseling Development*, 98(3), 261-271. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcad.12321>
- Wester, K. L. (2011). Publishing ethical research: A step-by-step overview. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 89, 301-307. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1556-6678.2011.tb00093.x>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalogue Description of the Course

COUN 689 This course provides students with an opportunity for individualized, faculty-guided study in a specialized area of counseling that extends beyond the scope of regularly offered coursework. Through independent inquiry, students will explore a focused topic relevant to counseling theory, practice, research, leadership, advocacy, or counselor education. Under the supervision of a faculty mentor, students will engage in advanced scholarly investigation, critical analysis of current literature, and the development of a culminating project aligned with their academic and professional goals. Emphasis is placed on self-directed learning, integration of counseling knowledge, ethical decision-

making, and application to professional counseling settings. This course is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, professional growth, and specialized competency in an area of student interest.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

Doctoral Student Learning Outcomes for Independent Study in Counseling

Upon successful completion of the Independent Study course, doctoral students will be able to:

1. **Synthesize Advanced Counseling Knowledge**
Critically examine, integrate, and synthesize scholarly literature, theoretical perspectives, and emerging issues within a specialized area of counseling practice, research, leadership, or counselor education.
2. **Demonstrate Independent Scholarly Inquiry**
Design and implement a self-directed plan of advanced study that reflects doctoral-level inquiry, intellectual rigor, and sustained engagement in a focused area of professional interest.
3. **Apply Research to Counseling Practice and Leadership**
Evaluate and apply research findings to inform counseling practice, supervision, teaching, advocacy, leadership, or policy development within professional counseling settings.
4. **Demonstrate Ethical and Culturally Responsive Decision-Making**
Analyze complex counseling issues through ethical, multicultural, and social justice frameworks, demonstrating doctoral-level competence in culturally responsive and professionally responsible practice.
5. **Produce a Scholarly or Applied Professional Product**
Develop a substantial culminating project (e.g., literature review, research manuscript, program design, policy analysis, curriculum module, or conference presentation) that contributes to the counseling profession and reflects doctoral-level scholarship.
6. **Engage in Critical Reflection and Professional Identity Development**
Critically reflect on professional growth, leadership identity, and the evolving role of the counselor educator, supervisor, scholar, or advanced practitioner within the counseling profession.
7. **Communicate Scholarly Knowledge Effectively**
Present advanced counseling concepts and independent study findings in clear, professional, and scholarly written and/or oral formats appropriate for academic, clinical, or professional audiences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Doctoral students enrolled in Independent Study are expected to engage in rigorous, self-directed academic work under the supervision of a faculty mentor. The following requirements guide successful completion of the course:

1. Faculty Approval and Supervision

Students must obtain approval from a faculty supervisor prior to enrollment. The independent study topic must align with the student's doctoral program of study, professional goals, and faculty expertise. A written agreement outlining the scope, objectives, assignments, and evaluation criteria must be approved before the course begins.

2. Approved Plan of Study

Students must develop a formal Independent Study Plan in collaboration with the faculty supervisor. The plan should include:

- Topic and rationale for study
- Specific learning objectives
- Required readings and scholarly resources
- Planned assignments and activities
- Timeline for completion
- Final scholarly product
- Methods of evaluation

3. Scholarly Engagement

Students are expected to complete advanced readings and engage extensively with scholarly literature related to the selected topic. Readings should reflect doctoral-level rigor and include current peer-reviewed research, foundational texts, and relevant professional standards.

4. Regular Faculty Consultation

Students must maintain regular communication with the faculty supervisor throughout the semester. Scheduled meetings should occur consistently to review progress, discuss emerging insights, and ensure alignment with course objectives.

5. Substantive Academic Work

Students must complete substantial academic work demonstrating depth of inquiry and independent scholarship. Coursework may include:

- Annotated bibliographies
- Critical literature reviews
- Research critiques
- Concept papers
- Curriculum or program design
- Policy analyses
- Teaching modules
- Manuscript preparation
- Conference presentation development

6. Culminating Scholarly Product

Each student must complete a final scholarly or applied product that reflects doctoral-level synthesis and contributes to professional counseling knowledge or practice. Examples include:

- Publishable manuscript
- Research proposal
- Conference paper or presentation
- Program evaluation plan
- Advanced curriculum design
- Grant concept paper
- Policy brief
- Teaching or supervision resource

7. Professional Writing Standards

All written work must reflect doctoral-level writing expectations, including clarity, organization, scholarly tone, and adherence to current APA style and ethical citation practices.

8. Ethical and Professional Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate ethical academic conduct, professional responsibility, and adherence to the ethical standards of the counseling profession throughout the independent study process.

9. Final Presentation or Review

At the conclusion of the course, students may be required to present their work to the faculty supervisor, doctoral peers, or program faculty in a formal scholarly format.

10. Evaluation and Grading

GRADING

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



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

Assignment/Assessment	Point Value
Class Participation & Attendance	50
30 Counseling Skills Recording Completion of paper	50

Total points possible = 100 for this course.

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	<p>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 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.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
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>
- 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/>
 - Adobe Flash Player (*version 17 or later*) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - Apple Quick Time <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 Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on submit an issue via email.



contact Brightspace
the words “click here” to

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/13stude>

nts/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/>

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.



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

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.

