



COUN 301: Introduction to Counseling Philosophy ***Course Syllabus, Fall 2026***

(August 20, 2026 through December 11, 2026)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

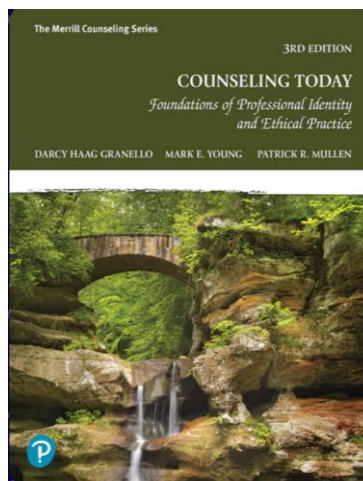
Instructor:	Rusty Fox, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Binnion 221 and Virtual Office by appointment
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursdays 1:00p-3:30p and by appointment
University Email Address:	Rusty.Fox@etamu.edu
Counseling Department Phone:	903.886.5637
Preferred Method of Communication:	email - Please <i>always</i> list course number in Subject Field. COUN 301
Communication Response Time:	24-36 hours, Monday-Friday; emails sent on Friday after 4:00pm will be answered the following workday

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

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

Granello, D. H., Young, M. E., Mullen, P. R. (2026) *Counseling Today: Foundations of Professional Identity and Ethical Practice, 3rd 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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%
Quiz 1	10%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3 (Final)	10%
TOTAL	100%

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

Week 1, PART ONE Ch 1-5	Chapter 1: Who are Counselors?
Week 2,	Chapter 1 continued
Week 3, <i>(Form Project Group)</i>	Chapter 2: What do Counselors do?
Week 4,	Chapter 3: How are Counselors Trained and Regulated?
Week 5,	Chapter 4: How do People Develop as Counselors?
Week 6, <i>(Quiz 1, Chapters 1 through 5)</i>	Chapter 5: How do Counseling Students Get the Most from Their Graduate Programs?
Week 7, PART TWO Ch 6-10 <i>(Provide outline of Group Project)</i>	Chapter 6: How do Counselors Promote Social Justice and Engage in Culturally Responsive Counseling?
Week 8,	Chapter 6 continued
Spring Break Week ,	Rest, Relax (or work), Have FUN! It's Spring Break!-
Week 9,	Chapter 7: Why do Counselors Use Theories?
Week 10,	Chapter 8: How do Counselors Make Legal and Ethical Decisions?
Week 11,	Chapter 9 Where do Counselors Use Research?
Week 12, <i>(Quiz 2, Chapters 7 through 10)</i>	Chapter 10: How do Counselors Collect and Use Assessment Information
Week 13, PART THREE Ch 11-14	Chapter 11: Where do Counselors Work?
Week 14, <i>(Group Projects due in D2L)</i>	Chapter 12: What Happens in a Counseling Session?
Week 15,	Chapter 13: How do Couns Support Wellness in Their Clients? and Chapter 14: Counseling Tomorrow
Week 16,	DEAD WEEK, preparation time for Final Exams
-FINALS (See Final Exam Schedule <i>(Quiz 3 – Chapters 8 through 10)</i>	Final Exam

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- ✓ 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 absences/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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Attendance and Participation are Required

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 ETAMU 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 "COUN 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.

ETAMU Attendance

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

[Attendance:](https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx)

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

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COUN 301

Partnered Project

Due Week 14, with presentations to be posted in D2L and scheduled in class

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 Behavioral*) Be certain to explain it's strenghts 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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 and 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>

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.



The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.