



Course Syllabus: Fall 2026
Supporting Students in Distress with Us – US 497.01E
Wednesday's 3:30-5pm 8/31/26 -10/16/26 (Class meets on 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14)
This class will meet in Business Administration, Room 257

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Adam Metts, MS, LPC-S and Michael Stark, M.Ed.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Email Address: Adam.Metts@etamu.edu or Michael.Stark@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: Under normal circumstances, response time will be within 24 hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials: Supplementary resources available in D2L

Course Description:

- This course equips participants with practical skills to recognize common mental health concerns, identify signs of student distress, and respond effectively using evidence-informed intervention strategies. Participants will develop the knowledge and confidence to engage students in supportive conversations, respond appropriately during and after a crisis, and connect students with resources that promote recovery, resilience, and address staff/faculty compassion fatigue.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the participants will be able to:

1. **Recognize common mental health concerns, signs of student distress and crisis management.**
2. **Respond effectively to students in distress using supportive evidence-based strategies.**
3. **Connect students and provide care with appropriate resources while promoting resilience and reduce compassion fatigue.**

COURSE OUTLINE (All class assignments are scheduled tentatively currently. They may be changed, but advance notice will be given in class.)

*****You must attend both class sessions on 9/9 and 9/16 to receive your competency-based certificate for Responding to the Distressed Student.***

Date	Class Content and Focus
9/2	Introduction to Mental Health and Crisis Management
9/9	Responding to the Distressed Student, Part I
9/16	Responding to the Distressed Student, Part 2
9/23	Compassion Fatigue
9/30	ET Procedures for Reporting
10/7	Effective Reports
10/14	Bonus Topic: Intersection with Title IX

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments

Participation (Each class is weighted as 14%): Grades for this course will be based on participation in each class. Expectations include full preparation, attendance, and active engagement in all class activities and with all course materials.

OTHER assignments TBD: 4%

For a grade of “satisfactory” students must attend at least 4 class meetings AND do the TBD assignment or attend at least 5 class meetings.

GRADING

Course Grades: The overall grade in the class will be assigned as either S (Satisfactory) = 60% - 100%, or U (Unsatisfactory) = 0% - 59%.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS: All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the 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

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@etamu.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**Course-Specific Policies and Procedures**

Attendance: Attendance, preparation, and full participation are expected and required in this class.

Grades of Incomplete: A grade of Incomplete (X) will not be given in this class.

Late Work: Under normal circumstances, late work is not accepted in this class.

Phone Use: No phone use during class (unless there is an emergency).

Mental Health Content Note: It's important to note that there will be sensitive content being discussed in class regarding mental health and should at any point you feel uncomfortable please make your instructor aware.

University-Specific Policies and 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.etamu.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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance:

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity:

Students at East Texas A&M University 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](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Use Policy:

East Texas A&M University 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, 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.

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, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services:

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

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

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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 University 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 Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health:

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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