



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
**SAN ANTONIO**

College of Education & Human Development

Department of Counseling, Health & Kinesiology

EDCG 5314 Theoretical Foundations of Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling  
Fall 2024

Instructor: Ray Wooten Ph.D., LPC-S, RSMT, RYT-200

Office: AAB 214N

Office Phone: 210-508-5525

Email: [hwooten@tamusa.edu](mailto:hwooten@tamusa.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 4:00-5:15

Please schedule your appointment to ensure that time is open.

Class Time/Location: Thursday 7:00-9:15

Classroom Hall 305

**Required Text:**

Nichols, M.P., & Davis, S.D. (12th Ed.). (2021). *Family therapy: Concepts & methods*. New York: Pearson.

**Recommended Reading:** Appendix A Chapter-by-chapter recommendations in the Nichols & Davis text.

**Catalog Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to counseling theories with an emphasis on systems theory. The course will provide knowledge of theories that may be utilized for working with clients who present as individuals, couples, or families.

**Course Rationale:** This course is designed to give the student an introduction to systems theory, as well as exploration in theories of couples and family counseling. The student will learn the history regarding the evolution of marriage and family counseling. Students will learn theories, processes and techniques that are central to working with clients in marriage and family counseling. There will be emphasis

- Evidence of class preparation which permits active participation during class discussions
- Research skills which enable preparation for class sessions and assignments
- Completion of all assignments and tests required on time.

### **CACREP Standards:**

#### Section 2: Professional Counseling Identity/Counseling Curriculum

##### 5. Counseling and Helping Relationships

- b. A systems approach to conceptualizing clients

#### Section 5: Entry-Level Specialty Areas

##### F. Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling

###### 1. Foundations

- a. History and development of clinical mental health counseling
- b. Theories and models of family systems and dynamics
- c. Theories and models of marriage, couple, and family counseling

###### 2. Contextual Dimensions

- a. Roles and settings of marriage, couple, and family counselors
- n. Professional organizations, preparation standards, and credentials relevant to the practice of marriage, couple, and family counseling

TEA School Counseling Standards: N/A

### **Special Policies:**

#### **Graduate Class Policies**

A student has the right to expect competent, well-organized instruction for the full number of clock hours allotted for a course; to sufficient written assignments, graded fairly and with reasonable promptness to show the student's academic standing in the course at least before midsemester; to have ample opportunity to confer with the instructor at published office hours and to review graded written work; to freedom from ridicule, discrimination, harassment or accusations in the presence of other students or faculty members; and to an avenue for appealing to higher academic authority in case of alleged unfairness by an instructor.

#### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

As members of the University community, all enrolled students assume full responsibility for adhering to the university's values and goals. Students are held responsible for staying abreast of their rights as students and for being cognizant on what is deemed proper conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is available through the Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage:

<http://www.tamusa.edu/uploadFile/folders/fcestrad/Pdf/Pdf635767864704349879-10.100.150.124.pdf>