

EDHS 3321 History of Behavioral Health — Fall 2026

**College of Education and Human Development
Department of Counseling, Health & Kinesiology**

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Denetria Brooks-James, DSW, LCSW-S

Meeting Day & Time: Online/asynchronous (Note that this course is 8 weeks).

Location: N/A

Contact Information: djames@tamusa.edu

Student Hours: By appointment in-office or online

Office Location: Classroom Hall Building Office 214O

Required Textbooks

Empowerment Series: Foundations of Social Policy: Social Justice in Human Perspective

Amanda S. Barusch

ISBN-13: 978-1-305-94324-7

ACCESS Program: Students may access a free digital copy via Brytewave on Blackboard. Otherwise, texts are available for purchase through the TAMUSA Bookstore or online.

Course Description

This 3-hour course will cover the history of behavioral health, from the middle ages through today. The course will cover historically-pivotal movements, initiatives, and events in the human services profession, including a focus on social justice topics. Also covered are the successes and challenges of addressing behavioral health in children, adolescents, adults, and older adults.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course:

- Students will articulate an overview of generalized knowledge regarding the historical contexts of behavioral health and human services.
- Students will identify key events, landmark cases, and policy issues in human services.
- Students will examine and apply critical thinking to develop core cultural competencies in reviewing the historical issues relevant to social justice and behavioral health.
- Students will review both peer-reviewed literature and mainstream media to examine historical sociocultural contexts.

Course Assignment Grading Scale

The assignments for this course have been developed to estimate the progressive acquisition of learning and provide evidence of student learning outcomes. Descriptions of the assignments and their related submission portals are provided within your Blackboard learning environment.

Overview of Assignments	Related Points (%)
Syllabus Quiz	5%
Discussion Posts (4)	20%
Article Review Paper	15%
Historical Behavioral Health & Social Justice Analysis Paper	25%
Midterm Examination	15%
Final Examination	20%
TOTAL	100 (100%)

Table: Overview of Assignments and Related Points (percent).

Final Grade Allocation Criteria

Total Points Earned	Related Letter Grade
90–100	A
80–89	B
70–79	C
60–69	D
Below 60	F

Table: Final Grade Allocation Criteria.

Description of Course Assignments

Syllabus Quiz

Review your course syllabus and complete this brief quiz related to the content. This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. on the assigned date and is worth 5% toward your overall course grade.

Discussion Post #1

Welcome to History of Behavioral Health! As we begin our semester together, this discussion will focus mainly on your understanding of the relevance and importance of historical contexts within behavioral health and human services.

- Introduce yourself by sharing your name, your major, and where you consider home.
- Share your perspective about how and why historical contexts are important in current and future practices of behavioral health and human services professions.

After your post, return to the discussion forum throughout the week to read a selection of your peers' posts and provide substantive replies to at least one of their conversations and one comment in your initial thread. Replies to your peers are due by midnight on the assigned date. This discussion is worth 5% toward your overall course grade.

Discussion Post #2

The history of behavioral health can be traced back to the middle ages and before. While our textbook covers more contemporary historical issues, it is essential to acknowledge the root origins of how our understanding of behavioral health involved religious, political, and scientific developments.

- Choose religion, politics, or science and describe how behavioral health evolved from those beliefs and practices.
- Review and reflect on how historic contexts may have been influenced by the predominant cultures during those time periods, and what may have been lost as a result.

After your post, return to the discussion forum throughout the week to provide substantive replies to at least one peer's conversation and one comment in your initial thread. This discussion is worth 5% toward your overall course grade.

Discussion Post #3

Several key events in American behavioral health history, including the adoption of policies, laws, and other rules, have created a healthcare system unique to much of the Western world.

- Identify at least one law-based precedent relevant to behavioral health.
- Expand your understanding of this law by providing a list of associated pros and cons.

After your post, return to the discussion forum throughout the week to provide substantive replies to at least one peer's conversation and one comment in your initial thread. This discussion is worth 5% toward your overall course grade.

Discussion Post #4

The history of behavioral health continues to shape and influence our world today and will continue to do so in the future. In a sense, yesterday informs today and tomorrow.

- Explain this concept to the average individual.
- Expand and deepen the conversation by comparing and contrasting periods of time in behavioral health history and development.
- As someone in a helping profession, how can you fuse (or break) previous understanding and practices of behavioral health with the current trends in the field?

After your post, return to the discussion forum throughout the week to provide substantive replies to at least one peer's conversation and one comment in your initial thread. This discussion is worth 5% toward your overall course grade.

Historical Behavioral Health & Social Justice Analysis Paper (25%)

Purpose

Behavioral health practices have been shaped by historical events, social attitudes, scientific developments, public policy, cultural beliefs, advocacy movements, and changing definitions of mental illness and wellness. Understanding this history allows human services professionals to recognize how past practices continue to influence today's behavioral health systems.

For this assignment, you will select one significant historical issue, event, movement, policy, landmark case, or population-related development in behavioral health or human services and analyze its historical significance, social justice implications, cultural impact, and continuing influence on behavioral health practice.

This assignment is not simply to report what happened. You are expected to critically analyze why it happened, who was affected, how culture and social attitudes influenced the issue, and what behavioral health professionals can learn from this history today.

Details for the assignment can be found in your Blackboard course.

This assignment is due by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday 9/27/26 and submitted via Blackboard. This assignment is worth 25% of your course grade.

Mid-Term Examination (15%)

Your midterm examination will consist of multiple-choice and true/false items (2pts each) from Chapters 1–4 of your textbook, in-class lecture material, and slides. Please allow a minimum of two hours to complete your exam. The exam will be administered via Blackboard asynchronously on the date assigned, it opens a week in advance and closes at 11:59 PM on 9/20/26. Each exam will have one attempt and questions will be displayed in a scrolling format.

Final Examination (20%)

Your final examination will consist of multiple-choice and true/false items (2 pts. each) from Chapters 5–8 of your textbook, in-class lecture material, and slides. Please allow a minimum of two hours to complete your exam. The exam will be administered via Blackboard asynchronously on the date assigned; it opens a week in advance and closes at 11:59 PM on 10/12/26. Each exam will have one attempt and questions will be displayed in a scrolling format.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are submitted via Blackboard by midnight on the assigned due date. Exams are not subject to the late work penalty.

Days Late	Grading Policy
1 day (by midnight)	11 points deducted; maximum grade: B
2 days (by midnight)	30 points deducted; maximum grade: Passing
After 2 days	Work will not be accepted; automatic grade of 0

Table: Late Work Grading Policy (exams not included).

Course Schedule

Week	Date(s)	Topics and Assignments
1	8/24–8/30	Introduction to Course; Review Objectives, Materials, & Schedule Assignment(s): Syllabus Quiz - DUE 8/30/26 by 11:59 PM Discussion Post #1 – Initial Post Due 8/28/26 by 11:59 PM reply post due 8/30/26 by 11:59 PM
2	8/31 – 9/6	Chapter 2: The Governments Role Chapter 3: Policy Analysis and Policy Practice Assignments: Discussion Post #2 – Initial Post Due 9/4/26 by 11:59 PM Reply Post Due 9/6/26 by 11:5PM
3	9/7–9/13	Chapter 4: The Social Security Act Chapter 5: Poverty and Inequality
4	9/14–9/20	Chapter 6: Health Assignment: DUE 9/20/26: Mid-Term Examination (opens on 9/7/26)
5	9/21–9/27	Chapter 7: Mental Health Chapter 8: Disability

Week	Date(s)	Topics and Assignments
		Assignment: Historical Behavioral Health & Social Justice Analysis Paper Due: 9/27/26 by 11:59PM
6	9/28–10/4	Chapter 9: Crime and Criminal Justice Chapter 10: People of Color Assignment: Discussion Post #3 – Initial Post Due 10/2/26 by 11:59 PM Reply Post Due 10/4/26 by 11:5PM
7	10/5–10/11	Chapter 11: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans Individuals Chapter 12: Children Assignment: Discussion Post #4 – Initial Post Due 10/9/26 by 11:59 PM Reply Post Due 10/11/26 by 11:5PM
8	10/12 – 10/18	DUE 10/18/26: Final Examination (via Blackboard; opens 10/4/26)

Table: Course Schedule, Topics, and Assignments. Materials: Chapters correspond to Barusch textbook. Handouts provided as noted.

Important Fall 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
August 24	First Day of Class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26 - 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5–11	Final exams

Table: Important Fall 2026 Dates.

The complete academic calendar is available online at
<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not

working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html>, or email dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform accessible via Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Current tutoring hours for the ALC:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Table: Academic Learning Center Tutoring Hours.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The SCC provides brief individual and group

therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7 by dialing 988 or calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after hours, select option '2'). The TELUS Student Support App also provides a variety of mental health resources including support for in-the-moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, registered students, staff, and faculty will have the option to receive a text message or email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information, visit <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency: (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to federal regulation 34 CFR 668.21, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on eligibility criteria which include class attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses. Digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. The Writing Center can also be reached at writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The General's Store is a food pantry available on campus as well.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or contact military.va@tamusa.edu or (210) 784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Students may make up any examination, study, or course work requirements missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. A&M-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units or the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee, contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would for a student with a temporary medical condition. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition, and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

5. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
6. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
7. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

8. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
9. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.
10. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. For more information, please review the Student Code of Conduct or visit the resources available in the OSRR website.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Note: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found at <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>