



Course Military Psychology

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Office Hours: as needed by appointment

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(**email** is the best way to contact me as I am not always available by phone)

About the Instructor:

I have over 23 years of experience as a military psychologist working with Active Duty Service Members, Veterans and their families. I provide behavioral health services and conduct trainings to better serve military members. As a former Behavioral Health Officer in the Army, I have completed two deployments to Iraq.

Required Text Military Psychologists' Desk reference (2013), Moore, B. & Barnett, J. (Eds). NY, NY: Oxford University Press
Other readings as assigned by the instructor.

Course Description

This on-line seminar course explores a unique branch of clinical psychology that focuses on the delivery of behavioral health and consultative services to the military population. Topics include military history and culture; clinical issues such as assessment and treatment of PTSD and combat stress; roles and responsibilities of military psychologists; ethical and professional issues. This course will be conducted in a seminar format so be prepared to discuss the topics presented in each class.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe major historical and emerging topics in military psychology
2. Understand main trends in knowledge and research that relate to military psychology
3. Explain the roles and responsibilities of military psychologists

Grading

This course is based on a total of 290 pts. Below is a breakdown of the various assignments and how many points each assignment is worth.

1) Tests: Three tests and a final exam will be given throughout the course. The exams may be comprised of a combination of multiple choice, True/False and short answer questions. The three tests are worth 36 points each and the final exam (36pts) for a total of 144pts. Students **must take** the exams on Blackboard **by the assigned due date**. You have a more than generous window to complete tests – from Thursday (midnight) to following Monday 11:59pm to take the exams; therefore, **there are no “makeup” tests**. If you miss an exam, you will earn a zero (0). **PLEASE PUT TEST DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW.**

2) Writing Assignments: Students are required to write one APA formatted paper. The written assignment is worth 50pts. A description of the assignment is located at the end of the syllabus. It is important to be familiar with APA writing style. I highly encourage students to take advantage of some of the latest software that can assist with correct formatting. The paper is due by **11:59 CST** on the assigned date. Late assignments will be accepted up to 2 days late but will experience a **25% deduction for each day late**.

3) Presentations: Students will be responsible for creating a presentation to include speaker notes (with power point slides) that is worth 44pts. A description of the assignment is located at the end of the syllabus. Presentations are due by **11:59 CST** on the assigned date. Late presentations will be accepted up to 2 days late but will experience a **25% deduction for each day late**.

4) Discussion Boards: Active participation is important in an on-line course. As a means to encourage participation, each student has the opportunity to earn 4pts each week that a discussion question is presented on Black Board. A total of 13 discussion questions will be presented. Each student must present an original post and then respond to two other students' posts to receive credit. Your original posts addressing the discussion topic should be made to the weekly group discussion forum no later than **11:59pm CST every Wednesday**. The response postings commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers (**minimum of two responses**) should be made on each topic no later than **11:59pm CST every Friday -- late postings will not be given credit**. A total of 56pts can be earned.

Submitted posts must reference the week's readings, media, lesson and content in a direct way (i.e., citation and reference provided). Each post should be an original contribution and should make an explicit and accurate reference to the week's topic. The three posts (1 original post & 2 responses to students) should be 1 to 2 paragraphs in length with a **minimum of six sentences per paragraph**.

Discussion board posts must be submitted through the blackboard assignment manager (accessible via the assignments button on the course navigation menu) by the date and time specified. Discussions posts submitted after due date will not receive full credit.

Please Note: No use of Generative AI Permitted

PSYC 3344 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Discussion Board Grading Criteria	Weekly Point Value (4)
Meaningful and New Ideas: Ideas examine topic from new perspective that contributes to group understanding of topic with the readings integrated into the discussion responses using citations as appropriate to include references (1-2 paragraphs).	2
Relevance of Replies to Other Students' Messages: Responses elaborate, contradict, modify, or explain the original message (1-2 paragraphs).	2

There are a total of 290 points possible for this course. The point distribution is as follows:

Item	Possible Points	% of final grade
3 Tests & Final	144	50%
1 Paper	50	17%
Presentation	44	15%

Discussion Boards	52	18%
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GradingScale

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	100-90	89-80	79-70	69-60	>59

**Student
 Responsibilities
 & Policies**

Online Class Netiquette:

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe on-line learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement below, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful learning environment.

Discussions: This course sometimes deals with complex, challenging, and controversial subject matter. Every student's input is welcome and needed; however, you must cultivate a style of responding that is both respectful and informed.

- **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 <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at 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. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of 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
- **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 to you 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 Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit tamusa.edu/student-counseling
- Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').

- Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to 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. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.
- More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>. 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 the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend by the census date will have their financial aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester, a Care report will be submitted, and you will possibly be dropped from the class. Your financial aid may have to be recalculated and a portion of your federal aid may have to be returned to the DoE.
- **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:** 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. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.
- **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 (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.
- **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 to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.
- **Religious Observances:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session 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 (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) 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. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-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 prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.
- Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.
- **Pregnant/Parenting Students:** Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to 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 such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (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. This philosophy

acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

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**
- 1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
- 2. 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.
- 3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
- 4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University’s obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
- 5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.
- 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. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Key Dates

January 21	First day of class
April 21	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 28	Last day to withdraw from the University
March 10-15	Spring Break
May 5	Last day of class May 6: Study Day
May 7-13	Final exams
May 13	End of spring semester

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<http://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academicresources/academiccalendar.html>

- TENTATIVE SCHEDULE -

WKS (FULL)	WEEK OF:	TOPIC
		Both this syllabus and following schedule is tentative and subject to revision if necessary . Any changes will be announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of changes
1	Jan 21-24	Introduction
2	Jan 27-31	History & Culture; History of Military Psychology (Required Text: Chapters 1-4). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday (day before class) with responses to 2 students on Friday.
3	Feb 3- 7	History & Culture cont'd: Military Culture (Required Text: Chapters 5-7). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
4	Feb 10-14	Test 1: Feb 10 (Mon) Chapters 1-7 are covered on the test. Clinical Practice: Prevalence of Mental Health & the Military (Read Chapters 38, 39 & 40). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
5	Feb 17-21	Clinical Practice cont'd. PTSD, Anxiety, Depression & Sleep Issues (Read Chapters 42, 43, 49 & 50). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
6	Feb 24-28	Clinical Practice cont'd. Suicide & Substance Abuse (Read Chapters 29, 45, 46 & 55). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
7	Mar 3-7	Written Assignment due: Mar 3 (Mon) Clinical Practice cont'd: The Military Family (Read Chapter 57). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
8	Mar 10-14	Spring Break MAR 10-14 No readings or assignments due.
9	Mar 17-21	Test 2: Mar 21 (Friday) Chapters 29, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 55 & 57 Clinical Practice cont'd: Resiliency & Post Traumatic Growth (Read Chapters 62, 63 & 66). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
10	Mar 24-28	Roles/Responsibilities of Military Psychologists. Combat Stress Control (Read Chapters 11 & 41). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
11	Mar 31-Apr 4	Roles/Responsibilities of Military Psychologists cont'd. Aviation Psychology & Special Operations (Read Chapters 8, 9 & 14). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
12	Apr 7-11	Ethics/Professional Issues: Multiple Relationships & Mixed Agency Dilemmas (Read Chapters 21 & 23). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
13	Apr 14-18	Test 3: Apr 14 (Mon) Chapters 8, 9, 14, 11, 21, 23, 41, 62, 63, 66 Ethics/Professional Issues cont'd: Training for Psychologists in the Military (Read Chapter 24). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
14	Apr 21-25	Presentations due: APR 17 (Thurs) No readings this week. I'm giving you class time to complete your presentations. Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday
15	Apr 21-25	Ethics/Professional Issues cont'd: Psychologists on the Front Lines & Women in Combat (Read Chapters 24, 26 & 30). Discussion posts are due on Wednesday with responses to 2 students on Friday.
16	Apr 28-May 5	Complete Final Exam by Monday (May 5) Chapters 24, 26 & 30.
	May 7-13	

Written Assignment

Prepare a 1050- to 1,200-word paper in which you describe two clinical issues (ie, suicide, substance abuse, PTSD, divorce rate) and then propose possible solutions that could be useful in reducing or resolving the issues.

Address the following:

- Identify two clinical issues and describe them in detail
- Propose solutions to the identified issues and explain how your solutions could be useful in resolving or reducing the clinical challenges.

Format your paper consistent with APA guidelines. Include at least **5 references** in your paper. Three of the references should come from peer reviewed journals.

Presentations

Review the material we have covered in class. Students will select a military psychology topic of interest. The selected topic should be different from the one selected for the writing assignment. **Prepare** a 14- to 16-Microsoft® PowerPoint® slide presentation in which you examine the selected topic. Make sure you thoroughly cover the topic and provide examples where appropriate. Your presentation **MUST** include detailed speaker notes for each slide. The notes should be prepared as a transcript of what you would present while discussing the content of each slide for your presentation. The transcript notes can be typed at the bottom of each slide in the “add notes” section. **In order for a student to receive full credit, he or she must INCLUDE the SPEAKER NOTES with the slide deck. Make sure you include a minimum of 5 references with the presentation. Three of the references should come from peer reviewed journals. The reference list should follow APA formatting and be the last slide of your presentation.**

Possible Presentation Topics:

- PTSD, Anxiety, Depression
- Suicide in the Military
- The Military Family
- Resiliency & Post Traumatic Growth
- Combat Stress Control
- Aviation Psychology
- Special Forces Psychology
- Dual Relationships in the Military
- Training Military Psychologists
- Women in Combat

IT Help Available

If you are having any technical difficulties please utilize the following links:

IT Help Desk: <http://www.tamusa.edu/its/index.html>

General Black Board Help: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/9.1_2014_04/Student

Black Board Help Tutorials:

https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/Reference/Blackboard_Learn_Videos/Student_Videos