

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**EDPC 5360 – Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy**  
**Fall 2023**

The University of Texas at El Paso  
College of Education  
Department of Counseling, Special Education, and Educational Psychology  
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

**Instructor:** Dr. Johana Rocha, Ph.D., NCC, LPC Associate

**Fall virtual office hours** (*By appointment*): Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am - 12 pm

**Email:** jrocha10@utep.edu

**Course modality:** Hybrid

**Course dates:** **Aug** 29; **Sept** 5, 12, 19, 26; **Oct** 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; **Nov** 7, 14, 21, 28; **Dec** 5

**Course day and time:** Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 8:20 pm

**Class Meetings:**

**On Campus:** Psychology building room 306

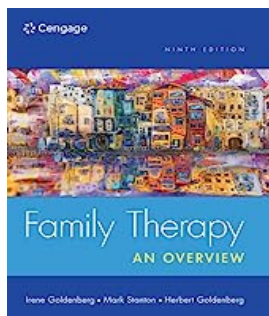
**Virtually:** Zoom

<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/3385091334>

Meeting ID: 338 509 1334

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the major theoretical approaches to marriage and family counseling. Emphasis on the individual's role in the family of origin and how the family systems approach to therapy impacts the individual within the family.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**



Goldenberg, I., Stanton, M., & Goldenberg, H. (2017). *Family therapy: An overview*. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9781305092969

## MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

| <b>GOAL A:</b> Understand and apply the concepts of development, family life cycle, family resiliency, family dysfunction, and the family systems per family perspective including family systems theory. |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| CACREP Standard   | Learning Activity  | Outcome Measure  |
| 5.f.1.b<br>5.f.2.b  | Readings, lectures, and discussions (classroom and/or online environments) regarding the basic concepts and approaches to marriage and family therapy.                             | Passing grade (80% or higher) on Exam #1                     |
| <b>GOAL B:</b> Understand and apply the major models of family counseling. (CACREP STANDARDS 2.d., 3.a., 5.a., 5.b., 5.f., 5.g.)  |  |  |
| CACREP Standard   | Learning Activity  | Outcome Measure  |
| 5.f.1.c<br>5.f.2.d  | Readings, lectures, and discussions (classroom and/or online environments) regarding the basic concepts and treatment theories in marriage and family therapy.                     | Passing grade (80% or higher) on Exam #2                     |
| <b>GOAL C:</b> Demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts of family, family development, family resiliency, family life-cycle, family dysfunction, and family counseling theories.                     |  |  |
| CACREP Standard   | Learning Activity  | Outcome Measure  |
| 5.f.1.f<br>5.f.3.c  | Readings, lectures, and discussions (classroom and/or online environments) regarding the application of basic assessment and evaluation techniques in marriage and family therapy. | Passing grades on Family analysis paper and Genogram project |

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

### Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, a microphone, a printer, and a scanner. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via [UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal](#). Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

### Technical Problems

Do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment or take an exam in case you run into technical difficulties. If you wait until the last minute and then experience technical difficulties, your work will not be submitted on time and you will not get credit.

- **IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with the technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance.

### Attendance

As a professional, you are expected to discuss any absence with the professor prior to the absence. You are also expected to be at this class **on time**. Please use your time management skills properly and be on time and ready to learn at 5:30 p.m. sharp. Unless you have a documented, unavoidable reason for leaving class early, you are expected to stay until released by the professor. If you leave early more than three times without the approval of the instructor, you may be dropped from the course. **Any unexcused absences will result in a decrease in your final grade. Students cannot miss more than 5 of the scheduled classes and pass this course, excused absence or not.** Remember, if you encounter unexpected events in your life during the semester, you can drop the class, and return during another semester.

### Active class participation is expected

You must participate fully in classroom discussions and practice exercises to earn full participation points toward your final grade. Please **demonstrate enthusiasm and a high level of interest** in your classroom experiences.

## **Course Communication**

### **Email**

UTEP email is the official communication means in this course. Also, UTEP email is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your email within 24-48 hours of receipt. If an email is not responded to at this time feel free to send a follow-up email and I will communicate back.

### **Online UTEP Blackboard**

You will be automatically signed up for our course webpage on UTEP Blackboard. You can access Blackboard by logging in to [www.my.utep.edu](http://www.my.utep.edu). It is recommended that you access BB from Firefox or Chrome. Using Internet Explorer creates numerous problems in BB, such as getting kicked out during quizzes and exams, so **DO NOT USE INTERNET EXPLORER**.

- **Announcement:** All important announcements (e.g., class meeting schedule changes, assignment due date changes, quiz schedule changes, etc.) will be posted on BB Announcement. It is the student's responsibility to check and/or retrieve announcements and course materials. Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.
- **Syllabus & More:** A copy of the syllabus & course schedule are accessible on BB. If there are any changes to the syllabus & course schedule during the semester, I will post an announcement of the change through the announcement tab and I will also post a new copy of the syllabus & course schedule that reflects these changes under the Syllabus tab. This course's meeting schedule and/or assignment deadlines are subject to change. Changes are not likely, but I do reserve the right to make changes to address the changing needs of students and the class. The changes will be announced via Blackboard Announcement. You are responsible for using the most recent version of the syllabus & course schedule. The syllabus includes a timeline of all assignments and quizzes. I strongly recommend that you save it and refer to it frequently, especially in the event that BB is down.
- **My Grades:** This is where you can keep track of your grades. I recommend that you check it frequently and notify me immediately in case there are any discrepancies. Email is not a secure method of communication for grades. You need to provide written permission (via email) for me to email your grades.
- **Class:** You are responsible for reading the assigned text, supplemental readings, video clips, and other resources located under the Class tab in Blackboard. You will need to read ahead in order to be properly prepared for course meetings, assignments, exams, and discussions. Readings are due each class.

### **Time Commitment**

There is a lot of material covered in this course; therefore, you are encouraged to manage your time wisely and plan ahead for some of the larger assignments to ensure you can work within these time requirements.

### **Late or Missing Assignments**

Please plan ahead and use your time management skills. The schedule for submitting each assignment is provided in the Course Schedule. Late assignments past due are not accepted

unless other arrangements are made with the course instructor prior to the due date.

### **Optional/Alternative Assignments**

This class requires exploration and reflection not only about yourself but also your family of origin. Optional and/or alternative assignments **will not** be provided. Thus, please make sure you are willing and ready to engage in class discussions, self-and-others exploration, and complete the scheduled and required assignments. Otherwise, please consider taking this class at another time.

### **Commitment to Professionalism**

You are expected to follow all codes of conduct, ethical and legal guidelines, and proper procedures addressed in your student handbook, and by professional associations and societal rules. You are expected to express and maintain professional attitudes and proper manners in regard to the classroom discussions and presentations. Difficulties preventing your participation in class activities should be brought to the instructor's attention either by verbal or written format.

### **Netiquette**

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquettes (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider the audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of others' ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and the professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

### **Academic Performance**

As graduate students and professionals-in-training, graduate studies should be viewed from the perspective of professional development. Graduate students should learn how to apply what they have learned to their respective areas of study and social problems. All graduate students are expected to develop standards of professional performance.

### **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Failure to follow academic integrity (conduct academic dishonesty) is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports.

Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of

another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

All papers submitted in this course should adhere to the style and formatting guidelines of the APA Publications Manual (7th ed). This includes, but is not limited to, headings, citations, page numbering, and grammatical considerations. According to APA guidelines, all written submitted assignments must use Times New Roman 12-point font and be double-spaced.

Your materials should be properly cited and/or quoted; however, you are encouraged to only use quotes minimally where there is no other way to say it better. Your papers may go through SafeAssign, a plagiarism detection software when you upload them to Blackboard. If you still have questions about properly paraphrasing your sources, please see the instructor or visit the writing center for help.

Students are responsible for adhering to the above standards in all academic activities and refraining from all forms of academic dishonesty. According to the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures, academic dishonesty includes committing (or attempting to commit) the following:

- **Plagiarism** – taking credit for work that is not your own (e.g., copying and pasting from the internet, failing to cite sources of information, failing to attribute direct quotes to their original author, or submitting your work from another course without prior permission).
- **Cheating** – This includes copying another student's work during an exam; using notes, books, or electronic devices during an exam without prior permission; taking an exam for another student, and communicating with or helping another student during an exam.
- **Collusion** – any collaboration with another student without the permission of the instructor.
- **Self-plagiarism:** This term is defined by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) as authors presenting their "previously published work as new scholarship (p. 16)." It is thus unethical for students to use work previously submitted to meet a course requirement (e.g., a course paper for another course). Doing so will result in remediation procedures. Graduate students are advised that
- **self-plagiarism** will be treated as plagiarism and that the same disciplinary procedures will be used as those implemented for plagiarism.

## **Accommodation Policy**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

## **Other Course Resources**

### **Technology Resources**

- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

### **Academic Resources**

- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC)**: Submit papers here for online assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **RefWorks**: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

### **Individual Resources**

- **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism, cheating, or falsification of written assignments will not be tolerated. The consequence for these infractions will include notification of the incident to the Dean of Students, as required by the *UTEP Miner Guide for Students*. **Plagiarism in this course is defined as failure to cite appropriate sources for written assignments, FIVE or more words verbatim from someone else's work, and/or using quotation marks without the appropriate citation(s).**

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

- A) There will be two examinations given.
- B) There will be two projects. Rubrics will be attached on the assignments tab on Blackboard.
  - 1. A three to four-generation genogram of **your** family system.
  - 2. An analysis of a three to four-generation family system.

### **1. Genogram Project**

Students will write a paper about the genogram of **their own family system**. In addition, students will download GenoPro and use it to create their genogram figure and add it to the last page of the paper. The paper must be written following APA 7th style (owl.purdue.edu). The paper will not exceed 7 pages including the title and reference pages. This assignment will be uploaded on Blackboard. The assignment rubric can be found on the assignment tab on Blackboard.

### **2. Analysis of a Three to Four-Generation System Project**

Students will select a movie, watch it, and write a paper about the genogram of the three to four-generation **family system in the movie**. In addition, students will download GenoPro and use it to create the genogram figure and add it to the last page of the paper. The paper must be written following APA 7th style (owl.purdue.edu). The paper will not exceed 7 pages including the title and reference pages. This assignment will be uploaded on Blackboard. The assignment rubric can be found on the assignment tab on Blackboard.

**IMPORTANT:** The GenoPro program is free for 2 weeks only. Thus, unless you want to pay for the program, I recommend you prepare everything in advance for the 2 assignments and download GenoPro right when you are ready to work on the assignments.

**IMPORTANT:** This class requires exploration and reflection not only about yourself but also your family of origin. Optional and/or alternative assignments **will not** be provided. Thus, please make sure you are willing and ready to engage in class discussions, self-and-others exploration, and complete the scheduled and required assignments. Otherwise, please consider taking this class at another time.

### **3. Exam # 1**

This exam will be posted on Blackboard and available for a week. Once the exam closes, you will not be able to take it/re-take it (no exceptions). This exam will be based on chapters 1 through 6.

### **4. Exam # 2**

This exam will be posted on Blackboard and available for a week. Once the exam closes, you will not be able to take it/re-take it (no exceptions). This exam will be based on chapters 7 through 15.

## GRADING POLICY

| GRADE SCALE |        |
|-------------|--------|
| A           | 90-100 |
| B           | 80-89  |
| C           | 70-79  |
| F           | 0-69   |

| FINAL COURSE GRADE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS |    |
|--|----|
| Attendance and Participation             | 10 |
| Exam # 1                                 | 20 |
| Exam # 2                                 | 20 |
| Genogram Project                         | 20 |
| Analysis of a Generation System          | 30 |



## COURSE SCHEDULE

| Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy |                           |   |                  |  |
|---|---------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| W   | Class Dates               | Topics/Activities   | Readings Due     | Assignment Due   |
| #1  | 8/29/2023                 | Introductions<br>Syllabus Review<br><br><u>Reading:</u> Adopting a Family Relationship Framework                            | Chapter 1        | <b>Signed and Dated<br/>Acknowledgment Page</b>          |
| #2  | 9/5/2023<br><b>ZOOM</b>   | <u>Reading:</u> Family Development: Continuity and Change   | Chapter 2        |  |
| #3  | 9/12/2023                 | <u>Reading:</u> Diversity in Family Functioning   | Chapter 3        |  |
| #4  | 9/19/2023                 | <u>Reading:</u> Systems Theory and Systemic Thinking  | Chapter 4        |  |
| #5  | 9/26/2023                 | <u>Reading:</u> Origins and Growth of Family Therapy  | Chapter 5        |  |
| #6  | 10/3/2023<br><b>ZOOM</b>  | <u>Reading:</u> Professional Issues and Ethical Practices   | Chapter 6        |  |
| #7  | 10/10/2023<br><b>ZOOM</b> | <u>Reading:</u> Psychodynamic Models  | Chapter 7        | <b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1 ~ 6)</b>                           |
| #8  | 10/17/2023                | <u>Reading:</u> Transgenerational Models  | Chapter 8        |  |
| #9  | 10/24/2023                | <u>Reading:</u> Experiential Models   | Chapter 9        |  |
| #10   | 10/31/2023<br><b>ZOOM</b> | <u>Reading:</u> The Structural Model  | Chapter 10       | <b>Genogram</b>  |
| #11   | 11/7/2023                 | <u>Reading:</u> Strategic Models  | Chapter 11       |  |
| #12   | 11/14/2023                | <u>Reading:</u> Behavioral and Cognitive-Behavioral Models  | Chapter 12       |  |
| #13   | 11/21/2023<br><b>ZOOM</b> | <u>Reading:</u> Social Construction Models I and II: Solution-Focused Therapy, Collaborative Therapy, and Narrative Therapy | Chapters 13 & 14 |  |
| #14   | 11/28/2023                | <u>Reading:</u> Population-Based Family Treatments  | Chapter 15       | <b>Analysis of a Three to<br/>Four Generation System</b> |
| #15   | 12/5/2023                 | <b>Exam 2 (Chapters 7 ~ 15)</b>   |                  |  |

NOTE: This is a tentative schedule that could be modified by the instructor.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

**(Must be printed out, completed, and given to the instructor on the first day of class)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ read and understood the content of the syllabus (e.g., course goals, class modality, class meeting dates and time, required textbook, course requirements and policies, required assignments, grading policy, course schedule) for the course EDPC 5360 (Introduction to Marriage and Family Therapy) scheduled to be taught by Dr. Johana Rocha in Fall 2023. I agree with the content of the syllabus and will comply with it.

Student printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_