



MIDWESTERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

Syllabus

Marriage and Family Therapy
PSYC 6133, Section 201
Spring 2020

Contact Information

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D. Office: O'donohoe 112
Office Hours: By appointment only. *Due to the pandemic, I will interact with individuals via email, phone, or Zoom. No in-person meetings due to a family member with risk factors.*
Class Meets TR 2:00-3:20 Location: PY 204
Phone: 940-397-4026

I check D2L email sporadically. Please email me at:
michael.vandehey@msutexas.edu.

Goals:

1. Become familiar with systems theory, concepts, and terms.
2. Develop interview skills via the Genogram and Ecomap. Use both to document information in the file.
3. Become acquainted with a thorough review of the MFT research literature.
4. Develop professional writing and presenting skills.

Texts:

Stapler: Yes you read that correctly. I will not accept unstapled papers.

Gottman, J. M. & Schwartz Gottman, J. (2018). *The science of couples and family therapy: Behind the scenes at the love lab*. New York, NY: Norton.

Bush, K. R., & Price, A. P., (2020). *Families and change: Coping with stressful events and transitions* (6th Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

McGoldrick, M., Gerson, R., & Petry, S. (2008). *Genograms: Assessment and intervention* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.).
(2020). Washington D. C.: American Psychological Association.

Course Requirements: Grades will be based on your performance on student generated essay questions and answers, a family interview paper, and a final.

The student generated essay questions and answers are as follows (100 points):

- a. Only write questions out of Bush & Price.
- b. Each chapter will have one question, answer, and page number(s) of answer.
- c. Write fourteen short answer essay questions (1/2-3/4 page).
- d. Write two long answer essay questions (1-2 pages).
- e. Type should be single-spaced.

Goals: Develop information identification skills. Become skilled at writing essay questions. Discover what other people think is important.

I will choose some of the questions for the final. I reserve the right to re-write any of the questions.

The **final exam** will be worth 100 points and will have multiple choice and essay sections. The goal is to demonstrate conceptual knowledge of marriage and family therapy concepts. Typical essay format: Pick 4 out of 5 questions and provide a short answer (1/2 a page). Pick 2 out of 3 questions and provide a long answer (1-1/2 pages). Analyze a vignette (1.5-2 pages). The format may change based upon class participation/dynamics.

The **family interview paper** is worth 100 points and will be written in biopsychosocial format. It should be between 5+ pages single spaced. A genogram must be completed and should highlight information in the paper. The paper should include the following sections:

- a. presenting problem
- b. problem history and attempted solutions
- c. family history, relationships, family roles
- d. family medical history, alcohol/drug use
- e. friends/agencies outside of the family
- f. clinical assessment of the family (apply Gottman & Gottman's concepts; use the family life cycle)
- g. recommendations for treatment
- h. a genogram attached at the back of the paper
- i. a total of 5 references from referred journals or books (in addition to the two class text books) should be used in the clinical assessment and recommendations sections (sections f & g).

300 points are possible:

270-300 = A 210-239 = C 179 or less = F
240-269 = B 180-209 = D

Attendance: Attendance is required. Since we only meet twice a week, a student is allowed **3** absence without penalty. The **4nd** absence results in 1 grade drop, the **5rd** absence results in a grade of 'F.' Being tardy three times will count as an absence. Afterwards, every additional tardy counts as an absence.

Note: Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [disability faq](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#).

Make-up Policy: If an make-up exam is granted (instructor discretion), it will be essay in nature and can be scheduled with me. I need one week to prepare the exam; thus, the earliest a make-up exam can be taken is one week after the initial exam. See the 2019-2020 Student Handbook on Class Attendance Policy. [Student Handbook](#)

Computer Requirements

Taking an online/Zoom class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. Since there is a possibility of universities being closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your**

computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course, especially for students attending Zoom lectures. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

- a. Brightspace (maker of D2L) has tutorials available on YouTube. Please go to [Brightspace YouTube](#) for additional help.

College Policies and Procedures

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

Student Code of Conduct

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

Instructor Drop: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10 week summer term, or the 12th

class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

Travel Plans: Please do not make travel plans during finals week. The final will be given when the university has scheduled it as per the schedule of classes.

Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

<u>Days of Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>	Gladding
		Mc =McGoldrick B =Bush & Price G =Gottman & Schwartz Gottman
1/18	<i>Martin Luther King's Birthday, no classes</i>	
1/12-1/19:	Semester Overview/Course Requirements Intro to family systems concepts, triangles, and the family life cycle (lecture)	
1/12-2/11 1/12-3/23	Mc = Chapter 1-Chapter 9 (read as fast as you can) B=Read 16 chapters	
1/21-2/9	G Chapter 2: What Might Be Regulation in Family Homeostasis? G Chapter 3: What is Trust? G Chapter 4: What is Commitment? What is Betrayal? G Chapter 5: A Good Theory Needs Data	
2/11-2/16ish:	Intro to genograms Movie	
2/15	<i>Last day to file for May graduation</i>	
2/18-3/4	G Chapter 6: So, What's a Relationship? G Chapter 7: Flooding and Physiological Calm G Chapter 8: Change G Chapter 9: The Demand-Withdraw Pattern	
3/9ish:	Advanced genograms Movie	
3/30	Student Generated Essay Questions/Answers Due (Price)	
3/11-4/22	G Chapter 10: Our Mighty Theory: The Sound Relationship House G Chapter 11: What's Behind Demand-Withdraw: Meta-emotion Mismatch G Chapter 12: The Power of Turning Toward G Chapter 13: Examining Relationship Stability	

3/30: Family Interview & Genogram Due

4/1-4/4

Holiday Break

4/23

Last day to file for a "W"

Additional Topics Throughout the Semester:

Intimacy and Divorce

Family Secrets

Family Rituals

Communication Styles

Social Support and Family Networks

Ecomap

Family Sculpting

Thursday, April 29th is the Final from 1:00-3:00 p.m..