THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Course Number: SW 393R15 Instructor: Mark Elliott, LCSW-S

Unique Number: 61980 Office: By appointment

Semester: Fall 2023 **Office Phone:** (512) 766-6275

Meeting Time/Place: Mondays

2:30-5:30 pm, Room 2.116

Office Hours: Monday 1:30-2:30

COUPLES COUNSELING

I. STANDARDIZED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a seminar for students in the clinical concentration and will cover intervention approaches used in couples therapy. It will be taught from a systems perspective and will include an overview of models and methods drawn from evidence-based research. The primary focus of this course will be to blend theory and application. This course will require the student to participate in both theory based and experiential learning and will incorporate simulations as a way to elucidate the approaches discussed.

II. STANDARDIZATION OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- 1. Demonstrate the ability to compare and contrast theory-based interventions which incorporate intrapsychic and interpersonal theory including an understanding of emotions, physiology and communication.
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to explore and resolve social work values and ethical dilemmas in selecting and implementing interventions for couples.
- 3. Understand the importance of awareness of self as a parallel process to the application of interventions with couples.
- 4. Identify the implications of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, substance abuse and domestic violence on assessment and intervention with couples.
- 5. Understand and integrate theory using empirical, evidence-based best practice research.
- 6. Demonstrate the ability to review the elements of a treatment approach, assess the effectiveness and elicit clinical input that heightens awareness and examines interventions in light of cultural perspectives and desired outcome.

III. TEACHING METHODS

This course will include a variety of teaching methodologies designed to achieve the beginning mastery of theoretically-grounded advanced practice skill competencies with couples. Learning activities will include reading, writing, discussion, lectures, videos, simulations, and experiential exercises. Students will video-tape simulations as a tool for learning assessment and intervention skills. Students will present a case and solicit feedback from other students in order to identify strategies to improve their effectiveness in intervening with couples. Students will also be encouraged to develop insights into "the use of self" through observations and self reflection. Simulations will be monitored to facilitate the assessment of skill competencies.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS

Johnson, S.M. (2004). *The Practice of Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy: Creating Connection*. New York: Brunner-Routledge

Gottman, J. (1999) *The Marriage Clinic*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company

Gurman, A.S., Lebow, J.L, & Snyder, D.K. (Eds.) (2015). Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (5th ed.). New York: Guilford Publications.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The grade for the course will be based on the student's ability to demonstrate: (a) knowledge and methods from major models of couples counseling, and (b) effective interventions for resolving couples issues. Grading will be based primarily on total points earned from each of the major assignments. Factors to be considered for final grade will also include class attendance, punctuality, participation, promptness in completing assignments, and clear and concise writing skills.

Written assignments should be typed and double spaced. Single space and/or fonts under 12 pt. will incur a penalty as will extra pages.

The history and assessment report, reflection paper, and the final integration paper must be submitted via Canvas.

APA (6th ed) writing and citation style must be used for referenced information.

Upload of texts will only be accepted via Canvas.

1. History and Assessment Report (3 pages each section) — Submit via Canvas

Students will be divided into groups of three (with an added group of four depending on the class size) and will create a history and background for a "simulation couple" they will play this semester. To prepare for these simulations, students will construct an assessment report of the simulation couple.

The narrative will include the following sections:

Section A

- A description of the presenting problem,
- The strengths and challenges of the relationship,
- One or two issues over which the couple is gridlocked (Gottman, Chapter 4)

Section B

- A relationship history using the Oral History Interview (Gottman, 398-99).
- Gottman's Seven Questions as they relate to your couple. NOTE: You are not required to address all seven questions. Select the ones that are most relevant to your simulation couple (Gottman Chapter 4)

Section C

- Brief summary of the Meta-Emotion Interview (Gottman, 402).
- Brief summary of Meanings interview (Gottman, 403)

The report needs to be written as a summary (without questions or dialogue).

Each student's work will be graded separately based on clarity of presentation, appropriate use of APA guidelines, and writing style. Clearly indicate at the beginning of your paper, the specific section that you are submitting (i.e., section A, B, or C). Going over the page limit and/or single spacing will be penalized.

2. Couple Therapy Simulations

Students will need to prepare brief videos to demonstrate initial skills in couple assessment and intervention. Please choose a method for recording the videos that can be reproduced in laptop and/or tablets, as well as in the classroom.

Video # 1. The first video will consist of an initial assessment according to Gottman's model. This simulation (role play) will be limited to 30 minutes and will consist of two sections.

<u>Section 1 (15 minutes)</u>. Exploration of the presenting problem and seven questions according to Gottman's assessment model (each group will decide specific areas of exploration).

<u>Section 2 (15 minutes)</u>. Exploration of anger and sadness with both members of the couple according to Gottman's meta-emotion interview, and/or relevant genogram background. You are free to choose the focus of this segment of the interview (i.e., emotions and/or genogram).

Each student will alternate playing members of the couple and the therapist (so that each student has an opportunity to play the therapist role). If there is a group consisting of 4 students, the fourth student acting as therapist will produce an additional 10-minute video, expanding on any of the sections role played by the other students.

Brief sections of video # 1 will be presented in private consultations to be scheduled with the instructor. In addition to evaluating skills, the videos will be used to discuss the experience of engaging in couple therapy, challenges experienced, lessons learned, etc.

Video # 2. The second video will consist of a 15-minute video corresponding to the implementation of skills of a central intervention phase of the team's preferred model of couple therapy (e.g., Gottman, EFT). This video will be presented in class. Students will be free to choose the definitions of roles (i.e., therapist/rotating therapist vs couple), but all students must participate in the video. In preparation for this assignment, we will practice role play in class and will discuss a variety of techniques corresponding to assigned readings. Students are encouraged to use additional techniques, including those of fellow students, as long as they are consistent with their chosen therapeutic model.

<u>Video presentations should not last more than 15 minutes (total video presentation time)</u>. In addition to evaluating skills, the videos will be used to discuss the experience of engaging in couple therapy, challenges experienced, lessons learned, etc.

Video # 2 Case Consult. At the end of the presentation of video #2, the presenters will receive feedback from the class, moderated by the instructor. Each team should also be prepared to elicit a conversation with the class focused on an issue related to treatment approach or specific challenges. The entire presentation (showing video and case consult) should last 30 minutes.

3. Journal/Reflections

Students are expected to write a weekly journal/reflection. A grade will be given based on completion of weekly entries of no less than ½ page single spaced. Content may include personal thoughts, opinions, agreements, or disagreements you have with the readings, class interactions, or simulations. The journals will be kept confidential. This assignment is designed to provide an outlet for personal reactions to class material. Some reflection questions to consider:

- What is my motivation for enrolling in this course?
- The strengths that I identify in my future role as couple therapist
- What is the role of couples in the therapeutic process?
- What is the role of the therapist in the therapeutic process?
- What are my areas of growth related to issues of cultural diversity (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, SES, disabilities, etc.)? Reflect

about areas of cultural diversity that represent a personal challenge to you (e.g., couple therapy with LGBTQIA+ clients, limited exposure to ethnic minority clients, etc.). Please elaborate on why these areas represent a challenge to you as a future couple therapist.

- Which therapeutic model am I inclined to follow in my future training as a future couple counselor?
 - What are the reasons behind this choice?
 - How does this model match my strengths?
 - In which ways does this model help me grow as a therapist?
 - How does this model resonate with my worldview or my history?
 - What 'blind spots' should I monitor if I adopt this model?

4. Diversity Review and Presentation

Students will identify a social identity, community, or population to create a critical analysis about cultural diversity issues, intimate partnerships, and cultural awareness. For this assignment, we will be putting a primary focus on populations that are likely to experience contextual challenges and adversity due to the diversity they represent. Examples include LGBTQIA+ relationships, military couples, interracial couples, arranged marriages, interfaith marriages, unmarried couples, low-income immigrants, remarried couples, ethnic specific (e.g., African American, Latino, Asian American/other ethnic couples). Students will complete this task as a group project with the team selected for the video assignment.

This assignment has two components:

1) Gather information from online sources, journal articles, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, and other educational sources. Identify strengths and cultural needs of the target population, particularly as it refers to mental health issues. Identify social biases and stereotypes that represent a challenge to the target population. If possible, identify one or two couple therapy approaches that have been shown to be effective with this population. If 'evidence based' approaches are not found, identify approaches that could be classified as 'promising.'

(20 minutes).

- 2) Facilitate a group discussion aimed at helping the class reflect about key issues couple therapists should consider when working with this population. Be ready to clarify questions from the class about your presentation and prepare questions aimed at facilitating a group discussion (15 minutes).
- 5. Integration Paper (7 minimum-10 pages maximum, EXCLUDING COVER PAGE AND REFERENCES)—Submit via Canvas

This paper is due the last day of class. This manuscript will be an integration of knowledge and a description of your conceptualization of the process of couple therapy. This paper should be supported by a minimum of 7 scholarly references (i.e., journals or book chapters). Citing chapters from a non-edited book, constitutes only one reference.

However, different chapters from an edited book, constitutes separate references the initial time each chapter is cited.

<u>I expect a minimum of one page narrative per question</u>. The additional pages are for you to expand on the question(s) of your choice

The paper will consist of the following sections:

- 1. What brings couples to therapy?
- 2. What should be the objectives of couple therapy?
- 3. What is the role of the therapist in a therapeutic process for couples? Compare/contrast this answer with the one you provided in the reflection paper.
- 4. What is the role of couples in a therapeutic process? Compare/contrast this answer with the one you provided in the reflection paper.
- 5. What is my stance with regards to gender issues?
- 6. What is my stance with regards to power and control issues?
- 7. What has been the most significant learning from this course? Please elaborate in detail.
- 8. What is your stance about assumptions about health/normality informing couple therapy? If so, please elaborate on them. If you do not ascribe to notions of health/normality, what are the parameters that you consider should inform couple therapy? Remember to justify your responses with scholarly sources.
- 9. What issues associated with cultural diversity are you comfortable addressing in therapy? Please explain and reflect on these issues as they refer to your experience in this course.
- 10. What issues associated with cultural diversity will be difficult for you to address in therapy? Please explain and reflect on these issues as they refer to your experience in this course

Task	Modality of Grading (Individual vs Group)	Percentage of Grade	Due Dates
History and assessment report Submit via Canvas	Individual	10%	September 18th
Video # 1 case consult	Group	10%	TBD with instructor
Video # 2 presentation and case consult	Group	15%	TBD with instructor
Reflection papers Submit via Canvas	Individual	10%	See above
Diversity presentations and discussions	Group	15%	TBD with instructor
Integration paper Submit via Canvas	Individual	20%	Last day of class
Participation	Individual	10%	

Journal Individual	10%	
--------------------	-----	--

VI. GRADES

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	В
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

VII. CLASS POLICIES

Assignments:

Late assignments will not be accepted without penalty. The penalty will be assessed by subtracting 2 points. Exceptions will be made only in the case of an extreme emergency and with the permission of the instructor to be given 24 hours prior to the due date.

Attendance:

Regular and punctual class attendance, as well as class participation are expected. Missing classes or regularly leaving without notifying the instructor are causes for reduction in the final grade. It is the responsibility of the student to sign in

Cell phones, text messaging

Making/receiving calls and text messaging for non-urgent issues during class is prohibited. Please leave the room for any urgent calls you need to make.

VIII. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION. The University's policies and practices related to the pandemic may be accessed at: https://protect.utexas.edu/

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE. The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

ACCESSIBLE/COMPLIANT STATEMENT: If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and

Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/. If you are already registered with D&A, please touch base with your instructor to discuss your Accommodation Letter as early as possible in the semester so your approved accommodations can be implemented.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM. The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. This atmosphere includes working intentionally to recognize and dismantle racism, sexism, heterosexism, and ableism in the classroom. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment, we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS. Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at https://cmhc.utexas.edu/.

POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and other forms of electronic communication (e.g. blogs) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and / or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct.

USE OF COURSE MATERIALS. The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.

CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY. Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

UNIVERSITY ELECTRONIC MAIL STUDENT NOTIFICATION. Electronic mail (email), like postal mail, is a mechanism for official University communication to students. The University will exercise the right to send email communications to all students, and the University will expect that email communications will be received and read in a timely manner. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at https://it.utexas.edu/policies/university-electronic-mail-student-notification-policy.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS. A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable period after the absence. A reasonable accommodation does not include substantial modification to academic standards, or adjustments of requirements essential to any program of instruction. Students and instructors who have questions or concerns about academic accommodations for religious observance or religious beliefs may contact the Office for Inclusion and Equity. The University does not maintain a list of religious holy days.

TITLE IX DISCLOSURE. Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Education Code, Section 51.252 (formerly known as Senate Bill 212) requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, to report to the <u>Title IX Office</u> any information regarding incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive information about incidents of this type (including, but not limited to, written forms, applications, one-on-one conversations, class assignments, class discussions, or third-party reports) must report it to the Title IX Coordinator. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX-related incident, please remember that I will be required to report this information.

Faculty, staff, graduate assistants, teaching assistants, and graduate research assistants are <u>mandatory reporters</u> under federal Title IX regulations and are required to report <u>a wide range of behaviors we refer to as sexual misconduct</u>, including the types of misconduct covered under Texas Education Code, Section 51.252. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex – including pregnancy and parental status – in educational programs and activities. The Title IX Office has developed supportive ways and compiled campus resources to support all impacted by a Title IX matter.

If you would like to speak with a case manager, who can provide support, resources, or academic accommodations, in the Title IX Office, please email: supportandresources@austin.utexas.edu. Case managers can also provide support, resources, and accommodations for pregnant, nursing, and parenting students.

For more information about reporting options and resources, please visit: https://titleix.utexas.edu, contact the Title IX Office via email at: titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

CAMPUS CARRY POLICY. The University's policy on campus carry may be found here: https://campuscarry.utexas.edu.

SAFETY. As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to

agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

BEHAVIOR CONCERNS and COVID-19 ADVICE LINE (BCCAL). If students have concerns about their behavioral health, or if they are concerned about the behavioral health of someone else, students may use the Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit https://safety.utexas.edu/behavior-concerns-advice-line. The Behavior Concerns and COVID-19 Advice Line has been expanded to support The University of Texas at Austin community during the COVID-19 pandemic. By calling 512-232-5050 - Option 2 for COVID-19, students, faculty and staff can be assisted in English and Spanish with COVID-19 support.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY. Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	Readings
Aug	Introductions and		Gurman et al., Chapter 1
21	overview; Research		
	on couple therapy		Blow, A.J., & Sprenkle, D.H.
			(2001). Common factors across
			theories of marriage and family
			therapy: A modified Delphi study.
			Journal of Marital and Family
			<i>Therapy, 27,</i> 385-401.
			Lebow, J.L., Chambers, A.L.,
			Christensen, A., & Johnson, S.M.
			(2012). Research on the treatment
			of couple distress. Journal of

			Marital and Family Therapy, 38, 145-168.
Aug 28	Assessment in Couple Therapy/The Gottman Model	Selecting Teams for Diversity and Clinical Presentations	Gurman Ch 5 Gottman, Ch 3
Sept 4	Labor Day	No class	
Sept 5	The Gottman Model		Gottman, Ch 6-7
Sept 11	The Gottman Model		Gottman, Chapter 8-10
Sept 18	The Gottman Model	History and assessment report Submit via Canvas	Gottman, Chapters 11-14
Sept 25	Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)		Gurman et al., Chapter 4 (pp 319-358) Johnson, Chapters 1-3 Wiebe, S.A., & Johnson, S.M. (2016). A review of the research in emotionally focused therapy for couples. <i>Family Process</i> , 55, 390-407.
Oct 2	Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)		Gurman, et al., Chapter 4 (pp 358-381) Johnson, Chapters 4-6 Johnson, S.M. & Greenman, P.S. (2006) The path to a secure bond: Emotionally Focused Couple

			Therapy. Journal of Clinical Psychology, 62, 597-609.
Oct 9	Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)		Johnson, Chapters 7-9 Furrow, J.L., Edwards, S.A., Choi, Y., & Bradley, B. (2012). Therapist presence in emotionally focused couple therapy blamer softening events: Promoting change through emotional experience. <i>Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 38, s1,</i> 39-49. Wittenborn, A.K. (2012). Exploring the influence of the attachment organizations of novice therapists on their delivery of Emotionally Focused Therapy for couples. <i>Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 38,</i> No. s1, 50-62.
Oct 16	Object Relations and Imago Relationship Therapy (IRT)	Reflection #2 due	Gurman et al., Chapter 8 TBD
Oct 23	Diversity Presentations and Discussions		
Oct 30	Diversity Discussions continued		
Nov 6	Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence	Reflection #3 due	Gurman et al., Chapters 14, 20, 21 Schacht, R. L., Dimidjian, S., George, W. H., & Berns, S. B. (2009). Domestic violence assessment procedures among couple therapists. <i>Journal of</i>

			Marital and Family Therapy, 35, 47-59. McCrady, B.S., Wilson, A.D., Munoz, R.E., Fink, B.C., Fokas, K., & Borders, A. (2016). Alcohol-focused behavioral couple therapy. Family Process, 55, 443-459.
Nov 13	Affairs/Infidelity		Gurman et al., Chapter 15 Fife S.T., Weeks, G.R. & Gambescia, N. (2007) The Intersystems Approach to Treating Infidelity. Routledge, Chapter 5 Blow, A.J., & Hartnett, K. (2005). Infidelity in committed relationships I: A methodological review. Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 31, 183-216. Blow, A.J., & Hartnett, K. (2005). Infidelity in committed relationships II: A methodological review. Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 31, 217-233.
Dec 4	Termination issues	Final Integration Paper	
	Wrap Up and Evaluations	Submit via Canvas	

Additional Bibliography

- Additional resources for couples counseling:
- Gottman, J.M. and Silver, N. (1999). *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. New York: Three Rivers Press.
- Johnson, S.M., Brent Bradley, J Furrow, A Lee, G Palmer, D Tilley & S Woolley: (2005)
 - Becoming an Emotionally Focused Couples Therapist : A Work Book. N.Y. Brunner Routledge.
- Johnson, Susan M.: (2005) Emotionally focused Couple Therapy with Trauma Survivors: Strengthening the Attachment Bonds. New York: Guilford Press
- Tatkin, Stan & Hendrix, Harvell. (2012) Wired for Love: Understanding how your Partner's Brain and Attachment Style can help you Defuse Conflict and Built a Secure Relationship. California: New Harbinger Publications