

**NURS 5322: Psychopharmacology and Therapy Across the Lifespan**  
Midwestern State University  
College of Health Sciences Wilson School of Nursing  
Family PMH-NP Program

**\*Note:** This syllabus is for information purposes only and is subject to change without prior notice.

## Faculty

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## Other WSON Contacts

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Contact Cathy Healey for Facility Contracts, Test Proctor Submission, e-Logs purchase and issues related to compliance

## Additional Campus Details

**MSU Police (Emergency Only):** (940) 397-4239

## Course Description

This course provides foundational tools unique to the evaluation of psychiatric and mental health problems and the assessment of cognitive / intellectual, emotional, socio-cultural and spiritual health of individuals, families, groups and communities across the lifespan. Focus is on understanding the process of interdisciplinary collaboration in the comprehensive assessment of the client experiencing serious/persistent mental health problems. The student will begin to integrate assessment findings into the formulation of diagnoses based on criteria set forth in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) - 5.

As this is an online course you will need access to a computer and be able to scan paperwork electronically. Do NOT fax paperwork to the university please.

**Calendar:** Check the assignment calendar for due dates. For ease of remembering, all assignments will be due by 3 PM on the designated due date. **\*No individual reminders will be given.**

**Prerequisites:** NURS 5112/11 Advanced Health Assessment

**Credit Hours:** Two (2) credit hours. This includes didactic and clinical components.

## Course Objectives

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

- Distinguish psychotropic medication classes, side effects/adverse reactions, monitoring parameters, and mechanism of action across the life span.
- Analyze ethical and legal considerations when prescribing psychotropic medication to various vulnerable population groups, including child/adolescents, geriatric, and women.
- Differentiate each non-pharmacologic psychotherapy interventions: Cognitive, Humanistic, Person-Centered, and Existential theories.
- Categorize individual, group, family therapy, and alternative therapies interventions across the lifespan
- Categorize individual, group, family therapy, and alternative therapies interventions across the lifespan.
- Assess the socio-cultural and spiritual needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities experiencing severe/persistent mental health problems across the lifespan.

## Required Texts

***Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association***

American Psychiatric Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Seventh Edition.

***A Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests (11th Edition).***

Any lab Manual or Fishbach, F. (2022). A Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests (11th Edition).

***Psychotherapy for the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse.***

Wheeler, K. (2022). A How-To-Guide for Evidence-Based Practice. Springer Publishing. Third Edition.

***The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification Review Manual.***

Zakhari, R. (2021). Springer Publishing.

***Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Application.***

S.M. Stahl (2008). Cambridge University Press. Fifth Edition

## Recommended Texts

### ***Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM- 5***

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM- 5-TR*. Fifth Edition.

### ***Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology. Prescriber's Guide.***

Stahl, S. M. (2021). *Essential psychopharmacology. Neuroscientific basis and practical applications* (5th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

### ***Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry***

Boland, R., Verduin, M. and Ruiz, P. (2021). Wolters Kluwer Publishing. Twelfth Edition.

## Academic Policies

### Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to pursue their scholastic careers with honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test or other course work, plagiarism (offering the work of another as one's own), and the unauthorized collaboration with another person. Students found guilty of dishonesty in their scholastic pursuits are subject to penalties that may include suspension or expulsion from the University. As a licensed registered nurse, graduate students are expected to demonstrate professional conduct as set forth in the Texas Board of Nursing rule §215.8. In the event that a graduate student holding an RN license is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty, the college may report the nurse to the Texas BON using rule §215.8 as a guide.

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a "limited right" in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The "limited right" shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

NURS 5322 adheres to the MSU Code of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. Many components of NURS 5322 are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn by providing a different point of view, much as would occur in a face-to-face classroom. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the many resources available including online Desire2Learn course resources, internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning. All components of NURS 5322 are designed to represent the efforts of each student INDIVIDUALLY and are NOT to be shared, copied, or plagiarized from other sources. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they abided by this rule.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty, staff, or students without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of published or unpublished works of another person – by paraphrase or direct quotation – without correct citation in the text and on the reference list. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" written papers is also plagiarism. For this course, students found to plagiarize on any assignment or discussion will receive a zero for that assignment or discussion. A second incident of plagiarism by the same student will result in a grade of "F" for this course.

### **Professional Behavior Policy**

Refer to the WSON Graduate Catalogue.

### **American Disability Act (ADA)**

Midwestern State University (MSU) does not discriminate based on an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act in its admission, accessibility and employment of individuals in programs and activities.

MSU provides academic accommodations and auxiliary aids to individuals with disabilities, as defined by law, who are otherwise qualified to meet academic and employment requirements. For assistance call (940) 397-4618 or 397-4515. Please see the instructor outside of class to make any arrangements involving special accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to declare any disabilities. After declaration, preferably at the beginning of each semester, the student needs to contact individual instructors to determine any reasonable accommodations that may be required.

### **Progression Policy**

As with all graduate courses in the Nursing Programs at MSU, a B (80 or above) must be earned in order to pass the course and progress in the Family PMH-NP program. If a grade of C or less is earned in any graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated the next regular academic semester during which the course is offered. A nursing course may be repeated only once. Failure to achieve the minimum grade of B when repeating a course will result in dismissal from the program. Refer to the MSU Graduate Catalog for additional information on progression.

## **Adding and Dropping Courses**

A student who wishes to change his/her schedule by either dropping or adding a course must first consult with the PMHNP Program Coordinator. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional information on adding and dropping courses. Failure to notify the PMH-NP coordinator may result in being removed from the program. You must follow the degree plan provided to you.

## **Drug Policy**

Policy: The Wilson School of Nursing at Midwestern State University shall assure compliance with conditions for drug screen/substance abuse screen as specified in agency contracts with the Clinical Affiliates where students engage in courses with a clinical/lab component. Therefore, the Wilson School of Nursing and Clinical Agencies require a drug and alcohol screening for all students.

This is to be completed during the semester immediately prior to the beginning of courses with a clinical/lab component. Students who are under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol are deemed to be impaired and, therefore, incompetent to provide care to patients.

Impairment or suspected impairment of a nurse's practice by drugs or alcohol or mental illness will be reported under Chapter 467, Health and Safety Code, and the Board for investigation (Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §301.401; 301.402; 301.410; & 301.452).

Students may be required to complete additional drug screen/substance abuse screening during their course of study, dependent upon specific agency policies. Such requirements are beyond the control of the WSON.

Drug screen/substance abuse screening of a 10-panel urine drug screen will be performed by a third- party company selected by the WSON. The expenses of all drug screen/substance abuse screening are the responsibility of the student. Students will be given instructions regarding processes by the appropriate Program Coordinator and are expected to follow instructions for the online drug screen/substance abuse screening process. As a part of the process, students will authorize the third- party screening company to release results to the Wilson School of Nursing through the office of the appropriate Program Coordinator.

Failure to meet deadlines established by the Wilson School of Nursing may negatively affect clinical placements. Failure to complete the background check will preclude entry into clinical courses and can result in dismissal from the program. The Program Coordinator will administratively remove noncompliant students from all clinical courses.

This is to be completed during the semester immediately prior to the beginning of courses with a clinical/lab component. Students who evidence behaviors consistent with substance abuse shall be

subject to for-cause drug screening. Any student with a positive drug screen will be dismissed from the nursing program if the positive finding cannot be related to a prescription held legally by the student.