

Midwestern State University  
College of Health Sciences - Wilson School of Nursing  
Family PMH-NP Program

## **NURS 6911 X30 Special Topics (Fall 2022)**

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

### **Faculty**

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All faculty office hours are by appointment only.

### **Other WSON Contacts**

**Cathy Healey**  
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Office: (940) 397-2802  
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For Facility Agreements:  
Dr. Catherine Pankonien  
Email" [catherine.pankonien@msutexas.edu](mailto:catherine.pankonien@msutexas.edu)

### **Additional Campus Details**

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

### **Course Description**

The focus of this course is on diagnosis, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management and outcomes of serious and persistent psychiatric disorders and mental health problems (including complex mental illness and addictions) experienced in individuals, families, and groups in a variety of settings.

Prerequisites:

- NURS 5043 Advanced Pathology
- NURS 5133 Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 5112/11 Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 5103 Nursing Theory
- NURS 5303 PMH Roles

- NURS 5322 PMH Diagnostics
- NURS 5463/5473 PMH Advanced Practicum I
- NURS 5483/5493 PMH Advanced Practicum II

## Addendums to the syllabus

Faculty reserve the right to post addendums to the syllabus throughout the semester as needed. If and when this occurs, they will be posted under “Content” of Brightspace/D2L. It is the student’s responsibility to check Brightspace/D2L daily for any updates or additional information that has been posted.

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour. There are 64 total clinical hours required.

As this is an online course and you will need access to a computer and be able to scan paperwork electronically.

**Check syllabus course calendar for assignment due dates. For ease of remembering, both assignments will be due by 3 PM on the designated due dates.**

## Learning Modalities

### Didactic Learning

- Bright Space/D2L
- SOAP Notes (2)

### Clinical Learning

- Completion of all clinical hours
- Completion of required clinical paperwork (evals. and clinical sign off sheets)

## Course Objectives

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

- Demonstrate planning, implementing and evaluating care of one’s own mental health.
- Collaborate with families, groups, communities to develop evidence-based approaches for promotion and protection of mental health and prevention of illness.
- Develop beginning expertise in the assessment, evaluation and formulation of diagnosis(es) and treatment plans for the clients with serious and persistent mental health problems.

- Explore a wide range of approaches for evidence-based psychotherapy of groups, families, and communities experiencing psychiatric mental health problems.
- Develop beginning expertise in the application of selected evidence-based psychotherapy of groups and communities experiencing mental health problems.
- Recognize the impact of psycho-pharmacological interventions in family, group and community dynamics.

Note: The field of Family PMHNP is evolving. When new information is available we try to keep you informed. Faculty may provide you with additional materials that will be included in course content, activities, and exams.

## **Grading Scale**

A grade of A signifies 90-100  
A grade of B signifies 80-89  
A grade of C signifies 74-79  
A grade of D signifies 65-73  
A grade of F signifies 64 and below

## Evaluation

The grade for the NURS 6911 will be based upon the following criteria:

SOAP Note #1 – 50%

SOAP Note #2 – 50%

It is the student's responsibility to know their grade status. Please utilize the course calendar of this syllabus for assignment/exam due dates and times.

Failure to submit **all** required paperwork will result in a grade of "C" and failure of the course. It is the student's responsibility to review the list of required documents in the syllabus, know the status of the documents and be able to provide the documents at the required times.

## Student Responsibilities and Class Requirements

Students are accountable for policies regarding graduate nursing programs and completion of requirements for all graduate students as stated in the Graduate Catalog and Graduate Student Handbook. Students are responsible for making appointments with faculty concerning class assignments and clinical responsibilities as necessary and as requested by faculty.

This is an online class and students are expected to have adequate access to a computer and check the course via Bright Space/D2L daily for updates and information. Work will be submitted electronically by due date. All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. SOAP Note assignments should have any necessary citations and references in APA, 7th edition, format. All written work submitted for evaluation is to be the work of the student who submits it.

Students must have a valid nursing license to practice for all states in which the student is participating in clinical activities.

## Course Orientation – Bright Space/Desire to Learn (D2L)

The best way to get oriented to the course is to read the syllabus. By now, each student should be familiar with the Bright Space/D2L layout.

## Contacting Faculty

All assignment questions, questions about grades, or anything pertaining to the course should be addressed via the Bright Space/D2L email within the course. The preferred method of communication is Brightspace (D2L) email. Please contact the course faculty through Brightspace (D2L). Please note if the email is received Monday-Thursday, it will be returned within 24 hours. If an email is received after 3PM on Friday, or over the weekend, it will be returned within 48 hours. Contacting faculty by cell phone should be reserved for times between 8 am and 8 pm M-F. If it is urgent and you feel you cannot wait for an email response, you may call/text faculty between times of 8 AM and 8 PM.

Understand that professors will not be checking emails throughout the night, therefore should you have a question about anything including a test or assignment due the next day...you must contact your respective professor before 8PM the night before the assignment is due.

### **Assignment File Naming**

All assignments will be submitted through the Bright Space/D2L assignment section. *E-mailing assignments is not acceptable and may not be considered for grading.* When uploading an assignment to the assignment section of Bright Space/D2L, please use the following guidelines for naming of the files. Your last name, assignment name:  
Example: Smith-SoapNote3Revised.doc.

### **Assignment due dates/times**

Assignment due dates and times are listed on the course calendar of this syllabus.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit assignments by the time they are due. Assignments submitted after the due date and time will receive a deduction of 10 points for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will be accepted, with a penalty as described, up to a maximum of three days late, after which point a zero will be recorded for the assignment.

All assignments must be uploaded to Bright Space/D2L in the assignment section drop box via WORD format by the due date and time. All assignment drop boxes will be locked when due date and time expires. Failure to submit your assignments via WORD format so that they can be opened by faculty can result in an assignment being considered late. I cannot stress this enough.

Again, as this is an online course, I strongly suggest you do not choose to wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. Computer malfunctions and glitches can occur and not being able to submit your assignments by due date deadlines because your computer is not functioning properly will not be an acceptable excuse.

If the student has computer problems, then the student should contact Distance Learning @ MSU so they can try to assist you. If after that, if you still cannot upload your assignment to Bright Space/D2L then the assignment must be submitted on time via the D2L course webmail section but **only** with prior notice to faculty and subsequent approval. This is to be used in emergency situations only.

There are no opportunities for extra credit given for any assignment.  
All assignments will be due on Central Standard Time (CST).

### **Assignment/Exam Collaboration Policy**

The faculty considers collaboration during assignments and examinations as cheating and cheating is in violation of MSU Policy. A score of zero (0) will be given for students participating in collaboration of assignments and exams. Providing a student with written assignments, or examination information from a course previously taken at MSU, is

cheating. Cheating is ground for dismissal from the program.

### 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 PMHNP-NP program. If a grade of C or less is earned in any graduate nursing course, the course must be repeated at the next regular academic semester during which the course is offered. A nursing course may be repeated only once. 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 (Dr. Mercer). Refer to the graduate catalog for additional information on adding or dropping courses. Failure to notify the PMHNP coordinator may result in being removed from the program. You must follow the degree provided to you.

### 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 a 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 6911 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 6911 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 6911 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 (4) submission of your own work previously submitted in a prior course or prior assignment for a grade.

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.

### **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.

### **Campus Carry Policy**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the [University's Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact MSU Chief of Police Patrick Coggins at [patrick.coggins@msutexas.edu](mailto:patrick.coggins@msutexas.edu).

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Students are expected to act respectful to all peers, faculty, and guests during face-to-face lectures, in clinical settings, and in the online environment. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off or placed in silent mode before class begins. Should emergency communication need to be made, the student must step outside of the

classroom.

## **Network Etiquette (Netiquette)**

In all textual online communication, it is important to follow proper rules of netiquette. What is netiquette? Simply stated, netiquette is network etiquette – that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And “etiquette” means the social and cultural norms of communicating with others in a proper and respectful way. In other words, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving and interacting properly online. The Netiquette “Core Rules” linked below are a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behavior. They probably won’t cover all situations, but they should give you some basic principles to use in communicating online. For Netiquette Core Rules visit [The Core Rules of Netiquette web page](#)

## **Clinical Expectations and Information**

The 64 clinical hours required for this course are segmented in the following way:

- All 64 hours – Assessment and Medical Management of Acute and Chronic PMH issues in adults, children or Geri.

For the purposes of this course the age groups are delineated as follows:

Child/adolescent – up to and including 17 years of age

Adult – 18 years and thru 64 years of age

Geri. – 65 years of age and older

## **Additional Information related to Clinicals**

\*\*\* No tele-psychiatry hours can be done this course.

No Elog entries will need to be done.

Clarification of time frame for medical management follow-up visits - Offices typically schedule follow-up visits lasting 20-30 mins. We should see that time frame listed on clinical sign off sheets. We understand there may be times you may discuss the pt. case with your preceptor before or after the pt. visit but even then, a follow-up visit should not be longer than 0.75 and most often 0.5 hour.

Clinical hours done for NURS 6911 will not be counted toward total hours needed for the PMHNP program.

Submission of required documentation is necessary prior to starting clinicals. No participation in clinicals may occur until the preceptor has been approved and all forms have been completed. Clinical hours done without this will be forfeited. Preceptors must complete all preceptor paperwork including a signed preceptor agreement. This paperwork is to be scanned and emailed to Dr. Mercer. A facility agreement is also needed for each clinical site prior to clinicals starting and should be scanned and emailed to Dr. Pankonien.



Students must meet all requirements before beginning clinicals. When in clinical, students are required to have proof of malpractice insurance and a current license in the state of practice. Students must also hold a current TX nursing license as well. This data must be entered into Castle Branch by the student. Additional information such as liability insurance purchased from MSU, proof of current immunizations, CPR and other departmental form acknowledgements will also need to be done via Castle Branch. Clinical hours done without meeting these requirements will be forfeited.

There will be no observation for medical management clinicals.

Any unsafe or unprofessional behaviors can constitute a clinical failure. Students deemed unsafe or incompetent will not be permitted to progress in the program and will receive a maximum grade of 79% for the course. Demonstrating any of the following behaviors will constitute clinical failure:

- Demonstrates unsafe performance.
- Lacks insight and understanding of own behaviors and behavior of others.
- Needs continuous specific and detailed supervision.
- Has difficulty in adapting to new ideas and roles.
- Falsifies clinical hours or preceptor signature.

## **Standards of Professional Conduct**

Students are expected to uphold standards of professional conduct in the classroom, online, and in clinical settings. Failure of a course and/or clinical is given to students who fail to uphold standards of professional conduct, fail to maintain patient safety, or students who fail to complete clinical hours.

Behaviors that will result in a failure of the course and stop progression in the program include, but are not limited to:

- Failure of the clinical component of a course or failure to complete all assigned clinical hours;
- Arriving to a clinical setting unprepared or inappropriately dressed;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate language or gestures;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate behavior such as eye rolling, being disrespectful, chewing gum, using tobacco products in a non-smoking areas, disruptive behavior, failure to comply with a written or verbal instruction, or failure to maintain clinical compliance;
- Non-compliance with the policy to obtain written approval before attending clinical;
- An error in care or negligence that does not result in harm
- Cheating, collusion, and/or plagiarism.

Behaviors that will result in dismissal from the MSN or post-graduate certificate program include, but are not limited to:

- Falsifications, omissions, and/or lying about a patient care situation, including patient's current health status and/or patient documentation;
- Testing positive for alcohol, illegal drugs, or unprescribed controlled substances;
- Negligence of a patient or an error in patient care that results in harm to the patient;
- HIPAA violations;
- Failure to report a patient care error; or
- Physical or verbal abuse of a patient, patient's family member, faculty, staff, or other students.
- Failure to report any activity on the RN license and/or any stipulations or restrictions placed on the RN license
- Falsification of clinical documents, preceptor signatures, and/or clinical hour logs.

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**Students deemed unsafe or incompetent by a preceptor may be evaluated for competency by two faculty staff members. Students may be required by faculty to complete additional clinical hours, before advancing in the program**

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In order to pass this course, you must submit all of the information by due date via the respective drop boxes on Bright Space/D2L.

- Student evaluation of each preceptor
- Each preceptor evaluation of student
- Preceptor Clinical Sign-off Sheet listing hours/dates/preceptor's signature

All required paperwork –your evaluation of your preceptor, your preceptor's evaluation of you, legible clinical sign off sheet listing totaled hours completed with preceptor signature, date and number of hours completed for that date, with patient's age not age group listed must be received by due date in order to pass this course.

Please note, we will not accept screenshots of this information. This information will only be accepted when scanned and uploaded right side up to the drop boxes. We will not accept this information via email. Again, all must be submitted to drop boxes by due date and time. Drop boxes lock after this.

It is the student's responsibility to notify their assigned professors of all clinical dates, times, locations and a working phone # where the preceptor can be reached during your clinicals. As faculty, we are responsible and must know where students are at all times.

We do understand there are instances where pts do not show and there is down time in clinicals. You may count hours spent with your preceptor discussing cases, drugs,

treatment plans r/t pts. you have seen or will be seeing as part of your required clinical time. However, we would expect this time be minimal and the vast majority of your time must be spent directly with pts. Time spent speaking with or being detailed by drug reps. will NOT count towards required clinical time. To clarify what is MINIMAL.....We would expect **no more than 2 hours this semester**. \*\*These alternative hours are to be included in your clinical sign off sheets BUT PLEASE DO DESIGNATE that they are alternative hours and be specific i.e. discussed pt. treatment plan with preceptor 20 mins etc....

### Faculty Site Visit Option

Random clinical site visits may be arranged at the faculty's discretion.

### SOAP Note Assignments

SOAP note assignments are to be done only on patients seen in the current course semester.

### Preceptor and Preceptorship Guidelines

Clinical hours for this course will consist of the precepted experience of assessment and medication management of the adult age group.

Students participating in a clinical course are required to be precepted by a qualified specialist in the area of study. The process for securing a clinical preceptor and clinical agency may take weeks and it is vital that the student begin the search well in advance.

Approved (medical management) clinical sites must have a current facility agreement with MSU and a signed preceptor agreement. Facility agreements for clinical sites are to be arranged through Dr. Pankonien at [Catherine.Pankonien@msutexas.edu](mailto:Catherine.Pankonien@msutexas.edu) Facility agreements can take **a lot of time**, so my recommendation is you start early securing this if you have not already done so.

**IMPORTANT** - Once Dr. Mercer has given preceptor approval the student will still maintain contact with Dr. Pankonien to determine when the facility agreement has been approved. Upon that approval, the student may begin clinicals and not before. Both preceptor approval and a facility agreement must be in place prior to starting a clinical.

Acceptable preceptors for the clinical (medical management) experiences: Psychiatrist or Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with prescriptive authority. This means if a PMHNP, must be board certified. No exceptions. The PMHNP should have a minimum of 2 years experience prior to precepting.

Students may be assigned a specific preceptor at the discretion of the PMHNP faculty. Otherwise, they will select their preceptors with approval by Dr. Mercer. Also, note that students can be removed from a clinical site and/or preceptor and placed at a different clinical site and/or preceptor at the discretion of their Professor. Faculty reserve the right to approve or disapprove any preceptor.

## **Drug Screen/Substance Abuse screening:**

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.

## Required Texts

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

*Kaplan & Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry* Boland, R., Verduin, M. and Ruiz, P. (2021). Wolters Kluwer Publishing. Twelfth Edition.

*The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification Review Manual.* Zakhari, R. (2021). Springer Publishing.

In addition, all other required textbooks from previous semesters (Diagnostics, Advanced Practicum I and Advanced Practicum II will be utilized this semester).

## Clinical Site Evaluation Form and Virtual Imaging PowerPoint

Please note that each semester you must complete a new Clinical Site eval. form AND new Virtual image PPT **even if the clinical site is the same as last semester**. Just like we have to get new preceptor paperwork signed all over again each semester even if same preceptor.

The Clinical Site Evaluation form AND the Virtual Image Powerpoint may both be done the very first day of your clinicals (including therapy clinicals) but **they have to be submitted that evening in drop box on Bright Space/D2L**. We are trying to do this so you all are not making a separate trip to each of your offices where you will be doing clinicals without being able to do a clinical. Failure to do this may result in forfeiting clinical hours.