

**Course Syllabus**  
**NURS 4823 - Concepts in Community Health**  
**Robert D. and Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services**  
**Spring**  
**2025**

**Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

The focus is on application of holistic nursing principles in the community. The focus is on the nurse in the community, putting prevention into practice and the promotion of wellness. Assessment and planning care to families, groups, and communities and application of the nursing process will be explored. Utilization of epidemiological data, local, state and national resources for community health, health promotion, disease prevention, health planning/teaching, cultural awareness and issues of diversity will be emphasized at the local, state, national, and global levels.

**Pre-requisites**

NURS 3853 Concepts in Caring for the Adult Client, NURS 3863 Concepts in Caring for the Pediatric Client, and NURS 3873 Concepts in Mental Health Care.

**Co-requisites**

NURS 4803 Concepts in caring for the acutely ill client; NURS 4813 Concepts in Leadership in nursing; NURS 4833 Concepts in caring for the child-bearing family; NURS 4842 Concepts in clinical reasoning and judgment.

**Credit Hours: Three lecture hours (3-0)**

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Stanhope, M. & Lancaster, J. *Foundations for Population Health in Community/Public Health Nursing* (6<sup>th</sup> ed). St Louis: Mosby/Elsevier.

Milestones in Public Health pdf at [pfizer.com](https://www.pfizer.com) (optional)

To ensure that you familiarize yourselves with the textbook, there will be 7 online (open book) quizzes over the upcoming class material that will close before class. This is worth 10% of your grade.

<b>Course Objectives</b> Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:		<b>AACN Essentials</b>	<b>DEC Competencies</b>
1.	Discuss the development of community health practice and community health nursing from a theoretical and historical perspective.	I,VII	II. E
2.	Discuss the concepts of wellness in communities and quality of care.	IV,V,VI,V II	II. D, IV. A
3.	Apply the concepts of health promotion and disease prevention to individuals and families in the global community	IV,VII,VI II,IX	II. B, D, E, G III. C
4.	Synthesize knowledge to develop sustainable wellness programs.	IV,VII,VI II,IX	II. E, GIV. A
5.	Examine the impact of cultural diversity on health promotion and disease prevention within the global community.	VII	II. B, E IV, C
6.	Analyze the impact of vulnerable populations on health promotion and disease prevention within the global community.	VIII	II. B, G IV. C
7.	Based on research findings analyze community needs and global health to identify interventions for wellness programs.	II, III	II. D, E, G IV. A, B
8.	Identify community resources for health promotion and disease prevention based on current research.	III, V	II. B, D, G IV. B, C
9.	Discuss and analyze the role of programs such as coordinated school health in the wellness of a community.	VII	II. E IV. C
10.	Demonstrate a nursing role in identifying and coordinating community health resources to meet the needs of individuals and families within the community.	I. ,II, II. V,VI, IX	II. B, C, D, E IV. A, C
11.	Describe the nurse's role in community preparedness, global health and bioterrorism.	II	III. C
12.	Demonstrate understanding of epidemiological principles in health promotion and disease prevention.	II,VII	III. B, C

## **Learning Experiences**

Students are expected to be self-directed in the acquisition of basic nursing knowledge. Learning activities available to students include:

1. Classroom activities: Information relevant to each unit of study will be presented in class either by the instructor or by guest lecturers. Students should come to class promptly prepared to participate.
2. Readings: Readings from the textbook are recommended for each unit. Open-book online quiz deadlines are listed in the calendar.
3. Community Assessment / Windshield Survey / Photonovella: team project to evaluate a census tract within the community and present the results as a photonovella.
4. Risk Assessment / Behavior Change Project: This project will assess personal health risks and initiate a behavior change to reduce a risk.
5. Desire 2 Learn (D2L) is available for announcements (News), course materials, e-mail, testing and grade book. Students are expected to check D2L News daily for course announcements.

## **Grading Components**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Value</b>
Exams (3)	65%
Online textbook quizzes	10%
Community Assessment / Windshield Survey / Photonovella	10%
Behavior Change Project	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Grading Scale**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent Grade</b>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	64 & below

## **Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on whole number scores generated by D2L. Grades are NOT rounded up. Students must have passing test scores to pass the course.

## **Exams**

Exams will be given at scheduled class times. There will be three (3) unit exams comprising **65% of the course grade. The exam average must be at least 74%**

for the student to pass the course, regardless of the grades on the other course requirements.

Students who do not achieve a passing score (74%) on an exam are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor and may schedule a meeting with Linda Knox, Retention Specialist for additional study resources. Her office is CE 453 (phone 397-4855). Appointments should be made by email [linda.knox@mwsu.edu](mailto:linda.knox@mwsu.edu) .

### **Online textbook quizzes**

Seven (7) online (open book) textbook quizzes will be over chapters in the textbook related to upcoming class subjects. The dates these are due are listed in the calendar. They can be taken any time but must be completed before the listed closure dates and cannot be made up for any reason. **These quizzes count 10% of the course grade.**

### **Missed Exams**

Students are expected to take module exams on the day they are scheduled. Should the student be absent from an exam, arrangements must be made according to the procedure found in the B.S.N. Student Handbook. Specifically, it is the student's responsibility to notify the course coordinator at least two hours prior to the exam. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a "0" for the missed exam. Any make-up exam may be different from the original exam and may include multiple choice, essay, short answer, true/false, and/or matching questions.

### **Late Assignments**

Contact the instructor immediately whenever you determine that an assignment will be late. Grade adjustments and penalties will be given as warranted.

### **Culturally Competent Nursing Care**

This online course will be taken online anytime during the semester. Upon completion of the **first 2 (out of 3)** modules, the certificate will be printed and submitted to the Drop Box.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examinations, 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.

### **Communication**

Because the faculty teaches in multiple courses, please communicate using D2L e-mails that MUST indicate it is from **"ACCEL -Student's Last Name"** in the subject line.

All announcements for the course will be posted in "News" on D2L. If a student asks a question on e-mail that the rest of the class would benefit from, the response will be in "News" – **NOT** return e-mail.

Students should check e-mail and "News" regularly and respond to messages within the week. The faculty is expected to respond to the course emails within one week. Faculty is not expected to respond on evenings/ nights/weekends.

### **Cheating Policy**

The B.S.N. Program does not condone cheating in any form and considers it as a serious offense that could result in removal from the program. Dishonesty on examinations, falsifying any paperwork, using other student's work, and plagiarism define cheating. Plagiarism is further defined as "the act of using source materials of other persons (either published or unpublished) without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given." (MSU Student Handbook, Standards of Conduct, Item 10). Offending material that may constitute plagiarism includes, but is not limited to bibliography cards, formal papers, book reports, written nursing care plans, etc. For further information regarding cheating and any subsequent actions to be taken please refer to the policy statement in the B.S.N. Student Handbook.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

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

### **MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HONOR CREED**

"As a MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to 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, 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)

### **Academic Support and Advising**

The student is advised to review the resources found on the Academic Support home page <http://academics.mwsu.edu/supportcenter/>. Further information may be located by contacting the offices of each department found listed on this page. The student is expected to effectively utilize the resources found at Moffitt library on campus. Distance policies for library usage are located by asking at the resource desk. Review the library home page <http://library.mwsu.edu/> for further information.

### **The Americans with Disabilities Act**

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of 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 employment requirements. For assistance call (940) 397-4618 or (940) 397-4515. **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.**

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for all policies found in the BSN Handbook. Non-compliance with BSN requirements may lead to clinical and course failure.

### **Board of Nursing (BON) Requirements**

Students are expected to be compliant with current CPR certification, immunizations, TB testing, health and liability insurance, drug screen and criminal background checks, throughout the semester. Contact the school secretary at 397-2802 if you have questions about your compliance. TB testing needs to be repeated every 12 months.

## **University Policies**

### **Instructor Drop**

An instructor may drop a student at 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 students a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped 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 8th week of a long 45 hours semester, the 6th week of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th 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 is the official drop date. Refer to [https://msutexas.edu/student-life/\\_assets/files/handbook.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to page 24 at [https://msutexas.edu/student-life/\\_assets/files/handbook.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf) 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.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit Campus Carry.

### **Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit Safety / Emergency Procedures. Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight."

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Grade Appeal Policy in the MSU Catalog.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Student safety is the number one consideration in regards to travel for bad weather. The MSU Nursing Program will follow the MSU campus practices for closure. If the campus closes, the instructor will post on D2L "News" if alternate assignments are required. If the university does not close and if it is icy or snowing in your area, e-mail your faculty to explain the situation. Use common sense in regards to travel. For guidance of weather closure practices for MSU campus see guidance via the MSU webpage.



Please note: This is the official course syllabus for the student use this semester, and students enrolled in this course will be held accountable for its contents. The faculty reserves the right to make additions or changes to this syllabus on D2L at any time. If a change is made, it will be announced in the "News" on D2L.