



**Course Syllabus: Concepts in Clinical Reasoning and Judgment**  
Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences & Human Services  
NURS 4842 Section 201  
Spring Semester 2022

**Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

This course is a development of clinical judgment skills. Emphasis is placed on integrating previously learned concepts with a focus on clinical problem-solving. Critical thinking is applied in resolving actual clinical problems.

Pre-requisites: NURS 3853, NURS 3863, NURS 3873, NURS 3503, NURS 4123

Co-requisites: NURS 4803, NURS 4813, NURS 4833, NURS 4823

**Course Content**

1. Clinical decision-making
2. Reducing error potential
3. Prioritizing assessments
4. Using diagnostic findings in clinical decision-making
5. Implementing best practices and protocols.
6. Responding to changes in client condition

**Course Objectives**

1. Apply concepts learned throughout the program to clinical situations.
2. Use problem-solving approaches in recognizing and meeting client care needs.
3. Use the nursing process to plan, implement and evaluate nursing care.
4. Apply clinical judgment skills in the planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care.
5. Implement effective communication, research and teaching-learning principles in providing nursing care.

6. Evaluate effective and non-effective nursing interventions in providing nursing care.
7. Examine the legal, ethical, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues related to the care of clients.

#### AACN Essentials

For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/baccessentials08.pdf>

DEC Competencies: In the DEC Competencies below the following designations apply: I: Provider of Patient Centered Care, ii: Coordinator of Care, III: Patient Safety Advocate and IV: Member of the Health Care Team. For further information regarding the competencies identified in each course, refer to <http://www.bon.texas.gov/about/pdfs/delc-2010.pdf>

Objectives	AACN Essentials	DEC Competencies
1. Apply concepts learned throughout the program to clinical situations.	I, VII	I: A,B,C,D II: A,B,C,D,E,F III: B,D,E,F IV: C,D,E,F
2. Use problem-solving approaches in recognizing and meeting client care needs.	I, IX	I: B,C,D II: B,D
3. Use the nursing process to plan, implement and evaluate nursing care.	II, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I: B II: B,C,D,E III: B,F IV: A,C,D,F
4. Apply clinical judgment skills in the planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care.	I, IX	I: A,B II: B,C,D,E III: B
5. Implement effective communication, research and teaching-learning principles in providing nursing care.	II, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I: B II: A,B,C,F III: B,D,E IV: A,C,D,E,F
6. Evaluate effective and non-effective nursing interventions in providing nursing care.	I, II, IV, VII, VIII, IX	I: B,D II: B,C III: B IV: D
7. Examine the legal, ethical, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues related to the care of clients.	II, VII, VIII, IX	I: A II: B,C III: E,F

## Textbook & Instructional Materials

### Required Texts:

Hinkle, J. L. & Cheever, K. H. (2018). *Brunner & Suddarth's Textbook of Medical-Surgical Nursing*, 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Giddens, J. F. (2017). *Concepts of nursing practice* (2nd ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby Elsevier. ISBN: 978-0-323-37473-6 (Used during summer 2017 courses).

TopHat Class Code: 614593

Nursing Central e-references. Students will purchase "forever" access to Nursing Central e-references directly from the company after an email message is received from that company. All clinical research should be done using these e-references.

### Recommended Texts:

Taylor, C. R. (2018). *Fundamentals of nursing: The art and science of nursing care* (9th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. (Same fundamentals text used during summer 2020)

## Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, 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. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including online Desire 2 Learn course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when accomplishing objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

However, all components of the course 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.

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism or the acquisition of tests or test questions and other academic materials such as test banks without the permission of the faculty. Cheating, collusion, or plagiarism is defined as: (1) cheating - intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, equipment, or study aids in any academic exercise; (2) collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for

credit; (3) plagiarism - intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, collusion, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he or she should ask the instructor for clarification.

Any student found to be academically dishonest as defined above and under each assignment will automatically receive a grade of "0" on the assignment.

### Grading

Table 1: Percent allocated to each assignment. Follow instructions listed under Course Schedule.

Exams x 3	65%
Concept Analysis	25%
Participation	10%

Table 2: Total percent for final grade. There will be no rounding of grades. An exam average of 74% as well as the course average of at least 74% is required to successfully complete this course. If a student does not earn at least 74% exam average, no other grades will be averaged into the course grade and the student will receive the exam average grade. For example, if a student has a 73% exam average, the student will receive a D for the course.

Grade	Percent
A	90-10
B	80-89
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	Less than 64

### Exams

Three exams will be administered using Examsoft. The student is required to bring their laptop computer or Ipad with them to class. The exams will reflect content from in-class discussions, case studies, and assigned readings, and each will have 5 dosage/clinical math calculations.

If a student is to be absent from an exam, **he/she must notify the course instructor at least two hours prior to the exam.** Failure to comply with this policy will result in a zero for the exam.

Exam questions will not be discussed with students. Strengths and improvements for the class as a whole will be discussed with the class after the exams have been graded. Faculty will not meet with students individually to discuss exam strategy until after the second exam, and only if the student is achieving less than a 74% exam average. Exam questions will not be discussed with students.

### Assignments

**Concept Analysis Paper:** The purpose of this assignment is to choose a case study in which the student examines a common adult client diagnosis and prioritizes and applies accurate nursing diagnosis. The student will then perform a literature review to discuss the importance and rationale behind nursing interventions for the chosen nursing diagnosis. Please see the assignment attachment as well as the attached rubric in D2L for further instructions (100 points).

**Participation:** Participation is of utmost importance in this class. Students will be working both individually and in groups to analyze the provided case study. Expected participation includes the following: Engaging in class conversation, avoiding completing other class assignments or surfing the web on laptops, and maintaining respect and positivity in actions and words towards classmates and faculty. If faculty notes students are not maintaining appropriate student participation, the student's participation points will be deducted for that day (10 points/day).

### Late Work

All assignments must be uploaded to Bright Space/D2L in the assignment section drop box via WORD format by the due date and time. If the student has computer problems then you should contact Distance Learning @ MSU so they can try to assist you. Assignments submitted any way except through D2L/Brightspace will not be accepted or graded.

Failure to submit your assignments via WORD format so that they can be opened by faculty can result in an assignment being considered late and thus a grade of zero. I cannot stress this enough. My suggestion is that when you submit an assignment to faculty, you submit a copy to yourself to make certain it can be opened.

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.

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. 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 grounds for dismissal from the program.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

There will be two make-up exams. Any exams missed prior to the make-up exam date will be made up on the first available date.

Make-up exams will be scheduled TBD.

### **Midterm Progress**

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this course will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should schedule a meeting with the professor and seek out tutoring through the Tutoring & Academic Support Programs (link to the website <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/>).

### **Important Dates**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 21, 2022

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **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, 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.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. Class activities will not be made up due to absences. If a student misses more than one class, then their participation points will be deducted for that day.

### Online Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access and Examsoft) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have 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. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline or exam!!* 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](#). If you have difficulties with Examsoft, contact Examsoft Representatives.

### Instructor Class Policies

1. Calculators are NOT allowed during the exam. A dropdown calculator on Examsoft will be enabled for use.
2. NO phones, smart watches or any extra electronic device is allowed during the exam. If one is seen during the exam period, the student will automatically receive a zero (0) for the exam grade.
3. Students are accountable for information in the learning management system (D2L). All communication for this course will be through D2L.
4. Personal computers will be utilized for testing purposes. Students are accountable to maintain their charge on the computers or bring an extra battery for testing.
5. Personal conversations and disruptive behaviors in the classroom will not be tolerated.
6. You are expected to participate in class discussions.
7. Do not study for other courses during this class time.
8. Electronic devices are allowed in the classroom for learning purposes only. Checking personnel email, facebook, watching videos or browsing the internet during class time is prohibited.

### 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).

#### 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 <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>.

#### College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. 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.



### Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the  
Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

### Notice

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