

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
Dental Health Education
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
DNHY 4013

COURSE SYLLABUS - FALL 2026

COURSE: DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

DAY/TIME: MONDAY 8:00 to 11:00 AM

COURSE DELIVERY: This course will be delivered face-to-face in Centennial Hall, Room #103 B.

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Holcomb, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed
Office: Centennial Hall, Rm. 126/Ext. 4481
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 PM
Friday 9:00 to Noon by Appointment
Available via phone call between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM only,
except in the case of an extreme emergency.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice, 5th Ed.
Darby and Walsh

Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist, 14th Ed.
Esther M. Wilkins

Community Oral Health, Beatty, 4th Ed.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

This syllabus is a guide for the course, not a "contract," and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated via written revisions with a minimum of 48 hours' notice before relevant changes take place. Please keep this syllabus as a reference. Students are responsible for this information and any changes to the syllabus as explained above.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Course Description from most current MSU Catalog. As listed in the most current MSU catalog this course builds on previously learned knowledge by integrating it with the concepts of learning theory and applications, motivation, and the physical, mental, emotional, social, and moral development of various age groups. Emphasis is placed on the interrelationship of physical (general, as well as oral), psychological, social, and economic influences in compliance and noncompliance with preventive

dental health programs, techniques, and aides. It explores the role of the dental hygienist in the assessment of patient needs, planning treatment and patient education strategies, and then implementation and evaluation of these activities. Preparation of terminal and behavioral objectives, curriculum development, and preparation of lesson plans to be used in community projects in Dental Public Health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Given reading assignments, lectures, class discussion, lab, and clinic work as applicable, upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Summarize the purpose of dental health education.
2. Identify and analyze the development of the patient's health attitudes and behaviors.
3. Explain and demonstrate interpersonal skills and personality characteristics deemed desirable in the competent dental health educator.
4. Differentiate between the techniques utilized when conducting dental education.
5. Analyze and discuss the role of nutrition in the etiology and progress of dental disease on a professional level, as well as in 'lay' terms.
6. Describe the relationship between nutrition and the formation of plaque, caries, and periodontal disease.
7. Identify the various psychological characteristics of different age groups that affect dental health instruction techniques and materials used.
8. Recognize cultural as well as socioeconomic barriers that can affect dental health instruction techniques and materials used.
9. Formulate and present a comprehensive patient education program on an individualized basis to patients in the clinical setting.
10. Draft and submit a written report based on a geriatric interview (de-identified information only) that illustrates how the patient's upbringing and life history shaped their current oral health views/status. Discuss appropriate modifications to oral health education and patient management techniques.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Examinations:

Four examinations, including the senior 3rd Semester Final Exam, will be given for this course. All exams will be **comprehensive** from the first-class session with exams 1-3 each comprising 15% of the final course grade. Students missing an exam due to illness will be allowed to make up the exam on the day of their return to school. No grade higher than a 90 will be given for make-up examinations. Students will be allowed to make up only one (1) exam per semester. A “make-up” opportunity **does not** include the Senior 3rd Semester Final

Final Exam

The ***Senior 3rd Semester Final Examination*** will constitute 25% of the final course grade. It is a 4-hour exam that will serve as the combined final exam for each of the courses offered in the 3rd semester of the dental hygiene curriculum; Dental Hygiene 3, Dental Health Education, and Pathology. The exam will consist of two sections: (1) approximately 150 multiple-choice questions covering the content of the courses listed above and (2) a case-based portion.

The case-based portion of the exam (50-75 items) will incorporate content from **ALL** dental hygiene courses taken to this point in time. The case-based portion will be figured into the final exam as bonus points. This format, rather than individual course final exams will more effectively assess the student’s ability to combine didactic and clinical content, as well as aid in preparing the student for the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam.

Grading of Final Exam:

Students will receive a grade on Part I based on the 50 multiple-choice items pertaining directly to Dental Hygiene Ed content. Points earned on Part 2’s case-based items pertaining to Dental Health Ed will be added to Part I as bonus points to determine the final exam grade for this course. The values of Part 2 items will be determined by the individual course instructor. Therefore, the points earned for Part 2 items will vary between courses

Geriatric Interview Project:

The Geriatric Interview project will constitute 10% of the final course grade. Specific instructions and a rubric for this project will be provided during the first class session. All work on this project **MUST** conform to the MSU Dental Hygiene Department PRIVACY PRACTICE PROTOCOL (See

complete policy, Dental Hygiene Dept Handbook Section 1.4)

Multicultural Project:

The multicultural project will constitute 15% of the final course grade. Specific instructions and a rubric for this project will be provided during the first class session.

Professional Enrichment Activities (PEA):

The Professional Enrichment Activities or PEA will constitute 5% of the final course grade. As a collaboration with the PDP project and Multicultural project, you must attend 2 events/activities you would not normally attend to broaden your cultural awareness. Examples of such events could include MSU International Student Organization Activities, Citywide cultural events, etc.

Grade Accumulation

Exam # 1- 15%

Exam # 2- 15%

Exam # 3- 15%

Final Exam- 25%

Geriatric Project- 10%

Multicultural Project- 15%

PEA Multicultural Events- 5%

100% Final Course Grade

Water bottles, cell phones, hand-held calculators/computers, and/or smart watches are not allowed in the student's possession during any examination. All electronic devices will be placed in a basket at the front of the classroom during examinations. Possession of any of these items during an exam will be construed as academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

Dental Hygiene Department Grading Scale

A = 92 to 100

B = 83 to 91

C = 75 to 82

D = 65 to 74

75 FINAL COURSE AVERAGE IS THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE GRADE FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE.

ATTENDANCE:

Lecture and Lab Policies

Students in dental hygiene lecture and laboratory courses (**not** dental hygiene clinical courses) are allowed only two (2) absences in each course during a semester. All absences are counted whether they are for excused and/or unexcused reasons. Any absence over the allowed number for each course will result in a 5-point grade reduction for **each absence** over the number allowed. The points will be taken off the final course grade.

Being tardy two (2) times will be the equivalent of one absence. You will be considered tardy if you enter class after the lecture has begun.

PHONE USE:

Cell phone use (texting or verbal) is extremely disruptive to your fellow classmates and to the faculty teaching your course. You are not allowed to record via video or audio recording any portion of the lecture. Therefore, the use of cell phones will not be tolerated, **FOR ANY REASON**. If you utilize your cell phone, it will be confiscated for the remainder of the scheduled day. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the classroom and will be required to meet with the faculty and the chair of the Dental Hygiene Department. In cases of emergencies, please notify spouses, family, and friends to contact you via the program secretary at 940-397-4764.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Dental Hygiene Honor System:

All Dental Hygiene courses adhere to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach of 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.

Many components of dental hygiene courses are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when answering objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive to life-long learning.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) 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 or staff without permission.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, 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/she should ask the instructor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

PLEASE NOTE: 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. Specifically, faculty may submit student papers and assignments to an external agency to verify originality and authenticity and to detect for plagiarism.

Social Media

- Do not use any social media site related to Midwestern State University or the Dental Hygiene Dept./Program to harass, threaten, insult, defame, or bully another person or entity; to violate any College policy; or to engage in any unlawful act, including but not limited to gambling, identity theft or other types of fraud.
- Post or store content that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, racist, excessively violent, harassing, threatening, bullying or otherwise objectionable or injurious.

- Post copyrighted content (such as text, video, graphics or sound files) without permission from the holder of the copyright. Remember, even information that is widely available to the public (such as text, photographs, or other material posted on the Internet) may be subject to copyright restrictions that prohibit unauthorized duplication or dissemination.
- Do not send me any social media friend requests or ask to join any of my private social media platforms. You and I are in a professional instructor/student relationship and will remain so until after you graduate from MSU.

MSU COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee:

All Midwestern State University (MSU) students may legitimately appeal a course grade if 1) the student has not been evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, or 2) an error has been made in grading and/or posting (MSU Student Handbook, p. 37.). In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students has the responsibility to enforce standards of conduct for students as outlined in the MSU Student Handbook (p. 70-80).

When enrolled in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (COHSHS), students are often assigned to community agencies, such as health care facilities, social service agencies, or athletic environments, as part of their academic process. During these experiences, the student is expected to behave in a manner required of professionals working in this environment. COHSHS students may also be required to successfully complete a licensing/certification process following graduation. As a result, students in these programs are often held to a different academic and/or behavioral standard than students in other MSU programs. For example, students may not be allowed to progress in a program if they have been unsuccessful (D or F) in a certain number of courses in the major. In these circumstances, COHSHS faculty and administration, all of whom have had similar professional experience, may make decisions which negatively impact students' programmatic progress. COHSHS students have a right to a review of decisions made by the program faculty which prevent individuals from progressing in their program in a timely manner. However, those who participate in the review must understand the context of the professions involved. Therefore, **issues concerning the professional conduct of students in the COHSHS will NOT be brought to the University Grade Committee, but to the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee.** Specifically, the COHSHS Student

The Conduct Appeals Committee will review faculty decisions related to:

- Student conduct in a clinical experience, internship, or other work-related environment that negatively impacts the student's academic progress. This conduct may include behavior that is prohibited by licensing and/or

professional standards or departmental policy;

- Student removal from a program because of a) professional conduct issues or b) failure to maintain academic standards required specifically by the program.*

*SEE COHSHS WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS POLICY

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.

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.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows 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 not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Hybrid course

This course is a hybrid course with the majority of the didactic/lecture component being delivered face-to-face with access to the D2L learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, and collaboration.

Students should note that hybrid education takes effective time management and study skills. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer (with internet access) for this class due to the variety of teaching methods being used to meet the goals of this course. Computers are available in various buildings on campus, including the 3rd floor of Centennial Hall. The primary medium for communication and information is presented through the D2L Learning Management System. Text readings; audiovisual aids to include clinical slides, PowerPoint presentations, videos, online course, and teaching models are used to support the delivery of course content.

All course materials will require the use of Microsoft. It is the responsibility of each student to submit any required assignments in Microsoft compatible formats. To download student access to Office 365, go to:
<https://products.office.com/en-us/student?ms.officeurl=getoffice365>.

Review the Student Help Aids for D2L on the MSU Distance Education Resources Page available at <https://msutexas.edu/distance/how-to-student.php> &/or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSxTdOzKAFOCZjXav1aCRQ/search?q=learner>

The laboratory component includes hands-on demonstrations and small group activities with student partners in the clinical setting.

Artificial Intelligence Usage Policy

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (AI) that emulate human capabilities (EX: ChatGPT, Dall-e, Gamma, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities and must be disclosed (this includes all graded assignments and activities) in an explanatory appendix describing which tool was used and how (including illustrations and editing): Brainstorming and refining ideas, Discovery of information on your topic, and Illustration of topic

However, the use of AI tools (mentioned above) is prohibited for: Discussion assignments, Completion of assignments, Making of PowerPoints, and All written assignments.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.