

COURSE SYLLABUS (FALL 2026)

COURSE: **DENTAL HYGIENE 3 (Lecture)**
DNHY 4012 3 Credit Hour Course (3-0)

DAY/TIME: Wednesday 8:00 - 11:00 AM & Clinical Sessions as scheduled

COURSE DELIVERY & LOCATION: This course will be delivered in a face-to-face format in Centennial Hall Room 103 B. It includes lecture and hands-on practice in the Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic as applicable.

INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Holcomb, RDH, BSDH, M.Ed

OFFICE: Centennial Hall Rm.126, Ext. 4481

Office Hours: Tues and Thurs. 1:00-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-12:00 PM BY APPOINTMENT
Available via call between 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM only, except in the case of an extreme emergency.

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

Prerequisite(s): DNHY 3004 , DNHY 3005 , DNHY 3102 . Concurrent enrollment in DNHY 4018 (Clinical Practice III). A study of the rationale, indications and/or contraindications, and utilization techniques for various procedures including pit and fissure sealants, ultrasonic scaling, periodontal scaling and root planing. The concepts of decision-making are examined to help students become responsible and account for their actions. Recognition and management of potentially life-threatening emergency situations are reviewed, with in-depth discussion of the etiological and/or precipitating factors, and the possible effects of these factors on the oral tissues. Emphasis is placed on the integration of this information with knowledge obtained in prerequisite courses to further develop critical thinking skills in obtaining comprehensive patient medical histories and development of dental hygiene treatment plans. This course must be taken in conjunction with Clinical Practice III to achieve cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills in patient care procedures covered.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXT:

Darby & Walsh Dental Hygiene Theory & Practice, Bowen & Pieren, 5th Ed.

Wilkin’s Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist, Boyd, Mallonee & Wyche, 14th Ed.

Fundamentals of Periodontal Instrumentation, Nield-Gehrig, 8th Ed.

Students should have each of these textbooks from previous courses

*** MSU Clinic Manual sections will be provided by the Dental Hygiene Program**

COURSE PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to further the student's ability to provide comprehensive dental hygiene care to clinical patients. It will cover the didactic information necessary to enable the student not only to correctly perform various procedures on patients in Clinical Practice III, but to also understand the rationale behind the indications and/or contraindications for the procedures: pit and fissure sealants, periodontal debridement involving powered and

manual scaling, and root debridement techniques.

This course will also enable the student to obtain a more comprehensive patient medical history by providing didactic information on various conditions/diseases, specifically those that can commonly lead to the occurrence of a medical emergency in the dental office. Recognition and management of the emergencies, as well as the etiological and/or precipitating factors, will be discussed. The concepts of clinician decision-making, responsibility, and accountability are examined to assist the student in developing responsibility and accountability for accurate, consistent, and complete documentation for assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of dental hygiene treatment.

KEY CONCEPTS:

1. Comprehensive dental hygiene care involves more than consideration of the oral cavity alone; it involves the entire physical, social, and mental condition of the patient.
2. Instrumentation involves a blend of technology and hand skills to accomplish the maximum potential.
3. Analysis of medical histories for dental/dental hygiene treatment requires a sound knowledge base of numerous physical/medical conditions to ensure the health and safety of the patient.
4. Individualized patient care plans involve critical thinking and problem-solving on the part of the dental professional.

COURSE GOALS:

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

1. Develop appropriate dental hygiene multi-appointment treatment plans based on analysis of patient's medical histories, assessment data, and evidence-based treatment modalities.
2. Discuss the modifications and/or contraindications to dental/dental hygiene treatment of various medical conditions and their underlying physiological actions may present.
3. Select the most appropriate method of instrumentation for patient treatment and demonstrate the correct utilization of the instruments selected.
4. Select the most appropriate supplemental treatment modalities and demonstrate correct applications.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Describe how changing perspectives on the roles of calculus, plaque, and endotoxins in periodontal disease have affected the development of dental hygiene treatment over the past several decades.
2. Identify the rationale for the use of the ultrasonic scaler, demonstrate its set-up, and properly utilize it in the laboratory setting on extracted teeth, and the clinical setting on select patients (fellow students).
3. Discuss the evolution of root instrumentation and demonstrate proper treatment procedures on extracted teeth with specialized hand instruments.
4. Identify pit and fissure sealant candidates (individuals, as well as individual teeth); and properly place sealants on (a) extracted teeth and (b) designated fellow classmates.
5. Discuss various physical conditions/diseases and determine possible modifications and/or contraindications to dental/dental hygiene treatment.
6. Discuss various emergency situations that may occur in a dental office in regard to; etiological and/or precipitating factors; physiological activity that produces the clinical signs and symptoms; and management.
7. Discuss the ethical and legal aspects of the Good Samaritan Statute, Standard of Care, and Standard of Care in a Medical Emergency in regard to the dental hygienists' responsibilities.
8. Analyze and determine the most appropriate approach to pain management during nonsurgical periodontal therapy.

9. Analyze and determine the most appropriate supplemental care procedures for nonsurgical periodontal therapy cases.
10. Develop treatment plans for medically and/or periodontally compromised patients.
11. Integrate didactic information with clinical experiences to analyze, apply and formally present the relationships between selected patients' attitudes/beliefs, cultural influences, medical, dental, and periodontal conditions.
12. Develop and formally present a *Case Presentation/Overview* of a clinical patient: outline the assessment findings, etiologic factors, and clinical data used to determine the hygiene diagnosis; explain the planned sequence of care based on this diagnosis; review the implemented treatment giving possible rationales for expected/unexpected outcomes; and discuss the rationale for maintenance care/recommendations.
13. Learning objectives related to specific topics are given for each content area.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Examinations: Four examinations, including the senior 3rd Semester Final Exam, will be given for this course. Each exam will be **comprehensive** from the first-class session and each will constitute 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 Exam.

Final Exam: The *Senior 3rd Semester Final Examination* will constitute 20% 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: Students will receive a grade on Part I based on the 50 multiple-choice items pertaining directly to Dental Hygiene 3 content. Points earned on Part 2's case-based items pertaining to Dental Hygiene 3 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.

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.

Case Presentation Project:

The Senior Case Presentation project will constitute 15% of the final course grade. Students will work in teams of two on this project. Each team will plan, develop, and then formally present to the class a case presentation based on a Clinical Practice 3 patient.

The overall project is an integration of two (2) parts:

1. **Case Presentation Written Report** of (a) Assessment, (b) Treatment plan development & rationale, (c) Patient education and rationale, (d) Treatment provided & rationale, and (e) Assessment of results.
2. **Oral Presentation of Case-** Groups will verbally present overviews of content listed for #1 to faculty, fellow seniors, and junior students. Business attire is required for oral presentations.

Specific instructions/rubrics for each portion of this project will be passed out and discussed during the first DH 3 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) SEE ATTACHMENT BELOW

Professional Development:

The Professional Development Portfolio will constitute 5% of the final course grade. During the semester, you will be expected to attend a minimum of two (2) professional presentations, outside of regularly scheduled dental hygiene courses. These presentations may include those given by other programs within the College of HSHS, pre-approved online courses, and the area dental Society. You will develop a digital portfolio through D2L to include the following information: 1) certificates of attendance (if provided) or photo; 2) dates, locations, and hours of attendance; 3) presenter (including all professional titles and certifications); 4) copies of all course notes/materials provided. This portfolio will continue to be developed as you progress through the Dental Hygiene Program. It is expected that upon successful completion of the requirements of the Dental Hygiene program, and following graduation, this portfolio will provide an accurate assessment of extra-curricular professional development for the individual. According to the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, any continuing education courses taken after January 1st will count towards your license renewal.

Professional Enrichment Activities (PEA):

Other College of HSHS CE Programs; BRIDGE event, Mustang Rally, etc.
TX Southwest Dental Conference CE Programs
Area Dental/DH CE Programs
Volunteer Opportunities: Food Bank, Special Olympics, etc.

Protocol to ensure confidentiality regarding a patient's medical condition, oral health, and records in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) 1996.

Any breaches in patient confidentiality or privacy may result in disciplinary actions including:

1. Dismissal from the Dental Hygiene Program AND 2. A monetary fine of \$25,000 per HIPAA Violation

INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

Faculty and students may access PHI for the purpose of :

1. Providing patient treatment in the Gaines Dental Hygiene Clinic (clinical and/or radiology areas).
2. Full-filling class assignments for didactic and/or clinical dental hygiene courses. **Only de-identified copies** of PHI will be utilized by students for assignments in didactic and/or clinical courses outside of direct patient care.

PHI will NOT be electronically transferred via cell phones, social media platforms, etc.

Dental Hygiene Program Grading Scale

92 - 100 = A

83 - 91 = B

75 - 82 = C

65 - 74 = D (Constitutes Failure of course & student cannot matriculate into the 4th and final semester of the Dental Hygiene curriculum)

Grading Scale:

Exam #1	= 15%
Exam #2	= 15%
Exam #3	= 15%
Exam #4	= 15%
Final Exam	= 20%
Sr Case Presentation	= 15%
PDP Project	= 5%
Final Possible Grade	100%

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.

Concealed Handguns on Campus

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th 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 webpage at <http://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

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.”](#)

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.

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.

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” to 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 plagiarism

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 healthcare 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 that 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 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

HYBRID COURSE:

This course is a hybrid course with 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 D2L Learning Management System. Text readings; audiovisual aids to include clinical slides, PowerPoint presentations, videos, on line 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?query=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) are 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

Midwestern State University
Dental Hygiene 3
Dental Hygiene Dept.
DNHY 4012

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.