



**MIDWESTERN**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM

DNHY I Lecture

DNHY 3014 (4 CREDIT HOURS)

**COURSE SYLLABUS** - FALL 2026

**COURSE:** DENTAL HYGIENE I LECTURE

**DAY/TIME:** Monday and Wednesday 1:00PM-3:00PM

**COURSE DELIVERY:** This course will be delivered face-to-face in Centennial Hall room #103 A & B.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Debra Kelley, BSDH, MEd.  
Office: Centennial Hall, Rm. 127/ Ext. 4482  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs- 1 to 5:00PM  
Friday 9 to 12:00 (Or by Appointment)

### REQUIRED

#### TEXTS:

Fundamentals of Periodontal Instrumentation, 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
Jill S. Nield-Gehrig

Dental Hygiene Theory and Practice, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
Darby and Walsh

Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist, 14<sup>th</sup> Ed.  
Esther M. Wilkins

### COURSE

#### DESCRIPTION:

Dental Hygiene I introduces the student to the Dental Hygiene Profession in regards to its past, present and future role in dentistry; as well as the responsibilities of health care professionals to their patients, community and profession.

Evaluation of current research in dental and dental hygiene literature will introduce students to various health and dental related issues, controversial treatments, treatment modalities and accepted concepts in treatment.

Dental Hygiene I, in conjunction with Clinical Practice I, is designed to introduce the student to the fundamental concepts of dental hygiene practice: infection control, instrumentation, instrument sharpening and patient assessment. Students will assess vital signs and evaluate medical histories to determine contraindications for treatment, perform and properly document findings of extra oral and intra oral examinations, and chart dental and periodontal status. Infection control protocols, OSHA requirements and disease transmission will be discussed as they pertain to the dental and dental hygiene profession. This course closely integrates theory and practice thus providing a base from which the student may develop the skills, knowledge, and judgment required to adequately serve the public and the profession of Dental Hygiene.

While students will earn (2) separate grades for Dental Hygiene I (DNHY 3014) and Clinical Practice I (DNHY 3114), the two courses are integrated in order to provide an effective and efficient learning experience. During the first month of the semester, there will be a substantial theory component in preparation for clinical practice. Towards the conclusion of this first month, the emphasis will be placed on development of clinical skills in the lab setting on typodonts followed by actual clinical work on selected patients (fellow students). Averaged over the semester, the student receives approximately 8 hours per week combined lab and clinical experience.

## COURSE

### OBJECTIVES:

Through reading assignments, lectures, individual/group discussion, and lab/clinical practice, the students will develop the knowledge and skills required to perform procedures related to the dental hygiene profession. Upon completion of this course the students should be able to:

1. Discuss the etiology and transmission of diseases for which the dental professional is at a high risk.
2. Describe infection control techniques and explain the rationale for each. Explain rationale, mechanics, and guidelines for hand hygiene. Explain methods for cleaning, wrapping and sterilizing instruments.
3. Compare the design and function of various types of instruments in regards to calculus removal and root planning and select the most appropriate instrument for treatment. Differentiate between assessment and treatment instruments and identify different parts of an instrument.

4. Evaluate medical and dental histories to identify contraindications and or modifications to dental hygiene treatment.
5. Recognize and record abnormalities noted upon extra and intraoral examinations.
6. Assess the periodontal condition of patients and correctly document findings.
7. Complete dental charting forms with adequate detail.
8. Utilize collected patient data to develop dental hygiene treatment plans based on the needs of the individual patient or classmate.
9. Discuss legal and ethical issues and decisions facing dental hygiene today in regards to treatment of patients with communicable diseases, procedures allowed by the Texas Dental Practice Act, and responsibilities to patients during treatment and post-op.
10. Describe the different tooth brushing techniques and dental flossing and discuss the basic principles of patient education as they pertain to these techniques.
11. Identify skills needed to practice evidence-based dental hygiene care.
12. Identify anatomic descriptors, divisions of dentition, and tooth identification systems.
13. Demonstrate proper clinician and patient positioning, correct use of dental light, dental and clinician chair, and modified standing positions for clinician.
14. Demonstrate and explain correct procedure for assessing vital signs, temperature, respiration, radial pulse and blood pressure. Recognize normal vital signs with varied age groups.
15. Apply the concept of standard precautions. Describe the infectious disease process and prevention of disease transmission.
16. Describe characteristics and common location of

supragingival and subgingival calculus and how to detect.

17. Recognize and identify extrinsic and intrinsic dental stains. Differentiate between exogenous and endogenous stains. Determine appropriate removal of stain.

## COURSE

### EVALUATION:

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| Exam # 1   | 25%  |
| Exam # 2   | 25%  |
| Exam # 3   | 25%  |
| Final Exam | 25%  |
|            | 100% |

Water bottles, cell phones, smartwatches, and hand-held calculators/computers are not allowed in the room during any examination. 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

### Course Examinations (25% each)

Scheduled examinations will be comprehensive in nature, but will focus on material presented since the previous examination. 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.

### ATTENDANCE:

More than two (2) absences for any reason will result in a loss of 5 points from final course grade for EACH absence over the allowed 2. In cases of extreme illness and/or hospitalization, individual decisions may be made. Two (2) tardies will be the equivalent of one (1) absence. Students must be present for the entire class period to get credit for a class session. Students leaving class early will be counted as absent. The student is held responsible for addressing these actions with the instructor.

### PHONE USE:

Cell phone use (texting or verbal) is extremely disruptive to your fellow classmates and to the faculty teaching your course. 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 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 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.

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 for 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

## **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
  - Illustration of topic
- However, the use of AI tools (mentioned above) are prohibited for:
  - Discussion assignments
  - Completion of assignments
  - Making of PowerPoints
  - All written assignments

## 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.

## MSU COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee

All Midwestern State University (MSU) students may legitimately appeal a course grade if 1) the student has not be evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, or 2) an error has been made in grading and/or posting. 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.

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 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 which 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 WEB SITE FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS POLICY

### [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 those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has 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](#).

### **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](mailto:student.affairs@mstuexas.edu)

## Course Schedule

| Dates          | Activity                                                                                                            | Reading Assignment                                                  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/24 to 8/26   | Read Chapter                                                                                                        | Wilkins Chapter 10                                                  |
| 8/31 to 9/2    | Read Chapters<br>Surface barriers, clinical positioning and clock positions<br>Instrument design and classification | Gehrig Module 1-2.2, 8.1-8.4<br>Wilkins Chapter 8, 37               |
| 9/7 to 9/09    | Assessment instruments                                                                                              | Gehrig Module 4, 11.1, 11.2, 13, 13.3, 13.5-13.6                    |
| 9/14 to 9/16   | Adaption of instruments, calculus removal<br>Surface barriers and disinfection                                      | Gehrig Module 10.1, 14, 15<br>Wilkins Chapter 6                     |
| 9/21 to 9/23   | Vitals, infection control                                                                                           | Wilkins Chapter 7, 12<br>Darby Chapter 10                           |
| 9/29 to 10/5   | Universal curets, transmissible diseases,                                                                           | Gehrig Module 10.3, 17<br>Wilkins Chapter 5, 37<br>Darby Chapter 28 |
| 10/17 to 10/14 | Glow germ demonstration, principles of instrumentation, Gracey curets, universals                                   | Gehrig Module 17, 19<br>Wilkins Chapter 37                          |
| 10/19 to 11/2  | Tooth deposits, dental stain, calculus, caries, biofilm                                                             | Gehrig Module 12<br>Wilkins Chapter 17, 20<br>Darby Chapter 18      |
| 11/4 to 11/19  | Oral inspection paperwork, probe typodonts                                                                          | No reading assignment                                               |
| 11/11 to 11/18 | Risk assessment, treatment summary, oral inspection                                                                 | No reading assignment                                               |
| 11/20 to 12/2  | Documentation, charting workbook,                                                                                   | No reading assignment                                               |