Course Syllabus: Introduction to Nursing

Gunn College of Health & Human Services Wilson School of Nursing
NURS 3103 Section 201
Spring 2026
Wednesday 9:00 AM – 11:50 AM
CE 304

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to major concepts of concern in nursing: person, environment, nursing, and health. Nursing theories and ethical-legal principles related to professional nursing practice are studied. Also addressed are the concepts of critical thinking, communication, and cultural awareness in the context of nursing process.

Three (3) credit hours.

Prerequisites: Declared Nursing Major: Sophomore standing

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required materials:

Black, B. P. (2020). *Professional nursing: concepts & challenges* (9th ed.). Elsevier.
Engel, M. (2006). *The other end of the stethoscope.* Ella Press
Paul, R. & Elder, L. (2016) *The thinker's guide for students on how to study & learn a discipline.* Foundation for Critical Thinking.
Silvestri, L. A. & Silvestri, A. E. (2024). *Saunders 2024-2024 Clinical Judgment and Test-Taking Strategies.* Elsevier Health Sciences Division.
TopHat Classroom Access Code (see D2L for instructions)

TopHat: a software program that will be used during each class for presentation of the lecture and practice of new information. You will receive an invitation email from the instructor to enroll into the program before the first day of class. The cost is around $45 which covers all of the classes in which you will be using the program this semester.

Course Objectives and Competencies

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to AACN BSN Essentials 2021

Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs): 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 for each course objective, refer to Texas DECs 2021

NCLEX-RN Test Plan: The test plan is your guide for the specific topics you should understand and be able to apply critical thinking with prior to graduation. We will use the test plan during every class and activity of each semester. You can find the test plan at NCLEX-RN Test Plan 2023. It is important for you to become very familiar with this information.

Course Objectives

Objectives	AACN Essentials	DEC Competencies
1. Describe key "benchmarks" in the historical development of the profession of nursing.	1.1c., (I), (SC, D), (WDP) 1.1d (I), (SC, D), (WDP)	I: A, D
2. Describe behaviors required of nursing professionals and affirm commitment to adhere to professional behavior guidelines.	1.2b, (I), (SC, D) (WDP, CDM) 1.3b, (I), (LA, D), (WDP) 2.1a, (I), (SC), (CDM, HPC)	I: A, B, C, D III: A, B

	2.1b, (I), (SC), (CDM, HPC)	
	2.1c, (I), (SC), (CDM, HPC)	
	5.1a (I), (LA), (WDP)	
	5.1b, (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM)	
	5.2b (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM)	
	6.1a, (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM)	
	6.2d (I), (LA, D), (WDP, CDM)	
	9.5a (I), (LA, SC), (CDM)	
3. Become proficient in oral and written communication using medical terminology and speech easily understandable when giving report to other health professionals, communicating with patients and interdisciplinary team members.	2.2a, (I), (D), (WDP, CDM, HPC) 2.2b, (I), (D), (WDP, CDM) 2.2e, (I), (LA), (WDP) 2.2f, (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, or HPC) 2.9b, (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM, HPC) 2.9e (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM, HPC) 3.2c (I), (LA, D), (WDP, CDM, HPC)	IV: D

	4.1g, (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, or HPC)	
	6.1b, (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	6.1e (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	6.3c, (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	6.4 (a, b, c, d), (I), (LA, D, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	8.1a, c, (I), (LA, D), (WDP, CDM, HPC)	
	8.2a (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	8.3a (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	
	9.2g (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, or HPC)	
4. Describe the ethical and legal aspects and requirements for nursing practice in Texas	1.2c, (I), (D), (WDP, CDM, HPC)	III: A
	1.2d, (I), (D, P), (WDP, CDM, or HPC)	
	1.2e, (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, or HPC)	
	3.1i (I), (D, P), (WDP, CDM, HPC)	
	6.1f, (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM)	

| | 8.5b, (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

9.1 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g) (I), (LA, D), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

9.4b, (I), (LA), (CDM)

9.4c, (I), (LA), (CDM) | |
|---|---|---|
| 5. Demonstrate the ability to search medical databases to discover evidence-based research journal articles to answer specific nursing questions. | 1.1b, (I), (D,P) (WDP, CDM, HPC)

3.4c, (I), (LA), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

4.1a, (I), (LA, SC), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

4.1d, (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

4.1e (I), (P), (WDP, CDM, HPC)

4.2b, (I), (SC), (CDM) | I: D
III: C
IV: C |
| 6. Explain the interrelationships among nursing theory, clinical judgment, and nursing practice. | 1.1a, (I), (D, LA), (WDP)

1.2a, (I), (SR), (CDM)

1.3c, (I), (SR), (CDM)

4.1c, (I), (SC), (WDP, CDM)

10.2d, (I), (LA, SC), (CDM) | I: D
II: A
III: A, C |

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring available at the tutoring center.

Student Handbook

Refer to:

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

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 or each group of students individually when completing a group project 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.

Unless otherwise specified, the use of Automated Writing Tools, including chatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course, even when properly attributed. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism (as defined by SRRR 9.3) and will be handled in accordance with existing policy.

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

Office of Student Conduct

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

An overall course grade of **74**% or greater must be achieved to pass any nursing course. Grades will be based on the above computation and all assignment/evaluation components must be completed to receive a passing grade. **There is no extra credit available for this course. Also, there is no rounding up of grades in any nursing course.**

No exams will be given in this course, although in-class quizzes and participation will be graded. Course requirements and percentages for computation of the final grade are weighted as follows:

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments & Grades	Points
TopHat in-class participation/professionalism	20%
Discussion Board Assignments	30%
Master Student Writing Assignments	15%
Ethical Dilemma Group Presentation	20%
Book Essay (Engel)	15%
Total Points	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	64 and below

TopHat and In-Class Activities

In-class participation will include quizzes on reading and discussion assignments and questions provided on TopHat during class. Students who are not in class will not be able to make up the points missed. If a student has an excused absence arranged with the instructor in advance and/or accompanied by a doctor's note, the points may be waived. Familiarity with TopHat is important for making sure you are able to accumulate all possible points. Quizzes may be given on TopHat.

Writing Assignments

DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENTS (30%). See instructions and grading rubric posted on D2L. Five discussion board assignments and instructions for completion can be found in the D2L table of contents. This assignment requires critical thinking about a question, writing a coherent essay (with good grammar, spelling and punctuation which are evaluated as part of the grade) about the question (including references), and then responding to at least two classmates' contributions.

MASTER STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS (15%). See instructions and grading rubric posted on D2L. This assignment consists of three essays to be written in response to critical thinking reading assignments from the Paul & Elder booklet.

ENGEL REFLECTIVE RESPONSE (15%). See instructions and grading rubric posted on D2L. This assignment is a reflective response to be written after reading Marcus Engel's *The Other End of the Stethoscope.* Instructions can be found in the D2L table of contents.

ETHICAL ISSUE GROUP PRESENTATION (20 %) See instructions and grading rubric posted on D2L. This is an opportunity for students to provide information and lead a discussion about an ethical dilemma. Principles for evaluating an ethical dilemma, and suggested topics will be discussed in class prior to beginning the assignment. 5% of the grade will be a group grade, and 10% will be an individual grade considering the assignment as well as group participation.

REGARDING YOUR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: Plagiarism (which includes the use of ChatGPT or any other AI source) may result in failure of the class and/or barring of continuance in the nursing program at MSU. 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 for educational purposes. **Ideas taken from another source, whether quoted or paraphrased must be documented using APA guidelines.**

Mid-Term 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 https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/

Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course. The Ethical Dilemma group project will take its place.

Extra Credit

There will be NO extra credit or rounding in any nursing course.

Late Work

Nursing students, just like RNs at work, must practice following instructions and staying on schedule. Any time a student must be absent, or is unable to complete an assignment on time for any reason he or she should contact and inform the instructor of the situation as soon as possible. If notice is given, late written assignments will be accepted with **ten** percentage points per day late deducted from the grade. TopHat questions will not be reopened for grading after class. If no notice is given, faculty reserves the right to give no credit for the assignment.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 20 – 23. Check date on Academic Calendar.
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"April 29. Check date on Academic Calendar.
- 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.

All assignment submissions made by students in D2L are considered final submissions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct and complete file has been uploaded. If a student submits an incorrect document, an incomplete draft, or any unintended version, the assignment will be graded as submitted. Students are strongly encouraged to double-check their upload before finalizing the submission.

Additionally, Apple file formats such as .pages or Keynote files will not be accepted. All submissions must be uploaded in Microsoft Office formats—such as .doc, .docx, .ppt, or .xlsx—or as otherwise specified in the assignment instructions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings 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. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Attendance is required for this course. If you are going to be absent, you must notify the instructor by email or text prior to the class. The instructor may ask for documentation for the given reason. Excessive absences (4 or more) may result in dismissal from the course. Professional behavior in the classroom is mandatory and is counted as part of your participation/professionalism grade

Online Computer Requirements

Each student must have a computer or tablet and internet access. Most assignments and activities are online, including in-class activities. Assignments will have to be uploaded to submit for grading. It is your responsibility to have access to a working computer to bring to class daily and to complete assignments outside of class. Please bring your charger to use if needed during class or an exam; however, the classrooms do not have easily accessible outlets.

It is recommended to charge your device prior to arriving to class for an exam. Maintain a good security program (of your choice) and keep your computer updated. It is a more than a little inconvenient if your computer stops you during an exam because it has to complete an update.

Your computer being down is not an acceptable reason for missing a deadline for an assignment. The nursing school does not have access to tablets or laptops for students to use during exams – you must make arrangements for your own. Computers and printers are available on campus in the library, the Computer lab in Clark Student Center, and in various buildings on campus.

Extensive use of the MSU D2L learning management system (LMS) is required in all of your courses. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides the primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through your "my.msutexas.edu" Homepage. Technical information is available on the MSUTexas portal and your D2L home page. If you experience difficulties, please contact the helpdesk@msutexas.edu. The helpdesk technicians are not able to personally work on your computer but may be able to help you with getting internet access and navigating the MSU portal and D2L.

Instructor Class Policies

As a nursing student, you should always practice behaving as a professional nurse. That means treating others in a professional, respectful manner. Being late to class, leaving in the middle of class unless an emergency exists, failing to silence your cell phone, texting or browsing the internet, talking in class instead of listening are behaviors that detract from your responsibility as a student, and from your classmates' ability to get everything they need from the class. As a nursing student, you need to be in class and participating in order to get the most from your education.

Students who demonstrate distracting or disrespectful behaviors will be asked to leave the classroom. If a student demonstrates continuing behaviors that are distracting to his/her classmates, the student may be administratively dropped from the course. Disregard for the attendance policy may also result in being dropped from the course.

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 a100% 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 Student Wellness Center, (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 Disability Support Services.

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.

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.

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 MSUReady – Active Shooter. 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."*

WEATHER CLOSURE PRACTICES
Student safety is the number one consideration in regards to travel for bad weather. If it is icy or snowing in your area, e-mail your faculty to explain the situation. Use common sense in regards to travel.

The MSU Nursing Program will follow the MSU campus practices for closure. If the campus closes, classes will go on-line using Zoom via D2L or another platform designated by your professor. For guidance of weather closure practices for MSU campus see guidance via the MSU webpage.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University MSU Catalog

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