



**NURS 3103-201 Theories & Concepts: Introduction to Nursing  
Spring 2022**

**Wednesday 8:00 AM – 10:50 AM Centennial Hall 304**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is an introduction to major concepts of concern in the discipline of nursing: person, environment, nursing, and health. Nursing history, theories and ethical – legal principles related to professional nursing practice are studied. Also addressed are the concepts of clinical reasoning and judgment, critical thinking, communication, and cultural awareness in the context of the nursing process. This course does not teach clinical skills.

**CREDIT HOURS:** Three (3) credit hours

**PREREQUISITE:** Declared Nursing Major: Sophomore standing

**LEARNING EXPERIENCES:** Includes reading and writing assignments, in-class lecture, online discussion and assignments, interactive learning activities including group presentations, guest presentations, and media.

**American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials:** For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to [AACN Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education 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](#)

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>AACN Essentials</b>	<b>DEC Competencies</b>
1. Describe key "benchmarks" in the historical development of the profession of nursing.	I	IV: B, D
2. Describe the ethical-legal and professional parameters for nursing practice.	IV, V, VI	I: A, B, C, D III: A, B

3. Explain the philosophy and major concepts to be studied in the BSN program at Midwestern State University.	I	
4. Compare selected nursing theories with the Midwestern State University BSN program philosophy.	I	I: D
5. Discuss major theoretical concepts as they relate to the practice of professional nursing.	II, III, VIII, IX	I: D III: C IV: B
6. Explain the interrelationships among nursing theory, nursing process, and nursing practice.	I, III, VII, VIII, IX	I: D II: A III: A, C

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Black, B. P. (2014). *Professional nursing: concepts & challenges* (9<sup>th</sup> 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. (2020). *Saunders 2020-2021 Strategies for Test Success*. Elsevier Health Sciences Division.

TopHat Classroom Access Code (e-mail invitation will be sent to student at the beginning of the semester)

Examplify Access (instructions for access will be sent to student at my.msutexas.edu email address at the beginning of the semester)

### COURSE EVALUATION:

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:

<b>TopHat and in-class participation</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Discussion board assignments</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Master Student Writing Assignments</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Ethical Dilemma Group Presentation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b><u>Book Essay (Engel)</u></b>	<b><u>10%</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.**

**MSU Department of Nursing Grading Scale:**

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

**TOPHAT and IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES (30%).** 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 or on Exemplify.

**DISCUSSION BOARD ASSIGNMENTS (30%).** 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 (10%).** 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 (10%).** 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 dropbox 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** 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.**

**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.

Maintain a good security program (of your choice) and keep your computer updated. It is a little inconvenient if your computer stops you during class because it has to complete an update. Your computer being down is not an acceptable reason for missing a deadline for an assignment. Computers and printers are available on campus in the library, the Computer lab in Clark Student Center, and in various buildings on campus. There are many places to access your on-line materials for class.

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](mailto: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

**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/>).

**LATE WORK, MAKE-UP 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 one percentage point per day late deducted from the grade. TopHat questions will not be reopened for grading after class.

**INSTRUCTOR’S CLASS POLICIES – CITIZENSHIP AND PROFESSIONALISM.** 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 surfing the web, talking in class instead of listening -

these are behaviors that detract from your responsibility as a student, and from your classmates' ability to get everything they need from the class. Children may not be brought to class per University policy. As a nursing student, you need to be in class and participating in order to get the most from your education. You will only be taking Introduction to Nursing one time (hopefully), and anything you miss out on now will be a problem for you in your future nursing courses. Students who demonstrate distracting 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.

**IF YOU CHEAT.** The work, and the reputation, of the nursing profession require that members demonstrate the utmost in trustworthiness and credibility. Nurses are honest. A lot depends on a nurse being straightforward with his or her communication – that means always telling the truth. A lot also depends on your ability to do your own work. It's true that nurses often work in teams, however, every member of the team has to know what to do. If you "borrow" someone else's work to turn in for a grade, you haven't learned the material for yourself. If you don't know your stuff, you will end up being the nurse that nobody wants to work with, the one that patients' hope they don't have to depend on. It is scary to work with a nurse who hasn't learned how to be a good nurse, is dishonest, or misrepresents his or her abilities (what others can depend on from you), and if you think that scares other nurses, just think about how a patient feels after realizing that the nurse she or he has to depend on is not trustworthy. When the responsibility of patient care is on you, you won't get away with bluffing or cheating. And worst of all, you may cause harm to your patient.

Therefore, the BSN program does not condone dishonesty, cheating, collusion, or plagiarism in any form, and considers it a serious offense that may result in being expelled from the nursing program. "Cheating" means intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise; "collusion" means collaborating with another person in preparing an assignment that is meant to be an individual's own work offered for credit; "plagiarism" means intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. For further information regarding cheating and any subsequent actions that may be taken refer to the policy statement in the BSN Student Handbook.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES.** Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disability. This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: "No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by

any such entity.” The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397.4140, TDD (940) 397.4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

**CAMPUS CARRY RULES/POLICIES.** See [Student Handbook](#) page 58.

**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.** Students who wish to appeal a grade should discuss the issue first with the instructor, and if not satisfied may pursue a formal grievance procedure as explained in the [Student Handbook](#)

### FINAL WORD

Being a nursing student is different from being a student in a lot of other majors. Your education is no longer about learning things for passing an exam and adding an A to your transcript. You are learning the things you need to know when you are responsible for another person's life. Your nursing license is a statement to the public that you know certain things, and that people can depend on that. You need to practice and learn this stuff just like you practiced for a choir contest, or a softball tournament, or a piano recital, or maybe learning how to fly an airplane. You can't just know it, you have to know it well - how to do it and why, and be able to explain it to others. The sooner you begin using this kind of studying, the better you will do in all of your nursing classes and throughout your professional life. There is no other way to look at it.

Nursing students have stress, no doubt about that. When you feel stressed and worried about "getting it," try to imagine what you need that information for. Think about your patients and your career plans. Take time for self-care, getting enough sleep and exercise, and manage your time wisely – try to be disciplined about your reading and studying. Organization and time management are the keys to success. Keeping a journal helps keep your mind organized, and if you are feeling stressed, writing in the journal sometimes helps you understand why, and what might help you feel better. Making it through nursing school is definitely do-able, but you have to have the intention to do whatever it takes to learn the things you have to know to practice nursing safely. Faculty are here to help... if you feel you are having trouble, talking to a faculty member, advisor, or tutor sooner rather than later is really important. We might have some ideas that could be helpful to you!

**The details of this syllabus are subject to amendment or change** if needed to assure alliance with University and School of Nursing policies and procedures (in case I made errors within, or things change related to COVID-19 precautions). Any changes will be made after sufficient notice to students.