



**NURS 3103-101 Theories & Concepts: Introduction to Nursing
Fall 2022**

Wednesday 9:00 AM – 11:50 AM Centennial Hall 304

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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.

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](#)

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 2022](#). It is important for you to become very familiar with this information.

<i>Objectives</i>	AACN Essentials	DEC Competencies
1. Describe key "benchmarks" in the historical development of the profession of nursing.	1.1c, 1.1d	I: A, D
2. Describe behaviors required of nursing professionals and affirm commitment to adhere to professional behavior guidelines.	1.3b, 5.1a	I: A, B, C, D III: A, B
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.	2.2b, 2.2e, 2.2f, 4.1g, 9.2g	IV: D
4. Describe the ethical and legal aspects and requirements for nursing practice in Texas	1.2d, 1.2e, 9.4c	III: A
5. Demonstrate the ability to search medical databases to discover evidence-based research journal articles to answer specific nursing questions.	1.1b, 4.1d, 4.1e	I: D III: C IV: C
6. Explain the interrelationships among nursing theory, clinical judgment, and nursing practice.	1.2a, 1.3c	I: D II: A III: A, C

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Black, B. P. (2014). *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. (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)

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:

TopHat and in-class participation	20%
Discussion board assignments	30%
Master Student Writing Assignments	15%
Ethical Dilemma Group Presentation	20%
Book Essay (Engel)	15%
Total	100%

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 (20%). 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 (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 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. 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 ten 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.

Cheating: The Wilson School of Nursing and Midwestern State University do not condone cheating in any form and considers it a serious offense. Cheating is defined by the faculty to include dishonesty on examinations, providing testing information that would advantage another student, and plagiarism. Specifics are to be found in the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Handbooks and the MSU Student Handbook. Offending material that may constitute plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following: Bibliography cards, formal papers, book reports, written nursing care plans, etc. Cheating may include, but is not limited to: removing quiz or exam content, disseminating quiz/exam content, sharing quiz/exam information, being in possession of or using electronics during testing.

For further information regarding cheating and any subsequent actions to be taken, please refer to the policy statement in the MSU Student Handbook.

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 for educational purposes.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Instructor Drop Policy

The faculty reserve the right to recommend to the Program Coordinators, Chair, and College Dean withdrawal of a student from the nursing program for health, legal, or academic reasons, particularly if patient care is jeopardized. In addition, the student must perform within the ANA standards of practice and code of ethics.

ADA Statement

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) 397-4140 or come by Disability Support Services in Clark Student Center room 168. Please see the instructor outside of class to make any arrangements involving special accommodations.

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.

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](#)

University Student Honor Creed

MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HONOR CREED

“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so.”

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an

important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, we, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own work, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate

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.