



Course Syllabus: Pathophysiologic Processes

Gunn College of Health & Human Services Wilson School of Nursing

NURS 3203 Section 101

Fall 2026

Thursday 9:00 AM – 11:50 AM

CE 304

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course is the study of physiologic and psychosocial disorders with emphasis on dynamics of the altered state. Focus is on interpreting diagnostic tests and predicting pathophysiological adaptations which may occur as a result of these disorders.

Three (3) credit hours.

Prerequisites: BIOL 1134 (Anatomy and Physiology I with lab), BIOL1234 (Anatomy and Physiology II with lab), BIOL 2144 (Microbiology), and chemistry (3 hours)

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required materials:

Banasik, J. (2027). *Pathophysiology* (8th ed.) St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

ISBN: 978-0-443-12523-2 **with Sherpath** – This can be the bundle or purchased separately

Sherpath for Banasik Pathophysiology (8th edition).

Exemplify: a software program used for quizzes and exams. You will receive an introductory email to your MSUTexas portal email address with instructions and a link for obtaining the program.

TopHat: a software program that will be used during each class for presentation of the lecture and practice of new information. Directions are available in D2L for accessing the material. The cost is around \$45 and covers all the classes in which you will use 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 2026](#)

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 2026](#). It is important for you to become very familiar with this information.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:	DEC	AACN
1. Explain the etiology, pathogenesis, and possible outcomes of selected pathophysiologic processes.	II. B III. C	1.2a, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 1.2b (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 10.2d, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM)

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:	DEC	AACN
2. Describe relationships between identified risk factors and the development of pathophysiologic processes.	II. A, B, E, F III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP) 1.2a, (I), (EX), (WDP) 2.8c, (I), (SC), (WDP) 3.1d, (I), (SR), (WDP, CDM)
3. Describe specific compensatory mechanisms used by the human body in response to pathophysiologic processes	II. B III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP) 1.2a (I), (EX), (WDP) 2.4c (I), (EX), (CDM)
4. Identify the diagnostic tests used to detect and differentiate selected pathophysiologic processes	II. B III. C	1.1b, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 1.2a, (I), (SC), (WDP, CDM) 2.3e, (I), (EX), (WDP, CDM) 5.1c (I), (SC), (WDP, CDM)
5. Demonstrate the ability to identify evidence-based professional journal articles for improving the students' understanding of specific pathophysiologic processes, disorders, and disease	II. B III. C	1.2b, (I), (SC), (CDM or WDP) 4.1d, (I), (SP), (CDM or WDP) 4.1g (I), (SP), (CDM or WDP)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

Tutoring available at the tutoring center.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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

All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Nursing students must achieve a grade average of at least 74 on exams in order to pass the class (before the Sherpath assignments, term paper, and TopHat/ participation grades are added). A student who receives a D or F in two nursing courses may not continue in the nursing program. No extra credit is available for this course. Grades are not rounded.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments & Grades	Points
Unit Exams (4)	60%
Final Exam	15%
Term Paper	10%
TopHat Participation/Professionalism	5%
Sherpath Assignments	10%
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

Quizzes

Sherpath: Sherpath assignments will be assigned to be completed prior to lecture during a given week. See the course schedule for due dates. Late submission will not be accepted and will result in a zero for that assignment.

Exams

Exams will cover learning objectives outlined in the unit(s) of study, including medical terminology, and may contain multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions. Four Unit exams and a Final exam will be given. All exams are comprehensive, meaning that all the information covered in a unit must be used to understand the next unit.

Exams are given by computer. The Exemplify program will be used for in-class exams, and require either a laptop or tablet. Chromebooks are **not** compatible with ExamSoft/Exemplify.

ExamSoft

1. Exam Soft requires loading the Exemplify application for taking course exams. Exam Soft is purchased online each semester.
2. The desks in Centennial Hall do not provide electrical outlets. It is the student's responsibility to provide an alternative charging source to ensure computer battery remains charged. Students are responsible for having a compatible computer or tablet on which to participate in the course activities and take the exams.
3. Each unit exam will be comprised of: The dates and topics located on the course calendar.
4. All exams are comprehensive.
5. Exam Soft will provide students with user identity codes, initial passwords, and instructions on how to load Exemplify. Students must maintain ready access to user identity codes and passwords on exam days. If these access codes are not available for use, the student runs the risk of not taking an exam and earning a grade of zero.

If a student misses any exam, the student may take the Make-up Exam scheduled after the start of the semester.

Missing an exam: If you must miss an exam for any reason, you must notify the instructor by phone or email **before** the scheduled exam time. The instructor may ask for a doctor's note or other written excuse prior to allowing a missed exam to be made up. If notification is not given, you will receive a zero for the exam. Late arrival for an exam will not be allowed. The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of "zero" for late arrival. If a student is going to be late to an exam the same policy for missing an exam must be followed. Being unprepared to start the exam at the start of class is considered being late for the exam. Have the exam downloaded prior to your arrival. Lack of notification constitutes a "no call – no show."

Exam Procedures: Exams will be given at the beginning of class on specified dates. Please download your exam before you come to class as we will not use class time for downloading. Instructions for using Examplify will be given and practiced prior to the first time it is used for an exam.

No materials may be kept at your desk during the exam except for student ID, computer/mouse, and a pencil or pen. **Cell phones, smart watches, watches, or smart glasses (including but not limited to Google, Apple, Ray-Ban, or Meta) are not allowed in the testing area.** If a cell phone rings/alarms during an exam, the faculty may administer a warning, and may administer a zero if a second instance occurs. The instructor will provide scratch paper which must be turned in after the exam is uploaded. All personal belongings aside from those listed must be placed at the front of the classroom prior to beginning the exam. There will be no caps, hats, or hoodies on the head allowed during exams. If any items other than those listed are found with the student during an exam, it may result in a zero on the exam.

Exam Grades: If a student makes less than 74% on any exam, he or she is recommended to make an appointment or attend office hours with the professor to discuss the situation. This meeting should take place as soon as possible after the grades are posted, and before the next exam. Students must email the faculty within five (5) days after grades are posted to schedule an appointment for exam/grade discussion. Appointment requests submitted after five days will not be honored. After another exam is administered, previous exams will not be discussed.

Projects Required

Term Paper: A paper on a disease, disorder, or pathophysiology topic of your choice (but requires approval by the instructor) will be completed for 10% of your final adjusted grade. A rubric for its completion and grading is provided in the D2L table of contents, and will be discussed in class.

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

The final exam will be cumulative. (See course schedule) This exam will be two hours long and contain 75 questions. The date will be provided after the start of the semester when the final exam schedule is posted.

Extra Credit

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

Late Work

Nursing students 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, and before the due date. Unexcused late work will have a deduction of up to 10 percentage points for every day late. These policies may vary for the Term Paper. See Term Paper rubric. Sherpath assignments will not be accepted if submitted late.

Makeup Exam

Makeup exams will only be given on a specific dates once during each semester. Dates will be announced after the semester begins. Makeup exams may be in different format than original exam including long essay. If the student cannot make up an exam as scheduled, a grade of zero will be entered into the gradebook. Makeup exams will only be offered for excused exam absences and notification must be given before the original exam.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: August 24 – 2. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"November 23. 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

Attendance is required for this course. 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.

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.

Please note: Chromebooks do not operate with ExamSoft (the testing platform used in the nursing program).

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. 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 Pathophysiology 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 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 a 100% 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.