



**Course Syllabus: Pathophysiologic Processes**  
**Gunn College of Health & Human Services Wilson School of Nursing**  
NURS 3203 - 101  
Thursday 09:00 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. (2022). *Pathophysiology* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.  
ISBN: 978-0-323-76155-0 **with Sherpath access**

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.) American Psychological Association. ISBN: 978-1433832161

Recommended:

Anatomical Chart Company. (2018). *Atlas of pathophysiology* (4th ed). Philadelphia, PA: WoltersKluwer/LWW. ISBN: 9781496370921

Cross, N. & McWay, D. (2020). *Stanfield's Essential Medical Terminology* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.) Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284142211

Examplify: 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. 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 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.

### 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.	A 1, 2	1.2a, 1.2b
2. Describe relationships between identified risk factors and the development of pathophysiologic processes.	A 1, 2	1.1b, 1.2a, 3.1d
3. Describe specific compensatory mechanisms used by the human body in response to pathophysiologic processes	A 1, 2	1.1b, 1.2a
4. Identify the diagnostic tests used to detect and differentiate selected pathophysiologic processes	A 1, 2	1.1b, 1.2a, 2.3e, 5.1c
5. Demonstrate the ability to identify evidence-based professional journal articles for improving the students' understanding of specific pathophysiologic processes, disorders, and disease	A 1, 2	1.2b, 4.1d, 4.1g

### 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 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](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.

### **Learning Activities**

Learning activities may include lectures, discussion & quizzes using TopHat, required reading, case studies with group discussion, concept maps, unit exams, a final exam, and a formal term paper.

### **A&P and Medical Terminology.**

Nurses must become experts at listening, understanding, speaking, and writing with excellent terminology and communication skills to assure patient safety. Medical terminology will be extensively practiced in class and will be used on exams, so is important to pay close attention to in preparation for class and exams.

**Fluid, Electrolyte & Acid-Base Balance:** These topics are often challenging for new nursing students to master, but they are some of the most important topics nurses need to understand – not memorize, but understand – the bedrock of pharmacology and medical-surgical nursing. We will be studying some aspect of these topics in every class.

**Term Paper:** A paper on a disease, disorder, or pathophysiology topic of your choice (but requires approval by the instructor) will be completed for 15% 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. APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition format is to be used for the paper, citations, and reference list, and papers will be analyzed using Turn-It-In, a software program that identifies plagiarism. A Turn-It-In score of 25% or less is required for this paper.

### **Evaluation**

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 may result in dismissal from the course. Professional behavior in the classroom is mandatory and is counted as part of your participation/professionalism grade.

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 and quizzes in order to pass the class (**before the term paper and TopHat/ participation**

**grades are added).** A student who receives a D or F in two nursing courses who wishes to continue the program must submit a letter to request reentry.

No extra credit is available for this course. Grades are not rounded.

Assignments & Grades	Points
Unit Exams (4)	60%
Final Exam	15%
Term Paper	15%
TopHat & Participation/Professionalism	10%
Total Points	100%

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

### 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.

**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. If notification is not given, you will receive a zero for the exam.

**Make-up exams:** Make-up exams will only be given on specific dates twice during each semester. Dates will be announced after the semester begins. Makeup exams may be in different format than original exam including long essay.

**Exam Procedures:** Exams will be given at the beginning of class on specified dates. Please download your exam before you come to class so we don't have

to use class time for downloading. Instructions for using Exemplify 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 (required), computer/mouse, and a pencil or pen. **Cell phones, smart-watches, and Google or Apple-glasses are not allowed in the testing area.** 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.

**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.

### **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 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 acceptable notice is given, late written assignments will be accepted with one percentage point per day late deducted from the grade. Unexcused late work will have a deduction of a minimum of 5 percentage points for every day late.

### **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 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 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.

**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

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### **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 consult the MSUTexas [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

### **A Final Word**

Being a nursing student is different from being a student in many 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" when a test is coming up, 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 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 of doing 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 the event of errors within, or things change related to COVID-19 precautions). Any changes will be made with sufficient notice to students.**