



**Population Health in Graduate Nursing**  
Gunn College of Health Sciences and Human Services  
NURS 5123  
Spring 2026

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Catherine Pankonien, DNP, MSN-Ed., CNE, RNC-NIC  
Office: CE 454  
Office hours: Online by appointment  
Office phone: 940-397-4060  
E-mail: [Catherine.pankonien@msutexas.edu](mailto:Catherine.pankonien@msutexas.edu)

Instructor: Keelin Cromar, DNP, MSN-Ed., RN  
Office: Online  
Office Hours: Online by appointment  
E-mail: [keelin.cromar@msutexas.edu](mailto:keelin.cromar@msutexas.edu)

Instructor: Stacey Machado, DNP, CNS, RN  
Office: CE 440N  
Office Hours: Online by appointment  
E-mail: [stacey.machado@msutexas.edu](mailto:stacey.machado@msutexas.edu)

**Course Description**

This course provides a general introduction to some of the key themes, topics, and current issues relevant to population health, with a focus on vulnerable populations across the globe. This course will explore family, group, and population dynamics from a variety of theoretical perspectives. A clinical practicum in the community setting provides an opportunity to develop theory-based population assessment, diagnoses, and plans relevant to advanced nursing practice.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC: Author.  
ISBN: 9781433832161

Porche, D. J. (2023). *Epidemiology for the advanced practice nurse: A population health approach*. Springer. ISBN: 978-0-8261-8513-6 (Print). ISBN: 978-0-8261-8514-3 (eBook).

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

Objectives	AACN Essentials <sup>1</sup>	NONPF Domains <sup>2</sup>
1. Analyze the historical evolution of theories focused on population health.	I.h	A.2; B.1; E.1
2. Apply selected theories in the assessment of vulnerable populations within developmental, cultural, ethical, legal, and economic contexts.	VIII.a IX.a,i	A.2,3; B.1; C.2,3; D.2,3; E.1,2; F.2,3
3. Operationalize theories in the promotion and protection of optimal levels of health in vulnerable populations.	I.a; IVa,d; VIII.a,c,e; IX.f,k	A.3; D.2; E.2; G.3; H.3; I.1,2; 3. a, b, c, e
4. Collaborate with faculty and peers for evaluative feedback related to interventions with vulnerable populations.	IV.a; V.c; VIII.d; IX.h,k	A.3,4; D.5; E.2; F.1; G.4; H.3; I.4.b
5. Develop strategies to promote and utilize interprofessional collaboration to enhance optimal health outcomes for vulnerable populations	IV.c; V.c; VII.d,f; VIII.b; IX. k, l	C.4; D.4; E.4; G.3
6. Synthesize theoretical concepts and principles in the formation of a personal conceptual framework and philosophy for care of vulnerable populations in advanced nursing practice.	VII.b,d,f	C.4; D.4; G.3

<sup>1</sup>American Association of Colleges of Nursing, *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*

<sup>2</sup>National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, *Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies*

## **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.

[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**

Course Grade - List all graded assignments with their point value and or percentage of total grade. Letter Grade Scale indicate the overall points or % to letter grade scale for example 1270 to 1137 = A.

*Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment*

Assignments	Percent of Grade
Quizzes (4)	20
Discussions (6)	20
Midterm Project	30
Final Project	30
Total Points	100

### **Homework**

Use this area to describe your homework. Be sure to include how and when homework will be turned in.

### **Quizzes**

There will be four quizzes over the course readings. The due dates are outlined in the course calendar. The quizzes include multiple choice and select all that apply

questions. The quizzes are timed. You will have two attempts and the highest grade will be recorded. Quizzes are open for completion for one week (7 days).

### **Projects Required**

There is a Midterm and Final project due in this course. The due dates are listed in the course calendar. The specifications and grading rubrics for each project is included in the modules on D2L. Links to online websites to help you complete each project are included on the course calendar.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is not permitted in the nursing program. No extra credit will be offered or accepted.

### **Late Work**

Click here to enter text. All assignments are due at 2359 (11:59 PM) on the day due unless otherwise specified. Students are expected to submit assignments by the time they are due. Assignments submitted after the due date and time will receive a deduction of 10 total points possible for that assignment for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will be accepted, with penalty as described, up to a maximum of three days late, after which grade of zero will be recorded for the assignment. Students may request an extension by contacting the faculty via email prior to the due date and time. Extensions will not be granted on or after the due date. Extensions will not be granted on discussion responses to peers or after the close of a quiz.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

Make up work is not available. Assignment due dates are outlined in the course calendar.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to pursue their scholastic careers with honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test or other course work, plagiarism (offering the work of another as one's own), and the unauthorized collaboration with another person. Students found guilty of dishonesty in their scholastic pursuits are subject to penalties that may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

*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 authenticity, and for educational purposes.*

For this course, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) such as ChatGPT and other AI-generating websites and/or applications, is considered academic dishonesty. All written work submitted by students will be submitted to a plagiarism/artificial intelligence detection program called Turnitin. Students with a score of 25% or more of either plagiarism or artificial intelligence will receive a zero for the assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in an "F" for the course.

### **Assignment Submission**

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. The most recent (last) submitted document will be the one evaluated if multiple submissions are uploaded.

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.

Attach your assignments as Word documents when you post them in the Dropbox section of Desire2Learn. Please make sure your assignments are in Word 2007 or newer. Always keep a copy of your assignments for your own records. All assignments should be submitted in the format required.

### **Standards of Professional Conduct for Graduate Nursing Students**

Students are expected to uphold standards of professional conduct in the classroom, online, and in clinical settings. Failure of a course and/or clinical is given to students who fail to uphold standards of professional conduct, fail to maintain patient safety, or students who fail to complete clinical hours.

Behaviors that will result in a failure of the course and stop progression in the program include, but are not limited to:

- Failure of the clinical component of a course or failure to complete all assigned clinical hours;
- Arriving to a clinical setting unprepared or inappropriately dressed;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate language or gestures;
- Unprofessional/inappropriate behavior such as eye rolling, being disrespectful, chewing gum, using tobacco products in a non-smoking area,

- disruptive behavior, failure to comply with a written or verbal instruction, or failure to maintain clinical compliance;
- Non-compliance with the policy to obtain written approval before attending clinical;
- An error in care or negligence that does not result in harm; or
- Cheating, collusion, and/or plagiarism.

Behaviors that will result in dismissal from the MSN or post-graduate certificate program include, but are not limited to:

- Falsifications, omissions, and/or lying about a patient care situation, including patient's current health status and/or patient documentation;
- Testing positive for alcohol, illegal drugs, or unprescribed controlled substances;
- Negligence of a patient or an error in patient care that results in harm to the patient;
- HIPAA violations;
- Failure to report a patient care error;
- Physical or verbal abuse of a patient, patient's family member, faculty, staff, or other students.
- Failure to report any activity on the RN license and/or any stipulations or restrictions placed on the RN license; or
- Falsification of clinical documents, preceptor signatures, and/or clinical hour logs.

### **Important Dates**

- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29, 2026 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.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **\*Assignments and**

**tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.**

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **\*Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

The primary purpose of providing additional readings and learning exercises is to supplement the accompanying text. They are not intended as a substitute for the text information. It is intended to assist students in assimilating and integrating facts and ideas from the text and to provide additional information and current trends.

*Netiquette.* Whether you are an experienced Internet user or a novice one, there are "rules of the road." These rules are referred to as "netiquette" or "internet etiquette." Please familiarize or refresh yourself at [Rules of Netiquette](#).

### **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.”](#)

### **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.

## Course Schedule:

Please note that the schedule below is subject to change. The instructor will notify students of all changes through D2L.

Week	Module	Readings	Assignments
WEEK 1 Jan 20 - 25	Introduction	Syllabus, Introduction	<b>Discussion:</b> Introduction - Due January 25 at 11:59 PM <b>Quiz:</b> Syllabus Quiz - Due January 25 at 11:59 PM
WEEK2 Jan 26 - Feb 1	Module 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022): Chapters: 1-3, and 5; Appendix A</li> <li>• Bekemeier, B., Kuehnert, P., Zahner, S., Johnson, K., Kaneshiro, J., &amp; Swider, S. (2021). A critical gap: Advanced practice nurses focused on the public's health. <i>Nursing Outlook</i>, 69(5), 865-874.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2021.03.023">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2021.03.023</a> </li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 1:</b> Select a Community/Understanding Community Context Initial posts due by Wednesday, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday. <b>Quiz:</b> Quiz 1: Historical Perspectives of Health Due by Sunday at 11:59PM
WEEK 3 Feb 2 - 8			
WEEK 4 Feb 9 - 15	Module 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022) – Chapters 4, 6-9 and Appendix A</li> <li>• Khubchandani, J., England-Kennedy, E., Wiblishauser, M., Kopera-Frye, K., &amp; Webb, F. (2025). Engaging community members in health-related research and interventions. <i>Journal of Medicine, Surgery, and Public Health</i>, 6, 100203.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglmedi.2025.100203">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglmedi.2025.100203</a> </li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 2:</b> Engaging Stakeholders Initial posts due by Wednesday, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday. <b>Quiz:</b> Quiz 2:Epidemiology Due by Sunday at 11:59PM
WEEK 5 Feb. 16 - 22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pellegrini, G. &amp; Lovati, C. (2025). Stakeholders' engagement for improved health outcomes: A research brief to design a tool for better communication and participation. <i>Frontiers in Public Health</i>, 13.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1536753">https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1536753</a> </li> </ul>	
WEEK6 Feb 23 – Mar 1	Module 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022): Chapter 10</li> <li>• McClellan, M., DeSalvo, K., Benjamin, G., Cerise, F., Choucair, B., del Rio, C., Medows, R., Ranney, M., &amp; Zink, A. (2025). Updating U.S. public health for healthier communities. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 44(2), 148-155.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2024.01010">https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2024.01010</a> </li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 3:</b> Using Evidence and Data Initial posts due by Wednesday, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday.
WEEK 7 Mar 2 - 8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oh, A., Abazeed, A., &amp; Chambers, D. (2021). Policy implementation science to advance population health: The potential for learning health policy systems. <i>Frontiers in Public Health</i>, 9.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.681602">https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.681602</a> </li> </ul>	<b>MIDTERM PROJECT:</b> Policy Brief Development Due by March 8 at 11:59 PM

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy People 2030: Health Policy Website: <a href="https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-policy">https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/health-policy</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Spring Break</b> <b>Mar 9 – Mar 15</b>	NA	<b>NO CLASS</b> <b>COLLEGE CLOSED</b>	<b>COLLEGE CLOSED</b> <b>SPRING BREAK</b>
WEEK 8 Mar 16 - 22	Module 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022): Chapter 10-16 and Appendix A</li> <li>• Arkhipova-Jenkins, I. &amp; Rajupet, S. (2023). Population medicine, population health, and population health management: Strategies that meet society's health needs. <i>AJPM Focus</i>, 8(3), 1-5. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2023.100164">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2023.100164</a></li> <li>• MN Department of Health Intervention Categories: <a href="https://share.google/GAFnPwBvGZgPdw8B">https://share.google/GAFnPwBvGZgPdw8B</a></li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 4:</b> Designing and Implementing Interventions Initial posts due by Wednesday, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday.
WEEK 9 Mar 23 - 29			<b>Quiz:</b> Quiz 3: Study of Epidemiology Due by Sunday at 11:59PM
WEEK 10 Mar 30 - Apr 5	Module 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022): Chapter 17-23 and Appendix A</li> <li>• Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Population Health Measures: <a href="https://share.google/bBy5fXr6MJ6ioiRTq">https://share.google/bBy5fXr6MJ6ioiRTq</a></li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 5:</b> Evaluation and Sustainability Initial posts due by Wednesday, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday.
WEEK 11 Apr 6 - 12			<b>Quiz:</b> Quiz 4: Epidemiology in Practice Due by Sunday at 11:59 PM
WEEK 12 Apr 13 - 19	Module 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Porche (2022): Appendix A</li> <li>• <b>How to APA cite in a PowerPoint</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTXt6U7A118">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTXt6U7A118</a></li> <li>• <b>PowerPoint Presentation Tips</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/cElyV-fTQ5Y?si=wIt2hAKvS6bThcSL">https://youtu.be/cElyV-fTQ5Y?si=wIt2hAKvS6bThcSL</a></li> </ul>	<b>FINAL PROJECT:</b> Community Assessment Presentation Due by April 19 at 11:59 PM
WEEK 13 April 20 - 26			<b>Discussion 6:</b> Final Project Presentation and Discussion Initial posts due by Wednesday, April 22, responses due at 11:59PM Sunday May 3.
WEEK 15 May 4 - 15	FINALS		Finals week, no assignment due MSU Commencement Ceremony May 15, 2026

All quizzes open on the Monday of the week the quiz is due.