

Pathological Processes for Advanced Nursing Practice

NURS 5043 Spring 2026

Midwestern State University Wilson School of Nursing
College of Health Sciences

This syllabus is for information purposes only and is subject to change without prior notice.

Faculty

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Course Description

Development of an in-depth knowledge base of pathophysiology and psychopathology across the lifespan for advanced nursing practice.

Credit Hours

- Three (3) credit hours (3-0)

Prerequisites

- Admission to the MSN program.

Learning Modalities

This is an online course utilizing the Bright Space/D2L online learning system.

- Assigned readings – we will be reading Porth's Pathophysiology: Concepts of Altered Health States
- Topic assignments
- Shadowhealth assignments

Course Objectives

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

Objective	AACN Essentials	NONPF Guidelines	NLN CORE
1. Discuss alterations in body system functions in individuals across the life span.	IX-1	I. A. 1	I.M
2. Interpret manifestations of selected pathophysiological and psychopathological processes and compensatory changes in maintaining homeostasis.	VIII-1, IX-2	I.14, I.15-17, II.1	I.M
3. Analyze relationships between known or suspected risk factors and pathophysiological and psychopathological processes.	VII-1, IX-3	I. 1-6, I.8, I.12-14	I.M
4. Explore the interrelationship between pathophysiological and psychopathological function across the life span.	IX-3	I.9, I.12, I.18, I.24	I.M
5. Correlate clinical signs, symptoms, and diagnostic test results with pathology.	IX-3	I.9, I.12, I.14	I.M

Grading Scale

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

Any grade below 80% in a graduate level course will result in a course failure and repeat of the course. Please note, grades are NOT rounded. A grade of 79.8 will result in a C and failure of the course.

Evaluation

The grade for NURS 5043 will be based upon the following criteria:

Evaluation Components	% of Grade
Quizzes	75%
Case Studies	15%
Shadowhealth Assignments	10%
Total for entire course	100%

Student Responsibilities and Class Requirements

Students are accountable for policies regarding graduate nursing programs and completion of requirements for all graduate students as stated in the Graduate Catalog and Graduate Student Handbook. Students are responsible for making appointments with faculty concerning class assignments as necessary. This is an online class and students are expected to have adequate access to a computer and check the course via Bright Space/D2L daily for updates and information. Work will be submitted electronically by dates due. Reading assignments and Bright Space/D2L learning activities, as detailed in the course calendar must be addressed and responded to promptly. All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course. Reading assignments should be completed as outlined in the course syllabus. All written assignments should be in APA, 7th edition, format. This includes citations and references. All written work submitted for evaluation is to be the work of the student who submits it.

Course Orientation – Bright Space/Desire to Learn (D2L)

The best way to get oriented to the course is to read the syllabus. By now, each student should be familiar with the Bright Space/D2L layout. Note assignment due dates will be placed in the course calendar.

Course Readings and Content Modules

The primary purpose of providing additional readings and learning exercises is to supplement the accompanying texts. 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 in APN practice, counseling, and prescribing.

Contacting Faculty

All assignment questions, questions about grades, or anything pertaining to the course should be addressed by the Bright Space/D2L email within the course or a conference call scheduled with your professor.

Assignment File Naming

All assignments will be submitted through the Bright Space/D2L assignment section. ***E-mailing assignments is not acceptable and may not be considered for grading.*** When uploading an assignment to the assignment section of Bright Space/D2L, please use the following guidelines for naming of the files. Your last name, assignment name: Example: Smith-SoapNote3.doc.

Late Assignments

All assignments must be uploaded to Bright Space/D2L in the assignment section drop box via WORD format by the due date and time. If the student has computer problems then you should contact Distance Learning @ MSU so they can try to assist you. Assignments submitted any way except through D2L/Brightspace will not be accepted or graded.

Failure to submit your assignments via WORD format so that they can be opened by faculty can result in an assignment being considered late and thus a grade of zero. I cannot stress this enough. My suggestion is that when you submit an assignment to faculty, you submit a copy to yourself to make certain it can be opened.

Again, as this is an online course, I strongly suggest you do not choose to wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. Computer malfunctions and glitches can occur and not being able to submit your assignments by due date deadlines because your computer is not functioning properly will not be an acceptable excuse.

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 points for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will be accepted, with a penalty as described, up to a maximum of three days late, after which point a zero will be recorded for the assignment. There are no opportunities for extra credit given for any assignment. All assignments will be due on Central Standard Time (CST).

Assignment/Exam Collaboration Policy

The faculty considers collaboration during assignments and examinations as cheating and cheating is in violation of MSU Policy. A score of zero (0) will be given for students participating in collaboration of assignments and exams. Providing a student with written assignments, or examination information from a course previously taken at MSU, is cheating. Cheating is grounds for dismissal from the program.

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 OR submitting your own previously submitted/graded work for a new assignment), 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.

NURS 5043 adheres to the *MSU Code of Student Conduct*. Academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student's participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the *MSU Code of Student Conduct*. Many components of NURS 5043 are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn by providing a different point of view, much as would occur in a face-to-face classroom. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the many resources available including online Desire2Learn course resources, internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

All components of NURS 5043 are designed to represent the efforts of each student INDIVIDUALLY 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.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) the use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty, staff, or students without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of published or unpublished works of another person – by paraphrase or direct quotation – without correct citation in the text and on the reference list. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" written papers is also plagiarism. For this course, students found to plagiarize on any assignment or discussion will receive a zero for that assignment or discussion. A second incident of plagiarism by the same student will result in a grade of "F" for this course.

Unless otherwise specified, the use of Automated Writing Tools, including chatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI) tools, is strictly prohibited in this course and is considered academic dishonesty. The use of automated writing tools is considered plagiarism and will be handled in accordance with existing policy.

Any student found to be academically dishonest as defined above on any assignment will automatically receive a grade of "0" on the assignment.

American Disability Act (ADA)

Midwestern State University (MSU) does not discriminate based on 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 and employment requirements. For assistance call (940) 397-4618 or 397-4515. 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 Policy

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the [University's Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact MSU Chief of Police Patrick Coggins at patrick.coggins@msutexas.edu.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to act respectful to all peers, faculty, and guests during face-to-face lectures, in clinical settings, and in the online environment. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off or placed in silent mode before class begins. Should emergency communication need to be made, the student must step outside of the classroom.

Network Etiquette (Netiquette)

In all textual online communication, it is important to follow proper rules of netiquette. What is netiquette? Simply stated, netiquette is network etiquette – that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And “etiquette” means the social and cultural norms of communicating with others in a proper and respectful way. In other words, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving and interacting properly online. The Netiquette “Core Rules” linked below are a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behavior. They probably won’t cover all situations, but they should give you some basic principles to use in communicating online. For Netiquette Core Rules visit [The Core Rules of Netiquette web page](#).

Required Resources

Norris, T.L. (2019). *Porth's pathophysiology: Concepts of altered health states* (11th ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer. ISBN: 978-1-975176-84-6

Shadowhealth Advanced Pathophysiology access. Course PIN
See instruction letter for gaining access.

American Psychiatric Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

Course Calendar

The course calendar is found in D2L/Brightspace under Contents>Course Information.

Please note, the syllabus and calendar are subject to change as needed.