

Wilson School of Nursing NURS 5103: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing Fall 2026

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Faculty & Staff Contact:

Faculty and staff will respond to student emails, phone calls, etc. within a 24-hour period during routine business hours (Monday – Friday). Communication received after 3 p.m. on Fridays will be returned on the following Monday

Course Description:

A foundational course that provides students with an opportunity to examine philosophical and theoretical basis for advanced nursing practice. Selected concepts, health related models, and nursing theories are analyzed.

Credit Hours: 3 semester hours (3-0)

Course Objectives: Participants in this course will have the opportunity to:

Objective	AACN Essentials*	NONPF**
1. Differentiate theory, model, framework, and philosophy	I.a	
2. Analyze practice through the lens of selected organizing frameworks	I.a, IV.a.	A.2
3. Evaluate contemporary theories for practice implications	I.a,g,h; IV.a	A.4
4. Integrate philosophy, science, and law into the development of a framework for nursing	I.h; IV.a; IX.b,k,o	A.4; C.4

* American Association of Colleges of Nursing, *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*

** National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, *Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies*

Grading Scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
74-79*	C
65-73*	D
64 and lower*	F

* Refer to the Progression Policy in the MSU Graduate Catalog.

Evaluation:

Grade Item	Percent of Grade	Course Objective
Syllabus/APA Quiz	5	N/A
Assignments (3)	60	
Discussions (5)	35	
Total	100%	

Required Textbooks:

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.
ISBN: 9781433832178

Butts, J.B. & Rich, K. L. (2027). *Philosophies and theories for advanced nursing practice* (5th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.
ISBN: 978-1-284-31244-7

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 access the course via Desire2Learn on a regular basis for updates and information. All course requirements must be met in order to pass the course.

Course Orientation

The best way to get oriented to the course is to read the syllabus! In addition, each student should become familiar with the Desire2Learn layout, i.e. how to access the discussion board and submit assignments. If you have questions about the course content, please post your question in the Discussion Board in Desire2Learn under the topic of "Course Questions."

Desire2Learn Based Readings and Content Modules

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. They are 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](#).

Submitting assignments. 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. APA format should be utilized if a specific format is not disclosed.

Late assignment policy. 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 points for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will be accepted, with penalty as described, up to a maximum of three (3) days late, after which a 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.

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 your own previously submitted work), 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.

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 and will be handled in accordance with existing policy.

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.

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 non-smoking areas, 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.

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 Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 3974140. 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](#).

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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

Adding and Dropping Courses

A graduate student who wishes to change a schedule by either dropping or adding a course must first consult with his/her Program Coordinator. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional information on adding and dropping courses. Note: there is no late registration or change in schedule for summer courses.

Grade Item Descriptions**Syllabus/APA Quiz**

1. Complete the syllabus/APA quiz located under Tests in D2L.
2. Students may use the syllabus and APA Manual to complete the quiz.
3. Students will be permitted to take the quiz two (2) times; the grade for the quiz will be the average score of both attempts.

Assignments

Students will complete three (3) specific assignments for this course. The assignments are designed to encourage the student to reflect on personal values and beliefs about nursing, identify theoretical concepts in evidence-based literature, and discover personal practice concepts. Detailed information for each assignment, including a grade rubric, can be found in the Contents Section of D2L. Due dates for each assignment can be found in the Course Calendar.