



**Course Syllabus: Pathophysiologic Processes**  
**Gunn College of Health & Human Services Wilson School of Nursing**

NURS 3203 - 201

Thursday 09:00 AM – 10:50 AM CE 304

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Alicia Cure MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Office: Centennial Hall 440K  
Office hours: By Appointment  
Office phone: (940) 397-4349  
Cell Phone: (903) 330-4546 (Text preferred)  
E-mail: alicia.cure@msutexas.edu

**Course Description**

This course is a study of the pathophysiologic concepts associated with illness and disease. The organizing framework of the course is holistic, beginning with a study of the physiologic concepts of the structure and function of cells, tissues, and fluids, and the processes of physiologic responses to stress, injury, and infection. This understanding will be expanded to examine the response of specific body systems to stress, injury, and infection. The most common pathophysiologic alterations of each system will be explored to understand their etiologies, pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, probable diagnostic findings and sequelae. This course provides the foundation for pharmacology and medical-surgical nursing concepts.

Three (3) credit hours.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

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

Reisner, E. & Reisner, H. (2022). *Crowley's: An Introduction to Human Disease* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.) with Advantage Access. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

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

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. 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 2019](#). It is important for you to become very familiar with this information.

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:	DEC	AACN
1. Explain the etiology, pathogenesis, and possible outcomes of selected pathophysiologic processes.	A 1, 2	IV-A1, A2, A3
2. Describe relationships between identified risk factors and the development of pathophysiologic processes.	A 1, 2	IV-A1, A2, A3

3. Describe specific compensatory mechanisms used by the human body in response to pathophysiologic processes	A 1, 2	IV-A1, A2, A3
4. Identify the diagnostic tests used to detect and differentiate selected pathophysiologic processes	A 1, 2	IV-A1

### **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 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.

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)	40%
Final Exam	15%
Term Paper	15%
TopHat & Participation	30%
Total Points	100%

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	74 to 79
D	64 to 73
F	Less than 64

### 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 or essay 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.

**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.

**Exam Grades:** If a student makes less than 74% on any exam, he or she is required 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 5percentage 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.

### **If You Cheat:**

The work, and the reputation, of the nursing profession require that members demonstrate the utmost in trustworthiness and credibility. Nurses are honest.

A lot depends on a nurse being straightforward with his or her communication – that means always telling the truth. A lot also depends on your ability to do your own work. It's true that nurses often work in teams, however, every member of the team has to know what to do. If you "borrow" someone else's work to turn in for a grade, you haven't learned the material for yourself. If you don't know your stuff, you will end up being the nurse that nobody wants to work with, the one that patients' hope they don't have to depend on. It is scary to work with a nurse who hasn't learned how to be a good nurse, is dishonest, or misrepresents his or her abilities (what others can depend on from you), and if you think that scares other nurses, just think about how a patient feels after realizing that the nurse she or he has to depend on is not trustworthy. When the responsibility of patient care is on you, you won't get away with bluffing or cheating. And worst of all, you may cause harm to your patient.

Therefore, the BSN program does not condone dishonesty, cheating, collusion, or plagiarism in any form, and considers it a serious offense that may result in being expelled from the nursing program. "Cheating" means intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise; "collusion" means collaborating with another person in preparing an assignment that is meant to be an individual's own work offered for credit; "plagiarism" means intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. For further information regarding cheating and any subsequent actions that may be taken refer to the policy statement in the BSN Student Handbook.

## **University Policies**

### **Disability Support Services**

Midwestern State University is committed to providing equal access for qualified students with disabilities to all university courses and programs, and by law all students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation of their disability. This guarantee is provided through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA reads: "No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subject to discrimination by any such entity." The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397.4140, TDD (940) 397.4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

## **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.**