



Course Syllabus: course name

College of Health Sciences and Human Services
NURS 5483/5493 Sections 20, 21 and 22
Spring 2026 and Course dates

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Mercer and Dr. Cesar Alvarado
Office: Enter office #440
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Course Description

The focus of this course is on the diagnosis and management of serious and persistent psychiatric disorders and mental health problems in individuals. The student begins with an assessment of the relationship with self as a foundation for understanding therapeutic relationships. Diagnostic evaluation will include development of interview techniques, mental status examination, and use of tools unique to the evaluation of psychiatric mental health problems. Management of mental health problems in individuals will include both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions, including individual counseling in the clients with serious and persistent mental health problems.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required Texts

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

American Psychiatric Association. (2020). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Seventh Edition.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM- 5 - TR

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM- 5. Fifth Edition. Text Revision released March 2022.

Kaplan and Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry

Boland, R., Verduin, M., and Ruiz, P. (2022) Kaplan and Sadock's Synopsis of Psychiatry: Twelfth Edition. **Same book as last semester – there may be

some overlap on assigned readings from previous semester.... although the focus is different this semester.

Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology. Prescriber's Guide (8th Edition).

Stahl, S. (2024) Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology. Prescriber's Guide

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Review Manual (4th edition).

Johnson, K. and Vanderhoef, D. (2016). Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Review Manual (4th edition).

A Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests (11th Edition).

Any lab Manual or Fishbach, F. (2022). A Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests (11th Edition).

Theory and Practice of Counseling and Psychotherapy (11th edition). Gerald Corey, (2024).

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 Scale

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

Letter Grade	Numerical Value
F	64 and below

Evaluation

There is no rounding of grades. A grade of 79.9 would be considered a failing grade for the course. The course grade for this semester will be based upon the following criteria:

Evaluation Components – Didactic components	% of Grade
Exam #1	25%
Mid-term Written Exam	25%
Final Written Exam	30%
Discussion (1) – utilizing Symptom Media	20%

Evaluation Components – Clinical components	% of Grade
SOAP Note #1	10%
SOAP Note #2	15%
SOAP Note #3	20%
Therapeutic Moment Map (TMM)	10%
Mid-Term Oral Exam	20%
Final Oral Exam	25%
Evaluation Assignment – Elogs/verification of all clinical hours and a legible clinical sign off sheet with all respective hours. Evaluations by preceptor and evaluation by student submitted	Pass/Fail
Evaluation Assignment – Virtual Clinical PPT Imaging due 1 st day of each clinical for each clinical site	Pass/Fail
Evaluation Assignment – Clinical Site Evaluation Form due 1 st day of each clinical for each clinical site	Pass/Fail

Exams

Both the midterm and final exams (see above) will be timed and proctored via Respondus lockdown browser. This information will appear on the Course Schedule in more detail.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be accepted.

Late Work

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.

Make Up Work/Tests

Failure of the student to notify faculty prior to the start of a written exam that the student is unable to take the exam at the scheduled date and time due to an extenuating circumstance will result in the student receiving a grade of zero for the exam. There will be no make-up exam opportunity.

Notification of faculty prior to the start of a written exam that the student is unable to take the exam at the scheduled time due to an extenuating circumstance will result in the opportunity for a make-up exam.

Failure of the student to notify faculty prior to start of an oral exam that the student is unable to participate in the oral exam at the scheduled date and time due to an extenuating circumstance will result in the student receiving a grade of zero for the exam. There will be no make-up oral exam opportunity.

Notification of faculty prior to start of an oral exam that the student is unable to participate in an oral exam at the scheduled time due to an extenuating circumstance will result in the opportunity for a make-up oral exam.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" 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.

Attendance

Although this is an online course, students will be expected to attend oral exams on campus as scheduled in course calendar.

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](#).

Instructor Class Policies

Students are expected to act respectfully 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.

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) exist 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

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:

NURS 5483/5493 PMH Advanced Practicum II Course Calendar Spring 2026

Promotion and Management of Mental Health: Individuals, Communities, Groups, and Families- Geri and Child/Adolescent

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Jan. 20 (Tuesday) WEEK 1	Contributions from the Behavioral and Social Sciences and Theoretical Basis of Care	Kaplan & Sadock - Chapter 34 Johnson & Vanderhoef Chapter 3 Can begin signing up for both ORAL Exams.... See D2L “News” for times.
Jan. 26 (Monday) WEEK 2	Other Conditions that May Be a Focus of Clinical Attention and Consultation to Other Disciplines and Violence	Kaplan & Sadock Chapters 20 & 25 Johnson & Vanderhoef Ch 17 DSM-5 Your own discussion post is due on Friday Jan. 30th

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Feb. 2 (Monday) WEEK 3	Psychotherapy Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Other Interventions and Level of Care	Kaplan & Sadock Chapters 23, 24 & 26 Corey Chapter 2 Discussion assignment due by 3 PM on Friday Feb. 6th
Feb. 9 (Monday) WEEK 4	Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder and Disruptive Behaviors of childhood and Disruptive, Impulse control and Conduct Disorders and Normal Development and Aging	Kaplan & Sadock - Chapter 2 pp. 189-194 and Chapter 18 and Chapter 32 pp.883-913 Corey Chapter 9 DSM-5 Stahl
Feb. 16 (Monday) WEEK 5	Neurocognitive Disorders Normal Development and Aging (cont'd)	Kaplan & Sadock - Chapter 3 pp. 224 - 245 and Chapter 32 pp.913- 921 Johnson & Vanderhoef Chapter 12 DSM-5 Stahl SOAP # 1 assignment due Friday Feb. 20th by 3PM
Feb. 23 (Monday) WEEK 6	Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Other Childhood Disorders	Kaplan & Sadock - Chapter 2 pp. 93 - 131 Johnson & Vanderhoef Chapter 15 DSM-5 Stahl Written Exam #1 - proctored via Respondus (2 PM - 3:15 PM CST on Friday Feb. 27th)

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
March 2 (Monday)	Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Other Childhood Disorders (cont'd.)	Kaplan & Sadock - Chapter 2 pp. 131 - 167
WEEK 7	*Spring Break begins Saturday March 8 th at 5 PM	Johnson & Vanderhoef Chapter 15 (cont'd) DSM-5 Stahl Midterm Clinical Sign Off Sheets due Friday March 6 th by 3 PM. Elogs check – should be up to date by March 6 th 3 PM. Midterm oral exam Fri. March 6 th @ MSU in Wichita Falls.
March 9 (Monday)	SPRING BREAK	Enjoy your time off!
WEEK 8		
March 16 (Monday)	Classes resume	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapters 13 & 14
WEEK 9	Feeding and Eating Disorders and Elimination Disorders	Refer back to Chapter 15 in Johnson & Vanderhoef for readings on Eating Disorders DSM-5 Stahl SOAP #2 assignment due Friday March 20 th by 3PM.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
March 23 (Monday) WEEK 10	Sleep-Wake Disorders	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapter 15 Johnson & Vanderhoef – Chapter 16 DSM-5 Stahl
March 30 (Monday) WEEK 11	Substance Use and Addictive Disorders HOLIDAY BREAK APRIL 2-4	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapter 4 Johnson & Vanderhoef – Chapter 13 DSM-5 Stahl Written Midterm Exam - proctored via Respondus (2 PM – 3:15 PM CST on Friday April 3rd) *This exam covers materials from weeks 1-10 (see blueprint)
April 6 (Monday) WEEK 12	Classes resume Human Sexuality and Sexual Dysfunction	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapter 16 Corey Chapter 12 DSM-5 Stahl Therapeutic Moment Map assignment due by 3 PM on Friday April 10 th
April 13 (Monday) WEEK 13	Holiday break begins Wednesday April 16th at 10 PM Gender Dysphoria, Gender Identity and Related Conditions	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapter 17 DSM-5 Stahl

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
April 20 (Monday) WEEK 14	Classes resume Ethics and Professionalism and Forensic and Legal Issues	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapters 27 & 28 SOAP #3 assignment due Friday April 24 th by 3PM
April 27 (Monday) WEEK 15	End of Life Issues and Palliative Care	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapter 29 Final oral exam Fri. May 1st @ MSU in Wichita Falls.
May 4 (Monday) WEEK 16	Community Psychiatry and Global and Cultural Issues in Psychiatry	Kaplan & Sadock – Chapters 30 & 31 Friday May 8th is the last day for clinicals and classes. Friday May 8th all the following are due by 3 PM: 1. Clinical Sign Off Sheet 2. Completed Elogs 3. Preceptor evaluations of student. 4. Student evaluations of preceptors.
May 11 (Monday)	Note the Final Exam is on a Monday not a Friday.	Written Final Exam - proctored via Respondus (2 PM – 3:15 PM CST on Monday May 11th).