

**Wilson School of Nursing**  
**Midwestern State University, College of Health Sciences and Human Services**  
**NURS 5123: Population Health in Graduate Nursing**  
**Spring 2025**

*Material contained in this document is for information purposes and is subject to change without prior notice*

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**Faculty Contact:**

Faculty will respond to student emails, phone calls, etc. within a 24-hour period during routine business hours (Monday – Friday), and within 48-hours on the weekends (Saturday – Sunday).

**Pre-requisites:** Admission to MSN Program

**Credit Hours:** Three (3) credit hours (3-0)

**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.

**Course Objectives**

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

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>AACN Essentials<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>NONPF Domains<sup>2</sup></b>
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 inter-professional 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*

### Learning Experiences:

1. Assigned Readings
2. PowerPoint Presentations
3. Discussion Assignments
4. Class Discussions

### Grading Scale:

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

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

### Evaluation:

The grade for the class will be based upon the following criteria:

Criteria	% Course Grade	Course Objective
Discussion #1	10%	1, 2, 3
Discussion #2	15%	2, 3, 4
Discussion #3	15%	2, 3, 4, 5

Discussion #4	15%	2, 3, 6
Midterm Exam	20%	1, 2, 5
Final Comprehensive Exam	25%	1, 2, 5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Required Textbooks:

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).

### 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 on 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. 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](#).

*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 2300 (11:00 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% of the 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.

*Course folders.* Course folders have been set up on the Desire2Learn discussion board to facilitate discussion between students and faculty. Course faculty and students can access and post messages related to this course in the folders.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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) 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](#).

### **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

### Discussions

Each student will be assigned to a specific city within the U.S. and will use this city for each of the four (4) discussions. The purpose of each discussion is to help the student focus on the health of a population through assessment of demographic characteristics, evaluating social determinants of health for a population, identifying health risk factors for specific populations, appraising evidence-based health promotion/disease prevention strategies, and identifying valid sources of population health statistics.

#### *Steps for Participating in Discussions*

1. The student will post their initial discussion by the due date found in the Course Calendar. The post should be in the body of the discussion; however, a reference page must be included as an attachment.
2. The student will read and respond to the initial post of one other student. Each student will be assigned to a fellow student for each discussion. These assignments will be posted in the discussion area found in the contents section of this course.
3. The response should stimulate discussion by asking questions, providing an alternate viewpoint, and/or comparing and contrasting with the student's own initial discussion post.
4. The response should be posted to allow enough time for students to "engage" in a meaningful discussion on the topic. It's important to look at the date the discussion closes in order to time your responses. No responses will be permitted after the discussion closes.
5. Refer to the Discussion Grade Rubric for grading criteria.

### Midterm and Final Comprehensive Exam

Each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The student will be required to use the *Lockdown Browser* feature of D2L to ensure test integrity and security. For more information about Lockdown Browser, click here: <https://msutexas.edu/distance/lockdown-browser.php>. Please note that the exams are also set-up to use the "monitor" feature of *Lockdown Browser*. You will find an informational video in the Course Information section of this course in D2L. You will also find a "practice test" in the assessments section of D2L if you want a trial run with *Lockdown Browser*. You will find that this software runs best using Google Chrome for your browser.

Each exam will be open for a 24-hour period and will be time-limited. Only one attempt will be permitted for each exam. Exams will be graded after the exam closes and faculty have reviewed the results. No make-up exams will be given. A test blueprint will be provided for each exam.

### Optional Zoom Sessions

Students are encouraged to participate in the Virtual Question & Answer sessions hosted by your course faculty on Zoom. The sessions are scheduled at points during the semester when students "typically" have questions about course content, upcoming discussions, and/or exams. Students are encouraged to come prepared with questions.

**Zoom Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Zoom Link</b>
February 3, 2025	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<a href="https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/98412243298">https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/98412243298</a>
March 3, 2025	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<a href="https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/92940273699">https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/92940273699</a>
March 24, 2025	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<a href="https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/91887135154">https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/91887135154</a>
April 21, 2025	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<a href="https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/92917195782">https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/j/92917195782</a>