



COURSE SYLLABUS (FALL 2026)

COURSE: ORAL PATHOLOGY DNHY 4003

DAY/TIME: Tuesday, 1-3:50 PM

LOCATION: Centennial Hall, Room #103

INSTRUCTOR: Stephanie Sheppard, RDH, MS, BSDH Assistant Professor

Office: Centennial Hall, Room #128

Office: 940-397-4650

Email: stephanie.sheppard@msutexas.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8-11 am
or Fridays (by appointment)

Instructor Response Policy: Outside of office hours, you may contact me from 6am-6pm. Any correspondence outside these hours will be responded to during the next time frame, except in the event of an emergency. Correspondence during weekend and holiday hours will be answered as time permits.

SYLLABUS POLICY

This syllabus is a guide for the course and not a “contract” – and is subject to change. Syllabus changes will be communicated via written revisions with a minimum of a 48-hour notice before changes take place. Please keep this syllabus as a reference. Students are responsible for this information and any changes to the syllabus as explained above.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As published in the most current MSU Catalog (2025-2026)

Introduction of the principles of human disease including pathogenesis, clinical appearance, and treatment. In certain instances, microscopic features will be discussed if they enhance the understanding of the disease process. A portion of the course is devoted to basic principles of general pathology with an emphasis on the dental hygienist’s role in recognition of oral disease.

COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to establish a basis for the rational approach to clinical examination of patients. This requires a fundamental knowledge of oral and paraoral lesions as well as sufficient knowledge of systemic conditions to allow comprehensive evaluation of medical histories and formulation of a differential evaluation of oral conditions. Development of critical thinking skills in these areas will provide for the appropriate disposition of patients relative to treatment planning and for appropriate referral where necessary.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Oral Pathology for the Dental Hygienist, 8th Ed, Ibsen & Phelan
Color Atlas of Common Oral Diseases, 5th Ed, Langlais & Miller

KEY CONCEPTS

1. Introduction to general pathology relating to causative factors to clinical manifestations of systemic diseases.
2. Study of gross and microscopic lesions of the teeth and related oral tissues.
3. Emphasis placed on degenerative changes, dental caries and its sequela, mucous membrane pathology and neoplasia.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Given lecture, discussion and slide identification, upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Define and appropriately use terminology related to the study of general and oral pathology.
2. Evaluate and analyze cardiovascular disorders and determine how they might affect dental hygiene treatment planning.
3. Describe the inflammatory process; differentiate between regeneration and repair.
4. Recognize and describe physical and chemical injuries of the oral tissues.
5. Explain the role of the immune response in controlling disease and in causing disease.
6. Describe clinical findings of autoimmune diseases that affect the oral cavity.
7. Differentiate bacterial, fungal, and viral infectious diseases.
8. Recognize and describe developmental disorders of the oral cavity.
9. Summarize the characteristics of the different neoplasms.
10. Compare benign and malignant tumors.
11. Identify the etiologies of squamous cell carcinoma.
12. Describe the complications associated with the treatment of squamous cell carcinoma.
13. Define the patterns of inheritance and describe inherited disorders/chromosomal abnormalities that affect the oral cavity and face.
14. Describe the oral manifestations of systemic diseases including; endocrine disorders, diseases of bone, blood disorders and immunodeficiency.
15. Identify lesions and oral manifestations of local and systemic diseases from presented clinical findings and histories.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ARE PRESENTED FOR EACH CONTENT AREA/CLASS SESSION.

COURSE EVALUATION

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Homework for each chapter will be assigned in advance. These will be submitted in D2L by the due dates listed in the course schedule. Late homework submissions will be degraded by 50% prior to grading. This average will comprise 5% of the final grade for this course. All homework and any other work submitted by the student must be in compliance with the MSU Dental Hygiene's Department AI Policy (listed below).

READING & QUIZZES

Students are responsible for keeping up with all assigned readings. Reading the material prior to class is essential for developing a foundational understanding of each topic. Timed quizzes will be administered following the lecture and group presentation for each chapter to evaluate comprehension. Quiz dates are provided in the course schedule.

Quizzes may not be made up in the event of an absence. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for that quiz. For excused absences, the quiz average will be calculated based on the number of quizzes completed rather than the total given. Quiz grades will account for 10% of the final course grade.

GROUP PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ASSIGNMENT

The goal of the course assignment is to create a project and present it in class using one of the "Classroom Active Learning Technique and Assessment" formats, or one of your choice. Student groups are required to make an appointment with the course instructor one week before to discuss the design of the project and to review the grading rubric before developing the project. The rubric, with instructions, is posted in D2L and distributed at the beginning of the semester. This assignment will comprise 5% of the final grade.

ORAL PATHOLOGY CLINICAL FINDINGS ASSIGNMENT

During DH Clinic 3, each student is required to identify three abnormal pathological findings on three different patients. Variants of normal (as outlined in Chapter 1) may be accepted if they display a distinct or unique feature. If there is uncertainty, students should seek faculty approval.

For each finding, students must take an intraoral photograph in clinic, save the image to the patient's electronic chart, and upload it to the designated D2L drop box along with the required information. Documentation should reflect the style and terminology used in a patient chart, applying scientific language consistent with the textbook. Additionally, findings must be recorded in the patient's clinical treatment summary. More information will be given on the first day of class. This assignment will account for 5% of the final course grade.

ALL CLINICAL FINDINGS ARE DUE BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2026 @ 11 PM.

EXAMINATIONS

Four (4) timed examinations (including the final) will be given during the semester. Each examination will be comprehensive from the first class session, but will emphasize the material presented since the previous examination. The final examination will be a composite exit exam including all fall semester Dental Hygiene courses. These exams will comprise 75% of the final grade for this course.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS

Students missing an exam due to illness will be allowed to make up the exam on the day of their return to school. **No grade higher than a 90 will be given for makeup examinations.** Students will only be allowed one make-up exam per semester. This does not include the final examination.

FINAL EXAMINATION (Senior 3rd Semester Exam):

This is a 4-hour examination which will serve as the combined final exam for each of the courses offered in the 3rd semester of the dental hygiene curriculum; Pathology, Dental Hygiene 3 and Dental Health Education. The exam will consist of two sections: (1) approximately 150 multiple choice questions covering the content of the courses listed above and (2) a case based portion.

The case based portion of the exam (50-75 items) will incorporate content from **ALL** dental hygiene courses from the first, second and third semesters. The case based portion will be figured into the final exam as bonus points. This format, rather than individual course final exams, will more effectively assess the student's ability to combine didactic and clinical content, as well as aid in preparing the student for the National Board Dental Hygiene Exam.

Final Exam Grading: Students will receive a grade on Part I based on the 50 multiple choice items pertaining directly to PATHOLOGY CONTENT. Points earned on Part 2's case based items pertaining to Pathology will be added to Part I as bonus points to determine the final exam grade for this course. The values of Part 2 items will be determined by the individual course instructor. Therefore, the points earned for Part 2 items will vary between courses.

Water bottles, cell phones, smartwatches, and hand-held calculators or computers are not allowed in the room during any examination. Possession of any of these items during an exam will be construed as academic dishonesty and will be dealt with accordingly.

FINAL COURSE GRADE WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING-

4 Examinations (including final)	= 75%	OF FINAL COURSE GRADE
Quizzes	= 10%	"
Homework	= 5%	"
3 clinical path findings	= 5%	"
Group Presentation	= 5%	"
	100%	

DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM GRADING SCALE

92-100	= A
83-91	= B
75-82	= C
65-74	= D

**75 AVERAGE IS THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE GRADE
FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE**

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY: HYBRID COURSE

This course is a hybrid course with majority of the didactic/lecture component being delivered face-to-face with access to the D2L learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, and collaboration.

Students should note that hybrid education takes effective time management and study skills. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer (with internet access) for this class due to the variety of teaching methods being used to meet the goals of this course. Computers are available in various buildings on campus, including the 3rd floor of Centennial Hall. The primary medium for communication and information is presented through D2L Learning Management System. Text readings; audiovisual aids to include clinical slides, PowerPoint presentations, videos, on line course and teaching models are used to support the delivery of course content.

All course materials will require the use of Microsoft. It is the responsibility of each student to submit any required assignments in Microsoft compatible formats. To download student access to Office 365 go to:

<https://products.office.com/en-us/student?ms.officeurl=getoffice365>.

Review the Student Help Aids for D2L on the MSU Distance Education Resources Page available at

<https://msutexas.edu/distance/how-to-student.php> &/or

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL5xTdOzKAFOCzjXav1aCRQ/search?query=learner>

Assignments are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, or discussion postings.

This course is a hybrid course with majority of the didactic/lecture component being delivered face-to-face with access to the D2L learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, and collaboration.

Students should note that hybrid education takes effective time management and study skills. Taking a hybrid course 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. All assignment submissions made by students in D2L are considered final submissions. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the correct and complete file is uploaded. If a student submits an incorrect document, an incomplete draft, or any unintended version, the assignment will be graded as submitted. ***Students are strongly encouraged to double-check their upload before finalizing the submission.*** Additionally, Apple file formats, such as .pages, .numbers, and Keynote files, will not be accepted. ALL submissions must be uploaded in Microsoft Office formats, such as .doc, .docx, and .ppt. or .xlsx or otherwise specified in assignment instructions.

Computer labs are available for student use in Centennial Hall (3rd floor), Moffett Library, Legacy, and Clark Student Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!

Contact your instructor immediately if you have any computer trouble or technical difficulties in the course. The University cannot work directly on student computers due to liability and resource limitations; however, they can help you connect to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

All course materials will require the use of Microsoft. It is the responsibility of each student to submit any required assignments in Microsoft compatible formats. To download student access to Office 365 go to:

<https://products.office.com/en-us/student?ms.officeurl=getoffice365>.

Review the Student Help Aids for D2L on the MSU Distance Education Resources Page available at

<https://msutexas.edu/distance/how-to-student.php> &/or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL5xTdOzKAFOCZjXav1aCRQ/search?query=learner>

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE BY THE DUE DATE, AND PERSONAL COMPUTER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED A REASON FOR THE INSTRUCTOR TO ALLOW STUDENTS EXTRA TIME TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS, OR DISCUSSION POSTINGS.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USAGE POLICY

The use of generative Artificial Intelligence Tools (AI) that emulate human capabilities (EX: ChatGPT, Dall-e, Gamma, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities and must be disclosed (this includes all graded assignments and activities) in an explanatory appendix describing which tool was used and how (including illustrations and editing):

- Brainstorming and refining ideas
- Discovery of information on your topic
- Illustration of topic

However, the use of AI tools (mentioned above) are prohibited for:

- Discussion assignments
- Completion of assignments
- Making of PowerPoints
- All written assignments

ATTENDANCE

Students in dental hygiene lecture and laboratory courses (not dental hygiene clinical courses) are allowed only **TWO (2) absences** in each course during a semester. All absences are counted whether they are for excused and/or unexcused reasons. **Any absence over the allowed number for each course will result in a 5 point grade reduction for each absence over the number allowed. The points will be taken off the final course grade.** Being tardy two (2) times will be the equivalent of one absence. You will be considered tardy if you enter class after the lecture has begun. **Students must be present for the entire class period to get credit for a class session. Students leaving class early will be counted as absent.**

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.

PHONE USE

Cell phone use (texting or verbal) is extremely disruptive to your fellow classmates and to the faculty teaching your course. Therefore, the use of cell phones will not be tolerated, FOR ANY REASON. If you utilize your cell phone it will be confiscated for the remainder of the scheduled day. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave the classroom and will be required to meet with the faculty and the chair of the Dental Hygiene Department. In cases of emergencies, please notify spouses, family and friends to contact you via the program secretary at 397-4764.

RECORDING CLASSES

**Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.* Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, please check D2L for updates to class responsibilities and calendar.

EMERGENCY AID RESOURCES FOR BASIC NEEDS

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstutexas.edu.

OBLIGATION TO REPORT SEX DISCRIMINATION UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick

Title IX Coordinator

Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse

940-397-4213

laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Dental Hygiene Honor System:

All Dental Hygiene courses adhere to the MSU Code of Conduct. In particular, 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. A student should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

Many components of dental hygiene courses are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when answering objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (1) 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 or staff without permission.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of, by paraphrase or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and on the reference list, the published or unpublished works of another person. Students may NOT submit papers and assignments that they have previously submitted for this or other courses. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. Whenever a student is unsure of whether a particular situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, he/she should ask the instructor for clarification. If students are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.

PLEASE NOTE

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. Specifically, faculty may submit student papers and assignments to an external agency to verify originality and authenticity, and to detect for plagiarism

MSU COHSHS STUDENT CONDUCT APPEALS COMMITTEE

All Midwestern State University (MSU) students may legitimately appeal a course grade if 1) the student has not been evaluated according to the same criteria as his or her classmates, or 2) an error has been made in grading and/or posting (MSU Student Handbook, p. 37.) In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students has the responsibility to enforce standards of conduct for students as outlined in the MSU Student Handbook (p. 70-80).

When enrolled in the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (COHSHS), students are often assigned to community agencies, such as health care facilities, social service agencies, or athletic environments, as part of their academic process. During these experiences, the student is expected to behave in a manner required of professionals working in this environment. COHSHS students may also be required to successfully complete a licensing/certification process following graduation.

As a result, students in these programs are often held to a different academic and/or behavioral standard than students in other MSU programs. For example, students may not be allowed to progress in a program if they have been unsuccessful (D or F) in a certain number of courses in the major. In these circumstances, COHSHS faculty and administration, all of whom have had similar professional experience, may make decisions which negatively impact students’ programmatic progress.

COHSHS students have a right to a review of decisions made by the program faculty, which prevent individuals from progressing in their program in a timely manner. However, those who participate in the review must understand the context of the professions involved. Therefore, issues concerning the professional conduct of students in the COHSHS will NOT be brought to the University Grade Committee, but to the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee. Specifically, the COHSHS Student Conduct Appeals Committee will review faculty decisions related to:

- Student conduct in a clinical experience, internship, or other work-related environment that negatively impacts the student’s academic progress. This conduct may include behavior which is prohibited by licensing and/or professional standards or departmental policy.
- Student removal from a program because of a) professional conduct issues or b) failure to maintain academic standards required specifically by the program*

SEE COHSHS WEB SITE FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF THIS POLICY

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](#)

CONCEALED CARRY RULES/POLICIES

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, 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 MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

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.”](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

DO NOT:

- Do not use any social media site related to Midwestern State University or the Dental Hygiene Dept. /Program to harass, threaten, insult, defame or bully another person or entity; to violate any College policy; or to engage in any unlawful act, including but not limited to gambling, identity theft or other types of fraud.
- Post or store content that is obscene, pornographic, defamatory, racist, excessively violent, harassing, threatening, bullying or otherwise objectionable or injurious.
- Post copyrighted content (such as text, video, graphics or sound files) without permission from the holder of the copyright. Remember, even information that is widely available to the public (such as text, photographs, or other material posted on the Internet) may be subject to copyright restrictions that prohibit unauthorized duplication or dissemination