



Course Syllabus: Concepts in Clinical Reasoning and Judgment  
Robert D. & Carol Gunn College of Health Sciences & Human Services  
NURS 4842 Section 201  
Spring Semester 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Robin Lockhart

Office: CE 440V

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 0900-1200, Monday  
and Wednesday 1400-1700

Office phone: (940) 397-4614

Cell Phone: (940) 636-2018 (preferred contact number)

E-mail: [robin.lockhart@msutexas.edu](mailto:robin.lockhart@msutexas.edu) (prefer e-mail via D2L instead of the office one)

Course Description

This course is a development of clinical judgment skills. Emphasis is placed on integrating previously learned concepts with a focus on clinical problem-solving. Critical thinking is applied in resolving actual clinical problems.

Pre-requisites: NURS 3853, NURS 3863, NURS 3873, NURS 3503, NURS 4123

Co-requisites: NURS 4803, NURS 4813, NURS 4833, NURS 4823

Course Content

1. Clinical reasoning, judgment, and decision-making
2. Reducing error potential
3. Prioritizing assessments
4. Using diagnostic findings
5. Implementing best practices and protocols.
6. Responding to changes in client condition

Course Objectives

AACN Essentials: For further information regarding the AACN Essentials identified for each course objective, refer to <https://www.aacnnursing.org/portals/42/publications/baccessentials08.pdf>  
DEC Competencies: For further information regarding the competencies identified in each course, refer to

[https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/publication\\_pdfs/Differentiated%20Essential%20Competencies%202021.pdf](https://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/publication_pdfs/Differentiated%20Essential%20Competencies%202021.pdf)

Objectives	AACN Essentials	DEC Competencies
1. Apply concepts learned throughout the program to clinical situations.	I, VII	I: D II: B IV: D
2. Use problem-solving approaches in recognizing and meeting client care needs.	I, IX	I: B, D II: C
3. Use the nursing process to plan, implement and evaluate nursing care.	II, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I: B II: C, E III: C
4. Apply clinical judgment skills in the planning, implementation and evaluation of nursing care.	I, IX	I: D II: C, E, IV: E, F
5. Implement effective communication, research and teaching-learning principles in providing nursing care.	II, IV, VI, VII, VIII, IX	I: C II: A, D, F, G IV: A, B, C, D
6. Evaluate effective and non-effective nursing interventions in providing nursing care.	I, II, IV, VII, VIII, IX	I: D II: E III: B IV: A
7. Examine the legal, ethical, cultural, economic, and spiritual issues related to the care of clients.	II, VII, VIII, IX	I: A II: B IV: A, E

### Textbook & Instructional Materials

#### Required Texts/Resources:

Hinkle, J. L., Cheever, K. H., & Overbaugh, K. J. (2022). *Brunner & Suddarth's textbook of medical surgical nursing (15<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Wolters Kluwer Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-975-16828-5

TopHat Access

EAQ Access

Nursing Central access

Examplify Examsoft application and laptop or iPad

### Student Handbook

Refer to: [BSN Handbook 2019-2020](#)

## Grading

Table 1: Percent allocated to each assignment. Follow instructions listed under Course Schedule.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Exams (Four at 18% each)	72%
Concept analysis (1 <sup>st</sup> submission)	3%
Concept analysis (2 <sup>nd</sup> submission)	3%
Concept analysis (3 <sup>rd</sup> submission)	3%
Concept analysis (4 <sup>th</sup> submission)	9%
Course activity points	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2: Grading scale. The exam average as well as the course average of at least 74% is required to successfully complete this course. If a student does not earn at least 74% exam average, no other grades will be averaged into the course grade, and the student will receive the exam average grade. For example, if a student has a 73.99% exam average, the student will receive a D for the course.

Grade	Percent
A	90-10
B	80-89
C	74-79
D	65-73
F	Less than 64

## Exams

Four exams will be administered using Examplify from Examsoft. The student is required to bring their laptop computer or iPad with them to class. The exams will reflect content from in-class discussions, case studies, and assigned readings, and each will have 5 dosage/clinical math calculations.

All exams are comprehensive.

If a student is to be absent from an exam, there will be a make-up exam during the last week of classes.

Strength and improvement reports on items missed will be supplied following the posting of grades.

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor if need assistance with improving performance.

Exams are individual assignments, not group ones.

### Exam Administration Instructions

1. Answer each of the 50 questions.
2. You have 90 minutes to complete the exam.
3. The exam will timeout after 90 minutes.
4. Using resources other than your own memory will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
5. Taking exam questions from the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.
6. Presence of a device capable of making a call, texting, or recording either text or voice in the classroom during the testing period will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam whether the device was on or off and whether you had submitted the exam.
7. Grades will be sent with rationales for the questions missed after item analysis has been performed.
8. Upload the exam prior to leaving the classroom.
9. Close your computer prior to leaving the classroom.
10. Failure to return the scrap paper with your name on it prior to leaving the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and result in an automatic zero on the exam.

### Assignments

*Concept Analysis Submissions:* The purpose of this assignment is to complete a case study in which the student develops, prioritizes and applies appropriate nursing care. The student will then perform a literature review to discuss the importance and rationale behind nursing interventions for the chosen priority patient problem. Please see the assignment attachment and the rubric in D2L for further instructions. This is an individual assignment, not a group one.

#### *Course activity points:*

1. Throughout the semester, course activity points are offered. Students who complete the assignments when offered, earn the points.

2. There are no make-up assignments for course activities.
3. The average of the points will be used as the course activities grade in the calculation of the grade after a 74% exam average is obtained on the four objective exams.

#### Late Work

Assignments posted at midnight on the due date will be considered late and receive a 5-point reduction for each day at midnight the assignment is not posted. Students may arrange an extension with the instructor before the due date under extenuating circumstances.

#### University

##### Policies 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 <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

##### Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

This course adheres 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.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of many resources available including online Desire 2 Learn course resources, Internet sites, other textbooks and journals, faculty, and peers when accomplishing objectives. This interactive collegial learning environment is conducive for life-long learning.

However, all components of the course are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually or each group of students individually when completing a group project and are not to be shared, copied, or plagiarized from other sources. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are

attesting they abided by this rule.

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, collusion, plagiarism or the acquisition of tests or test questions and other academic materials such as test banks without the permission of the faculty. Cheating, collusion, or plagiarism is defined as: (1) cheating - intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, equipment, or study aids in any academic exercise; (2) collusion - the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit; (3) plagiarism - intentionally representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Academic dishonesty (cheating, collusion, 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 or she should ask the instructor for clarification.

Any student found to be academically dishonest as defined above and under each assignment will automatically receive a grade of "0" on the assignment.

#### Instructor Drop

An instructor may drop a student at any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the students a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the 8th week of a long 45 hours semester, the 6th week of a 10 week summer term, or the 11th class day of a 4 or 5 week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these

periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar is the official drop date. Refer to <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/assets/files/handbook.pdf>.

#### Campus 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 as 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 Policy

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 [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). 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."](#)

#### 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.

#### Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

#### Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.