



HHPA 259.01E: Lower Extremity Injury Assessment

Fall 2025

TR 12:30-1:45p; NHS 162

Instructor: Dr. Sarah M. Mitchell, PhD, ATC, LAT

Office Location: Nursing & Health Sciences #116

Office Hours: By Appointment, TR 9a-12p, or Virtual

Office Phone: (903) 886-5543

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Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

Starkey, C., Long, B., & Cavallario, J. Evaluation of Orthopedic and Athletic Injuries, 5th ed. F.A. Davis, 2023. ISBN-13: 978-0-8036-9015-8

Course Description

A study of the knowledge, skills and values an athletic trainer must possess to assess and evaluate injured athletes and other physically active individuals. Content areas to include: pathology, on and off-field assessment procedures for the head, neck, spine, shoulder, elbow, forearm, hand, and wrist.

Prerequisites: Prerequisites: BSC 251 with a minimum grade of C or BSC 2401 with a minimum grade of C or instructor approval.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the functional anatomy of the lower extremity.
2. Differentiate the signs, symptoms, and mechanisms of injuries to identify the appropriate special tests to perform in a foot, ankle, lower leg, knee, hip, thigh, or lower extremity injury evaluation
3. Develop a differential diagnosis based on the results of a thorough injury evaluation.
4. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately document a lower extremity injury evaluation in the form of a SOAP note.
5. Critically think and problem solve regarding the techniques for evaluation, assessment, and management of lower extremity injuries.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must have working knowledge of and know how to use the MyLeo Online: D2L Brightspace learning management system, and Microsoft Word/Excel/PowerPoint. Students must utilize their University assigned email (Leo mail) for all course communications. All email communication from the instructor will be sent to the student's Leo mail.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students can expect to do well in this course when they attend class on-time, complete all assignments/quizzes/exams, participate in discussions, and seek assistance when they do not understand course material. Students should also utilize the course resources provided through D2L, such as, course lecture notes, assignments, and course information. This course will require using D2L. It is the students responsibly to have internet access, check this site frequently, and become familiar with how it works.

Grading

Each assignment will be worth a pre-determined amount of points. Upon the completion of the course, grades will be calculated by adding up the total number of points each student has earned and dividing it by the total amount of points available in the course. This will produce a percentage of points earned (Ex. Student earned 850 points out a possible 1000 in the course: $850/1000 = 85\%$ "B"). Grades will be assigned based upon the percentages below.

Online Quizzes & Discussions: 150 pts	Grading Scale:
Exams: 4 @ 100 pts each = 400 pts	A = 90-100%
In-Class Assignments: 100 pts	B = 80-89%
Article Reviews: 5 @ 50 pts = 250 pts	C = 70-79%
Total Points = 900	D = 60-69%
	F = 0-50

Students are expected to earn points toward their final grade during the course of the semester with the assignments and tests that are scheduled. Extra Credit Assignments WILL NOT be given at the end of the semester. All students are graded based on the exact same criteria and no exceptions will be made for individual assignments, tests, or final point values.

Students will receive back all graded assignments in a timely manner (typically within 1 week of the due date). Students are encouraged to keep all graded assignments as well as keep up with their grades throughout the semester. Any questions or concerns about assignments/grades should be brought to the instructor's attention immediately (i.e. Do not wait until the end of the semester)

ASSESSMENTS

In-Class Assignments

In-class assignments will be given often and unannounced throughout the semester over the reading assignments or material covered in previous lectures. In-class assignments will not be allowed for make-up, unless the absence is excused.

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Online Quizzes & Discussions

Quizzes may be short answer, multiple choice, true/false, listing, etc, and will be online on D2L each week. Some chapters will have an assigned discussion to complete in D2L. Quizzes and discussion will be due Friday at 11:59p each week. Quizzes and discussions must be completed during the specified dates each week. Make-ups will not be allowed.

Article Reviews

Students will find peer-reviewed journal articles that are related to the course topics and will summarize the articles. More information will be given when assignments are made and will be posted on D2L. All assignments are due at 11:59p on the due date to receive credit; this includes assignments that are due when a student misses class.

Exams

Four written exams will be given. The format shall include any of the following: short answer, essay, fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false, and/or listing type questions. Final Exam WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE!!! A blue scantron and pencil will be required for all exams. All exams will be given in-class on the date listed in the schedule. No make-up exams will be allowed unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Under certain circumstances (situations out of your control), make-ups will be allowed at the instructor's discretion. Students are required to contact the instructor ASAP if they happen to miss an exam, and will be need to provide written documentation.

Late Work

All assignments are due as assigned and must be turned in on or before the due date to receive full credit. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive zero (0) points. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates as the dates are included on the course schedule and posted on D2L.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Email is the best way to contact the instructor if you need assistance with any aspect of the course. Instructor will typically respond to emails within 24 hours (except on weekends). Students are also welcome to utilize instructor's office hours if they prefer a face to face conversation.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance

Class attendance is **required**. Excused absences include university approved absences or those that I receive appropriate notification of (i.e. sudden/serious illness, death to immediate family member, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates as the dates are posted on D2L. In the case of missing deadlines due to unavoidable or emergency situations, or illness (including Covid), the student must promptly notify the instructor via email explaining the circumstances. Prompt notification (within three days) is required to have an absence excused; additionally, written documentation may be required to have the absence excused. Assignment deadlines may be modified for students with excused absences. Technical and/or computer problems associated with D2L are not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment late. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED.**

This class has an "experiential learning" component (IPE Simulation) that will require attendance and travel outside of class. For these activities/session, attendance is required as grade is contingent on participation. Those dates are clearly outlined in the syllabus schedule. IPE simulation is November 15th and any changes to the scheduled date will be provided in class and in D2L.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Students are expected to prepare for, participate in, and attend each scheduled class. Failure to do so may/will lead to a decline in the student's overall grade. In order to succeed in this class, students should read each chapter prior to beginning that section in the course. Forming study groups to prepare for class and tests will also greatly benefit students throughout the semester. Students are also expected to behave appropriately in class and avoid being a distraction to their fellow students and the instructor. Appropriate behavior involves paying attention, actively participating, and following instructions. Cell phones (including text messaging), music, inappropriate language/gestures, and any other behavior determined to be a distraction will not be tolerated. Students who are considered to be a disturbance in class will be asked to leave.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

All work submitted for this course must be your own work, must have been developed specifically for this course, and may not have been submitted for evaluation or assessment in any other course.

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AI Tools

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Like an encyclopedia or a dictionary or Wikipedia, AI tools can be used to begin the process of writing; in other words, it is a tool for preliminary research, not a reliable source. Preliminary research assists writers in learning the basics about a topic so that they can research the specifics using credible, academic sources which can be cited in the assignment. Thus, AI is used to generate ideas in the same way that a brainstorm or a Freewrite is used in the prewriting stage of the writing process. While no one would drop a brainstorm into a formal document, the ideas that are generated from the brainstorm can be developed as part of a writing assignment. The same is true of AI. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**, Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#)

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document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



Assumption of Risk

I hereby waive any claim I may have as a result of my participation in the above mentioned course. I hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State of Texas, the Texas A&M University System, East Texas A&M University, and the Department of Health and Human Performance, and all of the officers, trustees, directors, agents, representatives, and employees of the foregoing entities against any and all claims, including attorneys' fees and costs, which may be brought against any of them by anyone claiming to have been injured as a result of my participation in the this course.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

		Class Lecture	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due Thursday 11:59p each week
8/26	Tues	Course Intro & Syllabus		
8/28	Thurs	Foundations of Examination	Ch 1	
9/2	Tues	Injury Pathology Nomenclature	Ch 4	Intro Discussion
9/4	Thurs	Musculoskeletal Diagnostic Techniques	Ch 5	Online Quiz
9/9	Tues	Examination/Management of Acute Conditions	Ch 2	
9/11	Thurs	Evidence-Based Practice in the Diagnostic Process	Ch 3	Online Quiz
9/16	Tues	Exam #1 (Chapters 1-5)		
9/18	Thurs	Foot & Toe Pathologies	Ch 8	
9/23	Tues	Foot & Toe Pathologies	Ch 8	Article: Foot/Toes
9/25	Thurs	Ankle & Lower Leg Pathologies	Ch 9	Online Quiz
9/30	Tues	Ankle & Lower Leg Pathologies	Ch 9	Article: Ankle/Lower Leg
10/2	Thurs	Ankle & Lower Leg Pathologies	Ch 9	Online Quiz
10/7	Tues	Exam #2 (Chapters 8-9)		
10/9	Thurs	Knee Pathologies	Ch 10	Online Quiz
10/14	Tues	Knee Pathologies	Ch 10	
10/16	Thurs	Knee Pathologies	Ch 10	Online Quiz
10/21	Tues	Patellafemoral Pathologies	Ch 11	
10/23	Thurs	Patellafemoral Pathologies	Ch 11	Online Quiz
10/28	Tues	Patellafemoral Pathologies	Ch 11	Article: Knee/Patellafemoral
10/30	Thurs	Pelvis & Thigh Pathologies	Ch 12	Online Quiz
11/4	Tues	Pelvis & Thigh Pathologies	Ch 12	
11/6	Thurs	Exam #3 (Chapters 10-12)		
11/11	Tues	Lumbosacral Pathologies	Ch 13	Article: Pelvis/thigh
11/13	Thurs	Lumbosacral Pathologies	Ch 13	Online Quiz
11/18	Tues	Assessment of Posture	Ch 6	
11/20	Thurs	Assessment of Posture	Ch 6	Online Quiz
11/25	Tues	Assessment of Posture	Ch 6	Article: Lumbosacral OR Posture/Gait assessment
11/27	Thurs	Thanksgiving - No Class		Online Quiz
12/2	Tues	Evaluation of Gait	Ch 7	
12/4	Thurs	Evaluation of Gait	Ch 7	
12/9	Tues	Final Exam Week - See Final Exam Schedule for more info		

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