NURS 4560 01B RURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

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Communication Response Time: Email: 1-2 business days

Clinical Instructor: Dr. Jere Hammer, PhD, RN, CCN
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Office Hours:
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Preferred Form of Communication: Email; Text for clinical check in/out.
Communication Response Time: Email: 1-2 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
Explores rural community health nursing, focusing on historical development, philosophy, health care systems, epidemiology, individuals, families, and specific aggregate groups. Applies theoretical and empirical knowledge in using the nursing process in rural community settings to promote, maintain and restore health. Focuses on trans-cultural nursing concepts, rural, and home health care delivery. Diverse roles of the community and public health nurse are examined, and a rural community assessment is completed using research and data processing skills.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine the development and role of public health, rural health, community health, community-based nursing, social determinants of health, and the transformation of the health care system domestically and globally. (PLO 2, 6; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3.1 (a, c, d, e); 3.3 (b); 3.4 (e); 3.5 (c), 4, 5, 7; BON DECS: IV. A).
2. Apply ethical theories, principles, laws, and government regulations inherent in the core functions of population and community health nursing practice (PLO 1, 2, 6; AACN Essentials: 3.1 (c, h, i); 3.5 (c), 4, 9; BON DECS: III. A).

3. Analyze relationships between epidemiological principles and levels of prevention in the practice of population and community health nursing. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 6; AACN Essentials Domains 3.1(b, c, e,); 3.3 (b), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; BON DEC: IV A, B, G).
4. Evaluate the impact of primary health care, health promotion and disease prevention, social determinants of health, and community resources on the health needs of individuals, families, aggregates, communities and cities (PLO 1, 2, 3, AACN Essentials Domains 2, 3.1(a, b, c, e); 3.2(a, d, e); BON DECS: IV B, C, G).
5. Collaborate with community organizations to identify the role of the community health nurse in addressing basic needs, preparing for, and responding to simulated disasters and threats to the health and welfare of the community members. (PLO 1, 2, 4, 6; AACN Essentials Domains 3.2 (a, h); 3.6 (a, b, c, d, e), 6; BON DECS: IV G)

Required Learning Materials
ATI Engage Community Health (provided with product sign-up)
OpenStax Population Health for Nurses https://openstax.org/books/population-health/
Online resources/articles as directed in LMS

Recommended Learning Materials
Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab):
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html
American Psychological Association: https://apastyle.apa.org/

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed
Students must have an adequate working knowledge of the learning management system, Leomail, Microsoft Office Suite, Examplify, ProjectConcert, and ATI online products.

Instructional Methods
Teaching methods include lecture, seminar, discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer-assisted instruction, audio-visual aids, student presentations, and assignments. While the faculty will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation, and demonstration of course objectives.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course
- Logging into the course website and email regularly for faculty communication (especially the night before class/clinical)
- Updating semester calendar with communicated changes
- Regular study (recommend a minimum 2-3 hours study/course credit hour per week). For example: 3-credit course = 6 to 9 hours study time/week.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- Attendance at all class meetings, clinical, seminars and simulations
- Review and remediation of examinations.

Grading
Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:
A = 90%-100%   B = 80%-89%   C = 75%-79%   D = 60%-74%   F = Below 60%

A minimum grade of 75% is required to pass the course. The average of the 3 course exam grades (Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3) MUST be 75% or greater before ANY other course assignment grades are averaged to compose the final grade. If the exam average is below 75%, the student will receive the grade of "D or F" for the course regardless of any other grade(s).

Course Evaluation Methods		
Assessment	**% Grade**	**Student Learning Outcomes**
Class		
• Exams:	(40%)	1,2,3,4,5
o Exam I	10%	1,2,4
o Exam II	15%	1,3,4,5
o Final Exam (group exam)	15%	1,2,3,4,5
• Movie Analysis	20%	1,2,4,5
• ATI Community Health Content Mastery Total Score (ATI Practice & Proctored Exams and Remediation)	10%	1,2,3,4,5
• Community Assessment Presentation (Group Project)	30%	1,2,3,4,5
• **Total**	**100%**	
Clinical	**Pass/Fail**	
Community Assessment	14	hours
• Simulations (3)	15	hours	1,2,3,4,5
• Health Department Services	16	hours	1,2,5
• School Health	7	hours	1,2,3,4,5
• Food Pantry Volunteer	4	hours	1,2,3,4,5
• Health Fair	4	hours	1,2,3,4,5
• Integrated Capstone Experience	30	hours	1,2,3,4,5
• **Total**	**90**	**hours**	1,2,4

The clinical component is PASS/FAIL and must be passed in order to pass the course. To receive a passing grade in clinical you must achieve 75% or better on each of the clinical assignments and receive a satisfactory clinical evaluation. You may redo any assignments that are less than 75% one time but 75% is the maximum grade you will receive for the redone assignment.

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Clinical is graded Pass/Fail. If the student fails the clinical component, the entire course must be repeated.

Assessment Descriptions

Class Assessments
The due dates are noted on the Course Calendar. Assessments are to be submitted to D2L. The rubrics for assessments are located within this Course Syllabus.

- **Exams:**
  Three (3) instructor-developed exams are scheduled. The third exam includes comprehensive questions and a group component. These exams are taken online in class and are timed. See the course schedule for the date, time, and content of each exam.

- **ATI Content Mastery Examination Total Score (Assessments, Focused Review, and Proctored Exam):**
  The procedure for the ATI Assessments and Proctored Exam follows the ***BSN Standardized Assessment Examination Policy*** available in D2L.

- **Movie Analysis:**
  Students will watch a documentary (available through the library link in D2L) and review the different types of nursing in the community. Students will then answer questions and submit via the course D2L.

- **Community Assessment Presentation:**
  The purpose of this assignment is for students to work as a group to provide a comprehensive report reflecting theoretical study and practical analysis of the health of a designated community population.

  Conduct a windshield survey and observe a variety of community members in various locations. Make a video of the community windshield survey to include in the presentation. Gather data by conducting informant interviews of at least ten (10) key individuals in the community (health care providers, religious leaders, educators/teachers, and principals, elected officials such as the mayor and city council members, fire fighters, EMT/Paramedics, police, and business owners) and at least ten (10) local residents who are not considered key individuals. Identify the top three (3) health concerns using epidemiological data (TDSHS, CDC, etc.) and create a plan to address these health concerns. Create an infographic for one of the identified health topics. Students do not need to wear the uniform when completing the assessment activities, but the student ID badge should be available, in case of concerns, for these interviews.

  Group and city assignments will be discussed the first day of class and posted in the course. **Only one group member is to submit the presentation**. Students

should use the Community Assessment Presentation Grading Rubric in D2L as a guide for completion of the assignment.

Clinical Assessments

- **Clinical Logs:**
  The purpose of this assignment is to document weekly clinical hours. The log should include hours spent at assigned facilities, and the hours spent on the group assignments such as researching, group meetings, interviews, etc. Hours reflected on the log need to be signature verified by individuals at the facilities or by those being interviewed, so a copy of the log should be available for all clinical assignments. For each entry, indicate the clinical outcomes(s) you have met with the activity by number and provide a one to two sentence key takeaway from the activity. Each week the student should be adding hours to the previous log and keeping a **cumulative** total of hours. Upload the updated document weekly and upload the document on D2L monthly. By the end of this course, the final clinical log will indicate all the experiences and assignments you completed during the semester and should total at least 90 hours

- **Clinical Evaluation**
  The purpose of this assignment is for students and instructors to assess individual clinical performance over the course of the semester. The overall evaluation of your clinical performance must be satisfactory.

General Information for Clinical Experiences

The clinical component is PASS/FAIL. Students are required to accumulate a **minimum** of 90 hours of clinical practice throughout the semester.

Students must wear a uniform and ID badge and adhere to the dress code of East Texas A&M University Nursing for experiences at agencies/facilities unless otherwise instructed by faculty. Students should arrive on time. Faculty will visit students at clinical sites throughout the semester and consult with you and clinical staff regarding activities, appearance, and behaviors.

At all sites, students must adhere to the expected clinical behaviors. See the BSN Student Guide for more information.

Bring your individual skills checklist to every clinical experience. Nurses with whom you work will need it to document your skills in the clinical area.

If the clinical site completes work early, students must contact their clinical instructor and receive a response **before** leaving. The first time you contact any instructor, identify yourself in the text. If you do not receive a response to your text after 20 minutes, text the Course Coordinator.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Students are NOT allowed to ride in the vehicles of any facility staff member nor are they to provide a ride to any facility staff.

Students who must miss clinical for any reason should notify their clinical faculty and assigned clinical site (contact numbers are in the clinical site list) **prior** to the start time of the clinical day. Any missed clinical day/time will have to be made up.

All students are expected to manage their complex schedules and attend clinical activities as scheduled. Students are expected to plan and have the address and information regarding clinical sites ready the day prior to clinical. Students should come to clinical knowing which objectives are the focus of the activities.

Students must also adhere to the expected clinical behaviors. Any instance of violation of any of the objectives listed in the Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form may result in clinical suspension, receipt of a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation form, failure of clinical, failure of the course, and/or removal from the nursing program. (See **BSN Student Guidebook** for more information.)

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Assignment Submissions
All class and clinical assignments must be submitted on time. If an extension is needed, students must request the extension <u>before</u> the posted due date/time. An assignment extension request will be approved or denied at the discretion of the course coordinator.

Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 10% per day for each of the first two days overdue; on the third day, the grade will be assigned as 0%. Communication on these matters is the student's responsibility. Multiple instances of late clinical assignments will result in receipt of a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form and, possibly, failure of clinical/course.

All documents submitted online are to be in .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format. No other formats will be accepted (JPEG, GIF, etc.). Assignments need to be submitted in a maximum of one document per assignment. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a grade of "0" on the assignment.

BSN Program Student Guidebook
Specific information regarding the nursing program and current policies and procedures can be found in the current BSN Program Student Guidebook located in the Nursing Success Course in the LMS.

Students are responsible for reviewing, understanding, and complying with the policies and procedures provided in the student guidebook.

Classroom Policies

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

1. Class Cancellation: If a class is canceled, the student is expected to do the readings and complete the objectives for that day. The content will still be included on examinations. The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change.
2. Class attendance is expected. The students should notify course coordinator in advance of any absence.
3. Exam dates are listed in each course syllabus, and the student is expected to be present for exams. If the student will be absent, the course coordinator must be notified in advance. Failure to do so may result in the student receiving a zero for the missed exam or quiz. Review the BSN Student Guide for the exam absence process.
4. As an adult learner and responsible professional, the student is responsible for reading and completing assignments prior to class and for being prepared to participate in discussions over the assigned material. It should not be expected that all material would be covered in class. Students are expected to come to class prepared.

Clinical Policies

1. Clinical attendance is mandatory. Refer to the BSN Program Student Guidebook for clinical attendance policy information. Violation**s** of the clinical attendance policy may result in the student receiving a Student Performance and Behaviors Evaluation Form and may lead to failure of the clinical portion of the course.
2. Immunizations, CPR, and TB status must be current for students to be able to attend clinical experiences at the assigned clinical location. Suspension from clinical for failure to maintain required immunizations will be considered an absence.
3. Students are expected to meet clinical expectations outlined in the clinical evaluation tool.
4. Based on student learning needs, the faculty will determine the appropriate amount of time and clinical assignments needed to assess student growth.
5. Faculty may require additional assignments and clinical work to ensure students have met clinical objectives. Students are expected to comply with any additional assignments or clinical hours assigned.
6. Students are expected to prepare for clinical practice in order to provide safe, competent care.
7. Clinical assignments must be completed on time and submitted to the clinical instructor as directed. No exceptions will be given without prior permission from the instructor.

Group Work
All members of the group will receive the same grade on any group work. However, a student can be removed from his/her team if the other students in the group come to the instructor and report that a student is not doing his/her fair share of the work. If that happens, the instructor will notify the student in writing. The student will then be

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responsible for doing the assignment on his/her own. It is expected that the group will make the attempt to resolve the situation within the group before instructor intervention.

Standardized Exams
ETAMU School of Nursing utilizes Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) content mastery practice assessments and content mastery proctored assessments to guide and assess mastery of nursing content necessary for entry into practice. Specific ATI assessment and grading guidelines are outlined in the document entitled "ATI Content Mastery Series (CMS) Assessment Grading Rubric" in the LMS module folder entitled ATI Assessment Grading Rubric".

Syllabus Change Policy
The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may cause the instructor(s) to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements
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@tamuc.edu.

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.

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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

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.as px

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

ETAMU Attendance
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage.

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

Graduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

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:

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Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm
162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

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 document and/or consult your event organizer.
Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M- Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

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-

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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.

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

The East Texas A&M University School of Nursing has full approval by the [Texas Board of Nursing](#).

Texas Board of Nursing
1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200
Austin, TX 78701
P: (512) 305-7400; F: (512) 305-7401
webmaster@bon.texas.gov

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing and the master's degree program in nursing at East Texas A&M University are accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#).

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
655 K Street NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001
202.887.6791

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Course Outline

WEEK/ Module	CLASS DATE	CONTENT	READING OpenStax (OS)	ASSIGNMENTS	CLINICAL 90 hours minimum
1	1/12	Orientation Introduction to Population and Community Health Intro to CH Case Study	OS Chap 1, 2		
2	1/19	MLK Day	OS Chap 3, 4	Movie Assignment Due 1/25 @ 2359	
3	1/26	Social Determinants and Health Disparities	OS Chap 8, 9		
4	2/2	Public Health Principles and the Nursing Process Windshield Surveys	OS Chap 16, 17		
5	2/9	Disease Prevention, Health Education, and Implementing the Nursing Process	OS Chap 18, 19, 20		
6	2/16	Socio-Ecological Perspectives and Evidence-Based Decision Making	OS Chap 10, 11	Exam 1	2/18- Poverty Simulation (Ben E. Keith)
7	2/23	Epidemiology and Pandemics and Infectious Disease Outbreaks	OS Chap 12, 13		
8	3/2	Environmental Health and Health Promotion	OS Chap 14, 15	ATI-Practice A (at home) ATI Practice A Focused Review due 3/15 @ 2359	
9	3/9	SPRING BREAK			
10	3/16	Transcultural Nursing	OS Chap 21, 22		
10	3/23	Care in Crisis and Disaster Management Mass Casualty Prep	OS Chap 31, 32	Exam 2	3/25- Mass Casualty Simulation (Cain Sports Complex)
DROP (SINGLE COURSE) DATE 03/27/2026 BY 5 PM					
11	3/30	Vulnerable Populations and Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	OS Chap 26, 27		
12	4/6	Caring for Families and Care Across Practice Settings	OS Chap 28, 29	ATI Practice B (at home) ATI-Practice B Focused Review due 4/12 @ 2359	4/8- Health Fair (RSC) @1100-1400
13	4/13	Advocating for Population Health and Policy	OS Chap 7, 33		4/15- Home Health Simulation @0800
WITHDRAW (ALL ENROLLED COURSES) DATE 04/16/2025 BY 5 PM					
14	4/20	Policy Development and Leading the Way to Improving Population Health	OS Chap 34, 35	Community Assessment Presentations Due 4/23 @ 2359 ATI Proctored Content Mastery Exam (in class) ATI- Proctored Exam Focused Review due 4/26 @2359	4/24-Community Assessment Presentations (261) @0800
15	4/27	ATI Live Review (No class) Final Exam Review			5/3- Clinical Evaluations Due @2359
16	5/4	Finals Week		Exam 3 (5/4 @0800)	

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WEEK/ Module	CLASS DATE	CONTENT	READING OpenStax (OS)	ASSIGNMENTS	CLINICAL 90 hours minimum
				ATI CM Retake (if needed)	Pinning Ceremony

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