



SCHOOL OF  
**Nursing and  
Health Sciences**

**EAST TEXAS A&M**

**NURS 3531, Section 01E- Nursing for Childbearing Families**  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Crystal Brakefield MSN, RNC-OB (Course Coordinator)  
**Office Location:** Nursing & Health Sciences Building, #233  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 1000-1200, Wednesdays 1000-1300 or by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5315  
**Office Fax:** 903-886-5729  
**University Email Address:** [crystal.brakefield@etamu.edu](mailto:crystal.brakefield@etamu.edu)  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email  
**Communication Response Time:** Two business days

**Instructor:** Columbia Mitchell  
**Office Location:** Nursing Department  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-886-5315  
**Office Fax:** 903-886-5729  
**University Email Address:** [Columbia.mitchell@etamu.edu](mailto:Columbia.mitchell@etamu.edu)  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email Communication  
**Communication Response Time:** 2 business days

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook(s) Required:**

Perry, S., Cashion, K., Alden, K., Olshansky, E., Lowdermilk, D., & Hockenberry, M.  
(2023). *Maternal Child Nursing Care* (7th ed.) Elsevier, (ISBN 9780323776714).

*ATI RN Maternal Newborn Nursing* (12th ed.) Assessment Technologies Institute, LLC.

**Software Required:**

Assessment Technologies Institute, LLC (2024): <https://www.atitesting.com/login>

Swift River: <https://www.swiftriveronline.com>

**Optional Texts and/or Materials:**

All previous and concurrent nursing course textbooks and materials.

### **Course Description**

Integrates nursing and developmental theories to address the holistic care of childbearing families from newborn through adult. Covers biopsychosocial, legal/ethical, cultural, and educational aspects of pregnancy, birth and newborn care. Spans diverse communities and acute care settings. Focuses on theory application and fostering interprofessional relationships through therapeutic communication and self-reflection for a supportive work environment. Emphasizes the nursing process and clinical judgment model, grounded in theoretical and empirical foundations. (8 credit hours).

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze influences on family-centered healthcare delivery, including legal, cultural, ethical, economic, historical, and political factors, while collaborating with the healthcare team and families to ensure quality, efficient, and ethical nursing care.  
(PLO 1, 3, 4; AACN Essentials 1, 3, 6)
2. Utilize the clinical judgment model, and safety principles to derive nursing diagnoses based on physiological, psychological, social, and cultural data.  
(PLO 1, 3, 6; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 9)
3. Utilize relevant evidence-based research to formulate care plans for childbearing families and evaluate outcomes.  
(PLO 2, 6; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)
4. Demonstrate professionalism by upholding accountability, ethical standards, and respect for self and others, while also promoting a culture of safety for patients, families, and staff through awareness of safety factors and the nurse's role in fostering a safe environment.  
(PLO 5; AACN Essentials 2, 5, 9, 10)
5. Analyze concepts of cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and respect for persons, honesty and integrity when working with newborns and their families and analyze the legal and ethical issues related to those.  
(PLO 1, 2, 3, 5; AACN Essential 9)
6. Demonstrate effective communication with individuals, families, and interdisciplinary healthcare team members, utilizing diverse modalities as necessary to promote optimum well-being.  
(PLO 1,4; AACN Essentials 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9)
7. Perform safe and caring nursing interventions in maternal/newborn care, that includes incorporating knowledge of medications and addressing moral, legal, and ethical considerations.  
(PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 6; AACN Essentials 2, 6, 8, 9).
8. Apply principles of health promotion and prevention across the lifespan to develop action plans to meet the healthcare needs of rural communities.  
(PLO 1, 2, 3, 6; AACN Essentials 2, 3, 10).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Students must have an adequate working knowledge of the learning management system, Leomail, Microsoft Office Suite, Exemplify, ProjectConcert, and ATI online products.

### Instructional Methods:

This is a blended course requiring students to complete reading assignments, online activities, and independent study to be successful. Course objectives may be met through individual study using suggested resources, active involvement in classroom activities, formal, and informal exchange of ideas with classmates and colleagues regarding specific topics as well as utilizing critical thinking skills.

Teaching methods include lectures, seminars, discussions, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer-assisted instruction, audio-visual aids, and assignments. While the professors 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 and 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 of 2-3 hours study per course credit hour per week). For example: 3-credit course = 6 to 9 hours study time per week.
- Attendance at all class meetings, clinical, seminars, and simulations.
- Review and remediation of examinations.
- Being prepared for class before entering the classroom

### 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 exams (1, 2, 3 & final) MUST be 75% or greater before ANY other course 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).**

Assessments	% Weight	SLO
<b>Class</b>		
• Exams		
○ Module Exams (3)	30%	1-8
○ Final Exam	10%	1-8
• ATI CMS Assessment	10%	1-8
• Weekly Assignments	35%	1-8
• Group Ethics Presentation	15%	1-5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Clinical</b>	<b>PASS/FAIL</b>	
• Clinical - Direct Patient Care	39 hours	1-8
• Clinical Simulations	19 hours	1-8
• “Aftershock” documentary assignment	2 hours	1,5,8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60 hours</b>	

**The clinical component of the course is graded as PASS/FAIL. This includes supervised inpatient care hours, observation hours, simulation, and other assignments.**

**Failure of the clinical portion results in failure of the course.** Clinical assignments must achieve a grade of 75% or higher. This includes all assignments listed under the clinical portion of the grade assessment. If an assignment falls below 75%, the student will be given one opportunity to make corrections and resubmit. The grade for the redone assignment will not exceed 75%.

### Assessment Descriptions

#### Classroom Assessments

- **Exams:**
  - There are four proctored exams, which include a comprehensive final exam designed to assess student knowledge, skills, and attitudes about the course content.
  - The course outline/calendar identifies exam dates and applicable content. The questions will be in multiple formats, which could include multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, short answer, etc. This will also include math dosage calculation questions.
  - Exams will include 50-60 questions on regular exams and up to 100 questions for the final exam.
  - The score is based on the number of test items answered correctly.
  - All students are welcome to review their exam with either the instructor or the Success Coach. It is the student’s responsibility to contact their course faculty or the Student Success Coach to set up an appointment to review

*The syllabus/calendar are subject to change*

the exam. The current exam must be reviewed before the next scheduled exam. Only the most current exam may be reviewed. Do not wait until the last minute to request a review.

- Successful completion of the examinations and other required assignments will enable the student to meet the student learning outcomes.
- **ATI CMS Assessments:**
  - Two practice assessments (A & B) will be completed prior to the in-class, ATI proctored assessment.
  - Focused reviews at the end of each assessment identify the priority remediation areas and engage the student in an interactive review designed to close knowledge gaps in preparation for the NCLEX-RN®.
  - Specific ATI assessment and grading guidelines are outlined in the document entitled “ATI Subject Examination Scoring Rubric” in the Resources folder in D2L.
- **Ethical Issues Group Paper and Slide Presentation**
  - Students will complete a group paper and slide presentation covering a maternal or newborn ethical issue.
  - This project encourages students to explore the pros and cons of certain ethical dilemmas involving maternal/paternal, fetal, or newborn clients.
  - Both points of view must be presented and based on evidence found in the literature (must be peer reviewed and have been published in the last five years).
  - Groups will be assigned by faculty.
  - A peer evaluation is included in the grading of this assignment.
    - Students may lose points if their peers deem that they have not been active participants.
    - If a student is not participating with their group, the group should notify the Course Coordinator as soon as possible, when they will be given suggestions on how to handle the issues.
    - If the problem is not resolved within the week, the student will be removed from the group, notified in writing, and will be required to do the project on their own with a new ethical dilemma.
    - Participation will be assessed by each group member and is included in the grading rubric for this project.
  - This assignment is broken into three segments to be submitted to D2L:
    - Outline of who is doing what per the rubric
    - Copies of the full-text articles and a complete reference page.
    - Paper and slides
  - **This is a professional presentation and professional dress is required.**
  - The individual grade is based on the group grade with adjusted individual participation score. See the assignment rubric in D2L.

- **Weekly Activities and ATI Assignments:**
  - The ATI assignments facilitate student preparation for application-level learning during class. Students are expected to complete each assignment with a post test score of at least 80%, or “satisfactory”. If a post test score is below 80% or “satisfactory”, the student will remediate the lesson content and repeat the test until the minimum score is achieved. Credit will not be awarded unless this benchmark is achieved.
  - Students will complete activities as assigned in the course throughout the semester. These assignments will be posted in the weekly content modules in D2L.
  - **If a weekly assignment is not posted by the due date, the student will lose 10% per day for the first two days overdue: on the third day, the grade will be assigned as 0%.**

### Clinical Assessments

- **Clinical Simulation**
  - Students will participate in simulation experiences in the skills lab and Simulation Hospital. Students will be exposed to clients in the simulation to improve their familiarity and comfort with varying clinical situations.
  - There will be three simulations in the clinical portion of this class. One on fetal distress due to maternal hypotension, one on preeclampsia with severe features, and on postpartum hemorrhage. These are formative or “learning” simulations with observation by your class and/or clinical faculty. Pre-work for these simulations may be assigned, and the completed paperwork will be required as your ticket to enter.
  - Students will be required to participate individually or in a group and should treat these experiences as if they were taking care of an actual patient.
  - The students will be observed for patient safety, knowledge, skills, communication, and critical thinking. Students will have the opportunity to debrief with faculty after the simulation and identify strengths and areas of improvement.
  
- **Dosage Calculations Quiz Practice**
  - Dosage calculation practice allows students to review before taking the dosage calculation quiz and course exams.
  - Refer to the dosage calculation policy in the BSN Guidebook.
  - **THE DOSAGE CALCULATION EXAM WILL BE GIVEN THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS, WITH RETEST ON FRIDAY AS NEEDED**
  
- **Documentaries and Video:**
  - The purpose of the documentary is to explore the different emotions and challenges that come with maternal health inequity. Reflection questions are provided for you to answer after watching the documentary. This is included as part of your clinical hours.

## **COURSE SPECIFIC POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

### **Assignment Submissions:**

All class and clinical assignments must be submitted on time. If an extension is needed, students must request the extension before 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**

1. Class Cancellation: In the event that 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. In the event that 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.

*The syllabus/calendar are subject to change*

**Clinical Policies**

1. Clinical attendance is mandatory. Refer to the BSN Program Student Guidebook for clinical attendance policy information. Violations 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 the 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, with adjustments made based on peer review. 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 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:** (if applicable)

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.

**UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

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## Technology Requirements

- **LMS**

- All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce 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](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@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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, an 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 at <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>.

## Interaction with Instructor Statement

You are expected to check your D2L course and email regularly for communication from the instructor(s). Be sure to check the night before class/clinical. A response to any email or message will occur within two (2) business days.

Communication between faculty and students is vital and taken seriously. Preferred communication methods are individualized office hours, email, or via cell phone. If a phone call is not answered, please leave a message, and send an email using the direct

email link on the course home page. You will be treated with collegial respect and are expected to communicate professionally.

Faculty will try to return class assignments within two weeks of submission and feedback on clinical work before subsequent work is due.

### **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 in D2L

<https://myleoonline.tamuc.edu/d2l/le/content/103759/Home>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum. Rules of Netiquette are at

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>.

### **ETAMU Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit:  
the Attendance webpage

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

and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01

### **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:

<https://www.etamu.edu/college-of-business/integrity-policy/>

### **[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)**

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

### **Students with Disabilities**

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**

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@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.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 based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

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 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.

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 campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

### **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.



<https://www.telushealth.com/en-us>

### **AI Use Policy**

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). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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.

### **Department Accrediting Agency Information**

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](mailto: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  
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