



**NURS 3320 Exploring a Career in Professional Nursing
COURSE SYLLABUS**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jennifer Ashcraft, EdD., MSN Ed., RN, CNE
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Preferred Form of Communication: Email

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Materials

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or materials that are available through the [Waters Library](#). All materials are embedded within the course or are accessible via the internet or accessible through the Waters Library resource portal. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use with assignments and projects in this class.

COURSE Description

Provides a comprehensive introduction to the nursing profession; designed for students exploring a healthcare career. Includes the historical foundations of nursing, the various roles and specialties within the field, and the educational pathways to becoming a registered nurse (RN). Covers core principles of patient care, ethical considerations, legal responsibilities, and the importance of professional communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the historical evolution of nursing and its impact on contemporary healthcare delivery (PLO 2, 6; AACN Essentials 1)
- Differentiate between nursing educational levels and their respective scopes of practice (PLO 5; AACN Essentials 9)
- Apply nursing core values, ethical principles, and legal standards to hypothetical clinical scenarios (PLO 5; AACN Essentials 9)



- Explain the role of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) in providing high-quality, patient-centered care (PLO 1, 6; AACN Essentials 4)
- Identify major nursing theories and their application to the nursing process and holistic care (PLO 2; AACN Essentials 1)
- Demonstrate competency in basic medication mathematics, including metric conversions and international time (PLO 1, 4; AACN Essentials 2)
- Deconstruct complex medical terms using knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes to improve clinical communication (PLO 4; AACN Essentials 2)

Regular and Substantive Course Interaction

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three-semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a traditional semester. Students are expected to double this effort of engagement given that this course is being delivered in a seven-week term. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty to ensure that students can demonstrate competency.

To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance. Students should log into the course website and email regularly for faculty communication.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

Instructional Methods

This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed by the due date specified. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance or support.

CWID and Password

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.

Technology-Related Issues



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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). **You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication.** The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:



- Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. EDCB 517 – Posttest)
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

RESPONSE TIME & GRADING TIME IN CBE COURSES

Instructors for online only education courses are expected to respond to students in 24 hours. If you are not able to reach your instructor, please reach out to your advisor for help. The grading of assignments in courses will be done in a timely manner, but grading responses will **not** be returned in 24 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all 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](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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

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

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

Website: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-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 ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

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 <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.





COURSE ASSESSMENTS

GRADING

A score of 75 % or higher on all Posttests is required to demonstrate mastery of the course content and receive credit for the course. The following items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

Assignment	Weight	SLO
Module Pretests*	0%	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, 7
Module Exams (7)	70%	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, 7
Module Reflection Journal (7)	10%	1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, 7
Case Study (1)	10%	3
Career Plan Presentation	10%	2
Total	100%	

*Module Pretests are required but not included in the calculation of final grade.

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 75% - 79%

F = 74% or Below

A minimum grade of 75% is required to pass the course. The average of the 7 modular exams 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 "F" for the course regardless of any other grade(s).

Other graded assignments will not be added to the final grade unless exam grade average is 75% or higher.

Successful completion of the examinations and other required assignments will enable the student to meet the student learning outcomes.

Classroom Assessments

Pretest

The purpose of the pretest is to provide students with a baseline understanding of your knowledge in the content. Pretests are taken once and should be completed upon the first couple of days of the course. The grade on the pretest does **not** count in the final grade for this course. Completion of the pretest is required before you can access the content for each



course module. A passing score on the pretest does NOT provide permission to skip required assignments in the course.

Module Assignments

The content and assignments of each module are designed to help you understand each concept presented. You can work through each module at your own pace, providing you have completed all modules by Friday of week 8 @ 2359.

1. Module Reflection Journal: Students will submit a reflection journal at the completion of each module reflecting on module topics and their evolving perspective on nursing.
2. Case Study: A case study will be completed applying nursing core values, ethical principles, and legal standards to a hypothetical clinical scenario.
3. Career Plan Presentation: Students will create a presentation outlining their personal career plan. The presentation will include their desired nursing specialty, educational pathway, and professional goals.

Posttest

At the end of a module is a comprehensive exam that assesses student knowledge and understanding of major concepts, theories, processes, etc., in the module. The posttest is accessible after module assignments have been submitted. A posttest exam average of 75% or higher is required to demonstrate mastery of the course content. The average of the 7 modular exams 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 "F" for the course regardless of any other grade(s).