



SCHOOL OF
**Nursing and
Health Sciences**

EAST TEXAS A&M

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

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Crystal Brakefield MSN, RNC-OB (Course Coordinator)

Office Location: Nursing & Health Sciences Building, 215

Office Hours: Wednesdays 0900-1400 or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5315

Office Fax: 903-886-5729

University Email Address: 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

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 2 business days

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

Giles, A., Prusinski, R., & Wallace, L. (2024). *Maternal Newborn Nursing*. OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/books/maternal-newborn-nursing/pages/1-introduction>

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

Software Required:

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

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 an in person 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 may 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 personal 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
Class		
• Exams		
○ Module Exams (3)	30%	1-8
○ Final Exam	10%	1-8
• ATI Practice & Proctored Assessments & Remediation	10%	1-8
• “Weekly” Assignments (not every week)	35%	1-8
• Group Ethics Presentation	15%	1-5
TOTAL	100%	
Clinical	Hours	
• Clinical - Direct Patient Care (includes post-clinical work)	41 hours	1-8
• Clinical Simulations (9 on-campus hours plus pre & post sim work & ATI assignments)	18 hours	1-8
• Attend Bras for the Cause Event & complete assignment	1 hour	1-8
TOTAL	60 hours	

Clinical assignments are designed to evaluate both your clinical reasoning and your performance in the clinical setting. The clinical grade consists of patient-related written assignments, instructor observations of your clinical performance, and simulation pre- and post-work assignments. Each clinical assignment will be evaluated according to its respective grading rubric. To successfully complete the clinical portion of the course, students must earn a **minimum overall average of 75%** on all clinical assignments and simulation coursework. Clinical assignments must be submitted **no later than 2359 on the day following your scheduled clinical rotation or simulation**. Assignments may be submitted **only once**; therefore, students are encouraged to carefully review their work prior to submission. Any assignment submitted after the due date and time will be considered late and graded according to the criteria outlined in the applicable rubric. Once an assignment has been submitted, no revisions, corrections, or resubmissions will be accepted.

Assessment Descriptions

Classroom Assessments

The syllabus/calendar are subject to change

- **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, however those students who score less than a 75% on any exam must complete this review before the next exam. It is the student's responsibility to contact their course faculty or the Student Success Coach to set up an appointment to review the exam. Do not wait until the last minute to request a review. Failure to complete this review before the next exam will result in forfeiture of the upcoming exam and a grade of zero.
- 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.
 - Completed 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 Unit 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 75%, or “satisfactory”. If a post test score is below 75% 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 one on postpartum hemorrhage. These are formative or “learning” simulations with observation by your class and/or clinical faculty. Pre-work and post-work for these simulations will 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 VIA YOUR ADULT INSTRUCTOR.**
- **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.
- **Bras for the Cause Event**
 - This annual event takes place on the second Thursday in October (10/8 this year). This is a family-friendly fundraising event that showcases the creative talents of local individuals, groups & businesses. All the funds raised through this event stay in Hunt County and go towards purchasing items helpful to the local cancer community. For example, Bras for the Cause purchased the mobile mammography unit that you may have seen around town at some time! The event begins at 1800 and ends around 2200, but you are not required to stay for the whole thing!! Your assignment while you are at this event is to peruse the entries, make observations, and answer a few questions based on your findings for the evening. Students always have lots of fun at this event!!

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 5 points per day for the first 3 days. If an assignment is submitted more than 72 hours after it is due, a zero will go into the grade book for that assignment. 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

The syllabus/calendar are subject to change

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 the course coordinator in advance of any absence.
3. Exam dates are listed in each course syllabus/calendar, 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.

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.

The syllabus/calendar are subject to change

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**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
- **Access and Navigation**
 - You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the

The syllabus/calendar are subject to change

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 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](#)

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

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

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