



HPHA 369.01E: Upper Extremity Injury Assessment

Fall 2026

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30-1:45p/ NHS 162

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

Office Location: Nursing & Health Sciences #116

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

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Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

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

Supplemental Text:

Konin, J., Lebsack, D., Valier, A., & Isear, J. *Special Tests for Orthopedic Examination*, 4th ed. SLACK, Inc., 2016.

Course Description

A study of the knowledge, skills and values an athletic trainer must possess to assess and evaluate injured athletes and other physically active individuals. Content areas to include: pathology, on and off-field assessment procedures for the head, neck, spine, shoulder, elbow, forearm, hand, and wrist. Prerequisites: Prerequisites: BSC 251 with a minimum grade of C or BSC 2401 with a minimum grade of C or instructor approval, 2.5 GPA.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the functional anatomy of the upper extremity, head, and neck.
2. Differentiate the signs, symptoms, and mechanisms of injuries to identify the appropriate special tests to perform in a head, face, neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, fingers, or upper extremity injury evaluation
3. Develop a differential diagnosis based on the results of a thorough injury evaluation.

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4. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately document an upper extremity injury evaluation in the form of a SOAP note.
5. Critically think and problem solve regarding the techniques for evaluation, assessment, and management of upper extremity injuries.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

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

Grading

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

Quizzes: 100 pts

Exams: 4 @ 100 pts each = 400 pts

Class Participation Activities: 100 pts

Article Reviews: 5 @ 50 pts = 250 pts

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-50

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

Students will receive back all graded assignments in a timely manner (typically within 1 week of the due date). Students are encouraged to keep all graded assignments as well as keep up with their grades throughout the semester. Any questions or concerns about assignments/grades

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should be brought to the instructor's attention immediately (i.e. Do not wait until the end of the semester)

ASSESSMENTS

Class Participation Activities

These activities will be given throughout the semester over the reading assignments or material covered in previous lectures. Class participation activities will not be allowed for make-up unless the absence is excused.

Quizzes/Assignments

Quizzes may be short answer, multiple choice, true/false, listing, etc, and will be online on D2L each week. Quizzes will be due Thursday at 11:59p each week. Quizzes must be completed during the specified dates each week. Make-ups will not be allowed.

Exams

Four written exams will be given. Final exam is comprehensive. The format shall include any of the following: short answer, essay, fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false, and/or listing type questions. All exams will be given in-class or through D2L. Exams must be taken on the designated exam window. No make-up exams will be allowed unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Under certain circumstances (situations out of your control), make-ups will be allowed at the instructor's discretion. Students are required to contact the instructor ASAP if they happen to miss an exam and may be required to provide written documentation.

Article Reviews

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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

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

LMS Browser Support:

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

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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

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

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Technical Support

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance

Class attendance is **required**. Excused absences include university approved absences or those that I receive appropriate notification of (i.e. sudden/serious illness, death to immediate family member, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates as the dates are posted on D2L. In the case of missing deadlines due to unavoidable or emergency situations, or illness (including Covid), the student must promptly notify the instructor via email explaining the circumstances. Prompt notification (within three days) is required to have an absence excused; additionally, written documentation may be required to have the absence excused. Assignment deadlines may be modified for students with excused absences. Technical and/or computer problems associated with D2L are not a valid excuse for turning in an assignment late.

Late Work

All assignments are due as assigned and must be turned in on or before the due date to receive full credit. This includes assignments that are due when you have an absence. Assignments turned in beyond class time on the due date will receive zero (0) points. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of assignment due dates as the dates are included on the course schedule and posted on D2L.

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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.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

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

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

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

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

ETAMU Attendance

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

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

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

Academic Integrity

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

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

AI Tools

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

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

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

Nondiscrimination Notice

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

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been

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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](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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

Mental Health and Well-Being

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



Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Assumption of Risk

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

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

			Class Lecture	Reading Assignment	Assignment Due Thursdays at 11:59p
	Thurs	8/20	Intro & Syllabus		
Wk 1	Tues	8/25	Foundations of Examination	Ch 1	Intro Discussion; Quiz
	Thurs	8/27	Injury Pathology Nomenclature & Musculoskeletal Diagnostic Techniques	Ch 4, 5	
Wk 2	Tues	9/1	Examination & Management of Acute Conditions	Ch 2	Quiz
	Thurs	9/3	Evidence-Based Practice in the Diagnostic Process	Ch 3	
Wk 3	Tues	9/8	Shoulder & Upper Arm Pathologies	Ch 15	Quiz
	Thurs	9/10	Shoulder & Upper Arm Pathologies	Ch 15	
Wk 4	Tues	9/15	Shoulder & Upper Arm Pathologies	Ch 15	Article: Shoulder
	Thurs	9/17	Exam #1 (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15)		
Wk 5	Tues	9/22	Elbow & Forearm Pathologies	Ch 16	Quiz
	Thurs	9/24	Elbow & Forearm Pathologies	Ch 16	
Wk 6	Tues	9/29	Elbow & Forearm Pathologies	Ch 16	Article: Elbow/Forearm; Quiz
	Thurs	10/1	Wrist, Hand, & Finger Pathologies	Ch 17	
Wk 7	Tues	10/6	Wrist, Hand, & Finger Pathologies	Ch 17	Quiz
	Thurs	10/8	Fall Break - No Class		
Wk 8	Tues	10/13	Wrist, Hand, & Finger Pathologies	Ch 17	Article: Wrist/Hand/ Fingers
	Thurs	10/15	Exam #2 (chapters 17 & 18)		
Wk 9	Tues	10/20	Cervical & Thoracic Spine & Thorax Pathologies	Ch 14	Quiz
	Thurs	10/22	Cervical & Thoracic Spine & Thorax Pathologies	Ch 14	
Wk 10	Tues	10/27	Head & Acute Cervical Spine Pathologies	Ch 20	Quiz
	Thurs	10/29	Head & Acute Cervical Spine Pathologies	Ch 20	
Wk 11	Tues	11/3	Head & Acute Cervical Spine Pathologies	Ch 20	Article: C-spine/ Head
	Thurs	11/5	Exam #3 (chapters 14, 20)		
Wk 12	Tues	11/10	Eye Pathologies	Ch 18	Quiz
	Thurs	11/12	Eye Pathologies	Ch 18	
Wk 13	Tues	11/17	Eye Pathologies	Ch 18	Quiz
	Thurs	11/19	Face & Related Structure Pathologies	Ch 19	
Wk 14	Tues	11/24	Face & Related Structure Pathologies	Ch 19	
	Thurs	11/26	Thanksgiving Break - No Class		
Wk 15	Tues	12/1	Face & Related Structure Pathologies	Ch 19	Article: Eye/Face; Quiz
	Thurs	12/3	Case Studies		
Wk 16	Tues	12/8	Comprehensive Final Exam		

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