NURS 3410 - Health Assessment

Spring 2026 Syllabus, Section 201, CRN 27689

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:
Tuesday 3:30 PM-5:00 PM
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Times and Location

M 7:30am-10:30am in Academic Innovation Center 220

Course Description

The emphasis of this course is to instruct students on how to conduct a comprehensive health assessment. Knowledge from the biological sciences is used within the context of the nursing process to develop skills in systematic assessment of patients in all phases of the life cycle. This course is 3 hours of theory and 3 hours of laboratory per week. 42 hours total practicum are required in this course. Prerequisites: Admission into the Nursing Program. Corequisites: NURS 3010, NURS 3200, NURS 3310, and NURS 3613.
Nursing Department, College of Nursing&Health Sci

Additional Course Information

Communication and Response Time

Course Messages/Emails

Students are required to check Blackboard Announcements and their Dusty TAMIU e-mail account on a daily basis. The preferred method of communication with Professor Pliego is via Blackboard course messages. Failure to read messages sent through Blackboard Announcements or Dusty TAMIU e-mail will not be accepted as an excuse for missing important information or deadlines.

Faculty check e-mail frequently; however, please allow one (1) business day (Monday through Friday) for responses. E-mails sent after 5:00 p.m. on Friday or during university holidays will be addressed on the following business day.

REMINDER: Any e-mail sent after office hours (5 pm) and/or on weekends (Friday after 5pm, Saturday, and Sunday) will be responded to on the next business day (Monday) after 5 pm.

Appointments and Calls

Open communication between students and course faculty is highly encouraged. Students are highly encouraged to seek assistance from faculty when needed.

Please set up meeting appointments for lead faculty using the bookings link below. If you wish to meet on an alternate date/ time from those posted, please e-mail faculty directly through course messages in blackboard. Bookings Link Bookings Link (https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/NURS3410HealthAssessment1@dustytamiu.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)

Lead faculty is available via office phone only during scheduled campus office hours. If you leave a voicemail, please leave your name, a call-back number, and reason for the call. Remember that nursing faculty may not always be inside their office during office hours due to meetings, webinars, lunch, etc.

Course Policies

Course Confidentiality & Intellectual Property Policy

All course materials, including but not limited to lectures, slides, handouts, assignments, quizzes, examinations, posted exam rationales, and any exam-related discussions, are the intellectual property of the instructor and are protected under university policy and applicable law. *Instructor intellectual property* refers to original instructional and assessment materials created by the instructor and provided to students for personal educational use in this course only.

Students may not record, reproduce, photograph, screenshot, distribute, share, post, sell, or otherwise transmit any course materials or assessment content in any format (including electronic, audio, or video) without the instructor's explicit written permission.

All exams, posted exam feedback and rationales, and any conversations related to exam content are confidential. Disclosure of exam content to any individual, including students not currently enrolled in the course, family members, or third parties, is strictly prohibited.

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with university academic integrity policies and may include, but is not limited to, a failing grade on the assessment, a failing grade in the course, and/or referral for academic misconduct.

This policy supports compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) by protecting the confidentiality of student educational records and assessment information.

By remaining enrolled in this course, students acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agreed to comply with this confidentiality and intellectual property policy outlined in this syllabus.

Exam Review Policy

Individual exam reviews will not be provided. Following each examination, students are responsible for reviewing the posted exam rationales and feedback made available in Blackboard. These materials are intended to support student learning and self-directed review.

Questions regarding exam content should be addressed by reviewing the rationale and relevant course materials. Requests for individual exam review appointments will not be accommodated.

GenAI Policy

In this course, students may leverage generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, writing tools) to assist with assignments specified by the instructor. The use of GenAI is intended to support [specific learning objectives, e.g., critical analysis, creative thinking, or productivity in content creation], with the following guidelines in place to ensure academic integrity:

Permissible Uses: Students are welcome to use AI tools for tasks such as brainstorming, creating outlines, exploring different perspectives on a topic, data visualization, data analysis or drafting ideas. However, for assignments requiring critical analysis or personal reflections, AI tools are not permitted unless explicitly allowed by instructor.

Documentation of AI Use: For each assignment where GenAI is utilized, please provide:

- Tool Used: Specify the AI application or tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot).
- Purpose: Describe how GenAI contributed to your work (e.g., idea generation, grammar improvement).
- Evaluation: Reflect briefly on the AI output's accuracy and relevance.
- Integration: Explain how you incorporated and reined the GenAI content into your final submission.

Students are responsible for maintaining academic integrity by ensuring all GenAI use is properly documented and credited. When AI contributes significantly to the development of an assignment, students are required to cite the tool in APA format (e.g., "ChatGPT, OpenAI"). This citation should explain how the tool was used. Students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of all content submitted, as AI-generated content may contain inaccuracies. Review and verify all information independently.

Failure to disclose the use of GenAI tools or presenting AI-generated content as one's original work constitutes academic misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Other Policies:

Students are held to all policies in the CNHS BSN Handbook.

Syllabus Subject to Change

While information and assurances are provided in this course syllabus, it should be understood that content may change in keeping with new research and literature and that events beyond the control of the instructor could occur. Students will be informed of any substantive occurrences that will produce syllabus changes.

Electronic Devices

To minimize interruptions, cellular phones must be turned off (vibration mode is not acceptable) when in classroom or in lab. Recording devices are not permitted at any time, including meetings with professor. All Unit exams and end of course exam are given online via Respondus Lockdown Browser in Blackboard (unless other arrangements have been made through the office of student services); on the day of the exam students are allowed to bring in their cell phone to allow them to log into the exam; after logging in the phones are to be turned off and placed in a designated area as instructed by the proctor.

Calculators

Calculators are not allowed.

Digital Receipts

Once you submit your work *successfully*, a digital receipt with an ID will be displayed for students on screen and emailed to the student's @dusty.tamiu.edu email address. Be sure to locate this receipt. *If a receipt is not generated, go back and submit to the assignment again until a receipt is created*

Exams and Proctoring

All major exams for the CONHS will be proctored; either with the faculty present or at the testing center. Respondus lockdown browser must be used for all exams and *Respondus Webcam Monitor will be used for all exams taken at the testing center or disability office.*

Test items will assess the student's ability to apply and analyze knowledge learned in the course. Test items will challenge the student to apply abilities at assessing, planning, implementing, or evaluating nursing care. Read the CONHS Examination Policy and Guidelines found in the student handbook for additional information on examinations.

LockDown Browser Requirement

All online exams must use respondus lockdown browser. If you are using a Chrome book, you will need to purchase *Proctorial*. Student instructions for purchasing and installing respondus can be found:

https://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/respondus-ldb-and-monitor.shtml

Download Instructions

Download and install LockDown Browser from this link: https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=795913767 Once Installed:

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log into Blackboard Learn
- Navigate to the test

Cost for Respondus

Students purchase a 12-month subscription that can be used with an unlimited number of online courses during that period. This will result in a cost savings for the average student and lessen concerns instructors sometimes have about additional course expenses. Payment for Respondus Monitor is made during the set-up process in the first Respondus Monitor enabled quiz/test/exam in any course where it is used.

To pay for Respondus Monitor:

- Start Respondus LockDown Browser (http://www.jsu.edu/online/current-students/resp_lock_browser_students.html).
- Navigate to your test.
- Complete the set-up process, which includes a payment screen for entering credit card information.
- Payment and entering credit card information is only necessary one-time per course.

LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted. *Note*: You won't be able to access tests with a standard web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, etc. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser.

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- If you have any questions about how to use the LockDown Browser, you may contact Instructional Technology and Distance Education Services at (956) 326-2149, emailing elearning@tamiu.edu, or by visiting Killam Library, Room 259.
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product.
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it.

Testing Guidelines

All final exams must be given at the date and time specified by the university (i.e. started at exactly 8:00AM and ending exactly 11:00PM. The test will be set up in such a way that at the end of the allotted time the exam will automatically close).

- After the student uses their cell phone to sign in, it must be powered-off and set in a place designated by the proctor.
- All tests will require a password that will be immediately prior to the exam.
- All tests will begin as soon as startup procedures are complete and will end exactly at the time specified (it will automatically shut down at the end of the testing period).
- During the test, no caps or hoodies, earphones, ear buds and/or any type of smart glasses (audio/video/ AI) may be worn.
- There should be absolutely no talking during the exam either to yourself or to someone else.
- You may not ask for any type of help from anyone other than a proctor.
- Music cannot be played during the exam (i.e. headphones etc.)
- Student failure to follow these guidelines will result in an automatic zero on the exam.
- As per Examination Policy Procedure in the BSN handbook for face-to-face class examinations: **If the proctor suspects** any sharing of information during an examination, all students involved will receive a ZERO (0) and are subject to Article 7 Academic Conduct, Section 7.01 Violations of Academic Conduct, Cheating of the TAMIU Student Handbook for violations of TAMIU Honor Code. This includes **Students in possession of cell phones** or any other electronic device during an examination (i.e., iWatches, iphones, smart glasses, recording devices, or any other type of phones or electronic device).
- Students are responsible for maintaining the privacy of their examination screen at all times. Allowing another student to view one's examination screen may be considered facilitation of academic dishonesty.

Accessibility and Privacy Statements on Course Technologies

At Texas A&M International University, we believe that all students should have equal technology opportunities in the classroom. These technologies/ sites may also require user data, such as the creation of a username and password. In this class, we will utilize Blackboard, (http://www.tamiu.edu/

distance/students/elearning-orientation.shtml) Echo360, and Turnitin (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/turnitin.shtml). You may find the accessibility and privacy policies of these technologies on the following pages: Accessibility Statements (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/accessibility-statements.shtml) and Privacy Statements (http://www.tamiu.edu/distance/technology/privacy-statements.shtml).

Privacy of Client Information

Students and faculty share the burden of carefully protecting the privacy of all persons in the client role. *Never identify clients by name* in any written work and do not discuss any client information outside of the assigned seminar or class times.

COURSE POLICIES:

Electronic Devices Policy

To minimize interruptions and protect the integrity of the learning and testing environment, cellular phones must be powered off (vibration or silent mode is not acceptable) while in the classroom or testing area for the duration of class activities, quizzes, and examinations. Students who violate classroom electronic device policies may be asked to leave the classroom.

Cellular phones may not be visible, on desks, or in use at any time during class or during quizzes, tests, or examinations. Possession of a cellular phone on the desktop or in use during an assessment will result in an automatic score of zero (0) for that assessment.

The use or presence of other electronic devices, including but not limited to earbuds, Bluetooth devices, earpieces, pagers, smart glasses, and smart watches, is not permitted in the classroom or during exams.

Use of laptops or tablets (e.g., iPads) may be permitted at the discretion of the faculty and only for course-related purposes.

Electronic Devices During Examinations

During quizzes, tests, and examinations, possession of a cellular phone or any unauthorized electronic device on the student's person is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether the device is powered off, silenced, concealed, or in use.

Possession includes, but is not limited to, devices kept in pockets, clothing, under garments, sleeves, shoes, bags worn on the body, or any other location on the student's person.

Suspicion or discovery of a cellular phone or unauthorized electronic device on the student's person during an assessment will result in an automatic score of zero (0) for the assessment and may result in further action in accordance with university academic integrity policies.

Clinical Policies

LAB ACTIVITIES:

Laboratory Participation and Skill Progression

Active participation in laboratory activities is required each week and includes practicing health assessment techniques on a simulation patient and/or lab partner. Laboratory skill development follows a progressive, cumulative model. Once a student has been checked off on a specific body system, that system is considered mastered and will be reassessed in subsequent weeks, with additional body systems added incrementally. This process continues until the student performs a complete head-to-toe assessment.

Accordingly, even after successful check-off of a body system, students are expected to repeat previously mastered systems while incorporating newly assigned systems during weekly laboratory checkoffs. This progression is subject to modification at the clinical instructor's discretion.

Laboratory/Clinical Grading

Laboratory performance is assessed using an objective grading rubric to ensure a fair and consistent evaluation of skills. Although the laboratory component is graded numerically throughout the semester, the final laboratory result is considered on a pass/fail basis. In other words, to pass the course, students must achieve a minimum lab grade of 75% according to the rubric.

Ultimately, the laboratory is **pass/fail**, and students who do not meet the 75% threshold will not pass the course. This ensures transparency and consistency in how lab performance is evaluated.

ATTIRE: Nametag/Dress/Appearance: All students must follow the dress code policies in the CONHS BSN Handbook pg. 67.

Lecture sessions: There is no mandatory uniform requirement for classroom sessions conducted on Monday, from 7:30 AM-10:30 AM.

Lab Sessions: Attire and Participation Policy

For all lab sessions, students are required to wear the designated **burgundy polo shirt, black pants, and closed-toe shoes** as part of the uniform regulations established by the College of Nursing (CSON). In addition, lab activities will require students to wear appropriate clothing that allows for physical assessment by a lab partner. This may include shorts, loose T-shirts, or any comfortable, appropriate clothing that permits access for physical examination of that day.

If a student is not prepared with proper attire for the physical examination, a disposable hospital paper gown will be provided. Non-participation in lab activities due to inappropriate attire or refusal to participate is not acceptable and may result in course failure. Students may be sent home for failure to participate in lab and will receive a clinical F for that day.

Attendance and Participation: Due to the hands-on nature of this course and the requirement to complete clinical lab hours and checkoffs, students missing more than **three lab sessions** will receive a clinical failure for the course. It is crucial that students communicate with clinical faculty as soon as possible if any issues arise that prevent attendance.

Grading Standards: A minimum grade of 75% is required to pass written exams and the overall course. For the laboratory clinical practicum, a minimum cumulative grade of 85% is required to pass.

Participation and Classroom Conduct

Class Participation: Verbal participation is an integral part of this course. All students are expected to engage as active listeners and constructive contributors. Assigned readings, which must be completed prior to each class, will serve as the foundation for discussions and lectures. Desirable behaviors include active listening, punctuality, group participation, offering constructive comments and questions, defending ideas thoughtfully (not defensively), sharing knowledge during group interactions, and participating fully in lab activities.

Faculty reserve the right to dismiss any student who is disruptive in class or refuses to participate in lab activities. Such dismissal will be recorded as a class absence, and any in-class assignment or quiz missed on that day will receive a zero.

Classroom Conduct: To minimize interruptions, students who leave during a class session may not return until the next scheduled class break. Students who engage in disruptive behavior, such as social conversations, attempting to sleep, or otherwise disrupting the class, will be asked to leave and will be marked absent. A zero will be recorded for any quiz or assignment missed due to removal from class.

Communication: Open communication between students and faculty is encouraged. Each student has ongoing access to course faculty for individual needs or concerns. Students are encouraged to seek assistance whenever needed.

Attendance and Conduct in Lab Sessions

Attendance Expectations: Attendance in lab is mandatory. Two lab absences may lower a student's final grade by one letter grade, and three lab absences will result in failure of the course. This policy applies to all students, including those participating in university-sponsored activities such as college athletics. Students involved in such activities are responsible for making arrangements to attend an alternate lab session within the same week, if possible, with prior approval from faculty.

Leaving the lab before the end of the class session is considered an absence for that day, and any assignments or quizzes missed will receive a zero. If a student arrives after the instructor has begun distributing quizzes or assignments, they will not be allowed to participate and will receive a zero for that activity.

Professionalism: At all times, students represent the Canseco School of Nursing and Texas A&M International University. Professional behavior is required and expected at all times.

1. **Nametag/Dress/Appearance:** All students must follow the dress code policies. Artificial nails, dip powder, nail polish, gel nails, tips, and all other forms of false nails are NOT allowed in the clinical setting or simulation activities. Nails should be clean, short, and well-groomed, without color nail polish.

Tattoos shall be concealed at all times, and body jewelry (piercings) must be removed prior to clinical (i.e. nose rings, eyebrow hoops, lip rings, multiple earrings, etc.) See CNHS BSN Handbook.

1. **Lab/Clinical Absences:** Clinical hours are required to provide students the opportunities to obtain knowledge and skills to function safely as a professional nurse. Punctuality is expected in the professional workplace. Tardiness for clinical lab jeopardizes the student ability to engage in the clinical experience and disrupts others. Any student that arrives late to clinical lab without having obtained permission will be sent home and receive a Clinical F for the day. The missed hours will have to be completed at a later time. Lab and simulation experiences are considered clinical experiences.

2. **Clinical "F" Day:** Unacceptable nursing practice in the clinical lab or an unexcused clinical absence is grounds for receiving a clinical failure day, also known as an "F" Day. A clinical setting is any activity for which the student receives clinical hours. A student who receives three (3) clinical "F" days in any clinical course will receive a grade of F for that course. See CONHS BSN Handbook.

3. **Unsafe Clinical Performance/Patient Safety**: Any act, omission or commission that may result in harm to the patient is considered unsafe clinical practice. **For the purpose of this course, mannequins in the clinical lab shall be considered living, breathing, human patients and treated as such.** Any student who jeopardizes patient safety will be sent home from clinical and receive a clinical F for that day. The student must follow the instructor's recommendations when a procedure is *not* to be performed by the student to protect patient safety.

4. **Confidentiality**: Nurses are entrusted with a great deal of personal information about their patients in order to plan comprehensive care. The student role requires that some of this information be shared with faculty and other students in a clinical conference setting. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) regulations provides federal protections for personal health information held by covered entities and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. Students and faculty share the burden of carefully protecting the privacy of all persons concerned.

5. **Course Confidentiality:** All course materials, including but not limited to lectures, slides, handouts, assignments, quizzes, examinations, posted exam rationales, and any exam-related discussions, are the intellectual property of the instructor and are protected under university policy and applicable law. Students may not record, reproduce, photograph, screenshot, distribute, share, post, sell, or otherwise transmit any course materials or assessment content in any format (including electronic, audio, or video) without the instructor's explicit written permission.

6. **Electronic devices/Social networking**: All electronic devices are not permitted in the clinical setting, unless instructor provided prior approval (iPods/iPads, smart glasses, tablets, laptop computers, cell phones). Strict HIPPA guidelines will be enforced. Cell phones are NOT to be on the student's person. The CSON has memorandum of understanding agreements with every clinical institution to adhere to their policies.

7. In the event of a **"Blood or Body Fluid Exposure"** (see BSN handbook for full details) the faculty must be notified, and immediate treatment is provided to the individual at the clinical site where the injury occurs. The student/ faculty will follow the clinical site Bloodborne Pathogen Protocol; student is responsible for all possible costs associated with treatment of exposure.

8. Tardiness in the clinical lab is not acceptable and as previously mentioned, there are no excused clinical absences. It is the responsibility of students to notify the faculty members if they are unable to attend clinical. **Students missing clinical must make up the time; the make-up will be scheduled based on faculty and clinical site availability**.

9. Failure to maintain professional standards of integrity may result in failure of the clinical portion of the course. Recognize that within the community and surrounding areas, you are an ambassador of Texas A&M International University School of Nursing and you must conduct yourself in a manner consistent with University mission and values.

10. Adhere to Texas Board of Nursing Board Rules

213.27b Good professional character – defined "good professional character as the integrated pattern of personal, *academic,* and occupational behaviors that indicate an individual is able to consistently conform his/her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act."

217.12(6)(A) Unprofessional Conduct – Misconduct actions that include but not limited to: Falsifying reports, client documentation, agency records or other documents. Examples: RNs falsifying clinical log entries, patient progress notes. etc.

217.12(6)(I) Unprofessional Conduct– Misconduct actions that include "failing to answer specific questions or providing false or misleading answers in a licensure or employment matter that could reasonably affect the decision to license, employ, certify or otherwise utilize a nurse."

1. Do not engage in any behavior that will compromise patient care or the University's

relationships with community partners.

1. Always introduce oneself as a student and avoid misrepresentation of licensure and certification status. Do not practice outside of your scope or practice. Wear your TAMIU ID while in any clinical setting.

Privacy of Client Information

Students and faculty share the burden of carefully protecting the privacy of all persons in the client role. *Never identify clients by name* in any written work and do not discuss any client information outside of the assigned seminar or class times.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Synthesize knowledge from the arts, humanities, sciences, and other disciplines in developing a framework for nursing knowledge and practice.
2. Explore the effect of variations in health status, developmental processes, values, beliefs and attitudes, culture, history, and environment on nursing care needs.
3. Use critical thinking, clinical judgment/decision making, problem-solving, and the research process in the development of nursing knowledge and practice.
4. Assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate evidenced-based and culturally - appropriate safe nursing care with patients, families, populations and communities.
5. Evaluate utilization of health promotion strategies in the development of nursing practice.
6. Develop professional nursing practice frameworks and roles, including the provider of patient-centered care, health care team member/ collaborator, leader/manager, educator, scholar, patient-safety advocate, activist, mentor, and entrepreneur.
7. Evaluate the impact of evolving technological, socioeconomic, political and demographic changes on nursing practice and health care systems.
8. Adhere to legal and ethical principles in the development of professional nursing practice.
9. Articulate a commitment to life-long learning.
10. Participate in nursing- and health-related services

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Associate concepts and principles from the arts, sciences, humanities, and nursing as a foundation for conducting a systematic and accurate nursing health history and physical assessment of an adult client.
2. Integrate social, cultural, ethnic, spiritual, psychological, and economic concepts in conducting a comprehensive health assessment.
3. Identify the ethical, legal, and professional principles associated with obtaining, recording, and reporting a holistic health assessment.
4. Use critical thinking to evaluate health history and physical assessment findings.
5. Discuss modifications necessary to obtain an accurate health history and conduct a physical assessment across the lifespan and among diverse populations, incorporating relevant research.
6. Discuss opportunities to apply health assessment and health promotion skills in partnership with the community.

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar (tamiu.edu) (https://www.tamiu.edu/academiccalendar/) page to view the term's important dates.

Textbooks

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Bates' Nursing Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking (3rd Edition)	Hogan-Quigley, B., & Palm, M.L.	978-1-975161-09-5
Required	ATI RN Health Assess 3.0	ATI	978-1-56533-281-2
Required	Essential Health Assessment (2nd Edition)	Thompson, J.	978-1-7196-4232-3

Other Course Materials

To go to the bookstore, **click here (https://www.bkstr.com/texasaminternationalstore/home)**.

Course Structure

In addition to class time, all additional content and assignments will be located in Blackboard. Under 'Content' you will find weekly links where pertinent content such as videos, PowerPoints, articles, tests, instructions, forms, and other resources will be available for review. The expectation is for you to review these materials each week **prior to attending lecture or lab**. **ATI modules need to be accessed through Blackboard** so grades post properly. See unit-specific learning objectives available on Blackboard modules.

Grading Criteria

Final Grade Breakdown
METHODS OF EVALUATION AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS
NURS 3410 Health Assessment (the overall course grade)

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	89.45-100
B	79.45-89.44
C	74.45-79.44
F	Below 74.45

Grade Rounding

Test Average

The weighted exam average total for the courses includes all exams and the final exam, and is calculated to two decimal places and rounded mathematically as follows:

- Less than 0.45 rounds *down* to the next whole number (74.44 rounds down to a 74)
- 0.45 or greater: Rounds *up* to the next whole number (74.45 rounds up to a 75)

Course Average

The final weighted numeric course grade is calculated to two decimal places and rounded mathematically as follows:

- Less than 0.45 rounds *down* to the next whole number (74.44 rounds down to a 74)
- 0.45 or greater: Rounds *up* to the next whole number (74.45 rounds up to a 75)

Student Challenges

Any student having questions regarding exams, assignments or course grade, *must make an appointment to see the lead faculty to review the matter no later than two days after grade is received*. Student requests for a second evaluator must be made within one week after grade receipt. A second evaluator for exams or papers may be consulted when deemed appropriate by the lead faculty. When a second evaluator is requested for an assignment, the grades of the initial evaluator and the second evaluator will be averaged for the grade in question.

Open Boilerplate

Clinical Lab Grade:

METHODS OF EVALUATION IN CLINICAL LAB

Skills Lab Practicum- Must pass with a minimum total of **85% -- 30%**

Physical Exam Write-Up	10%
Culture Courses 1-4	40%
Health History Write Up	20%
Other	20%
Total	100%

NURS 3410 HEALTH ASSESSMENT (THE OVERALL COURSE GRADE)

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Exam #3	20%
Final Exam	20%

End of Course Exam	10%
Focused Review	2.5%
Lecture Quizzes	5%
Assignments/Case Studies/ other	2.5

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
1/26	Content Outline: Subject Matter of Lectures General Description of Required Readings I. Unit 1: Foundations Chapter 1- Introduction to Health Assessment and Social Determinants of Health Chapter 2- Critical Thinking and Clinical Judgment in Health Assessment Chapter 3- Interviewing and Communication Chapter 4- The Health History Chapter 5- Cultural and Spiritual Assessment Chapter 6- Physical Examination: Getting Started Chapter 7- General Survey Including Vital Signs and Pain Chapter 8- Nutrition and Hydration II. Unit 2: Body Systems Chapter 9- The Integumentary System Chapter 10- The Head and Neck Chapter 11- The Eyes Chapter 12- Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Throat Chapter 13- The Respiratory System Chapter 14- The Cardiovascular System Chapter 15- The Peripheral Vascular and Lymphatic Systems Chapter 16- The Gastrointestinal and Renal Systems Chapter 17- The Breasts and Axillae Chapter 18- The Musculoskeletal System Chapter 19- Mental Status and Mental Health Assessment Chapter 20- The Nervous System Chapter 21- Reproductive Systems Chapter 22- Putting the Physical Examination All Together III. Unit 3: Special Lifespan Chapter 24- Assessing Older Adults *See Course Weekly Schedule in Blackboard for weekly assignments		

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.

- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

In the classroom, students are expected to listen attentively, participate respectfully, and adhere to established rules. Behavior that interferes with the class lecture may result in disciplinary action, ensuring a productive and respectful learning environment for everyone. Any disputes over academic matters should be addressed calmly and constructively, ideally during designated times such as office hours or after class. If a student does not agree with a decision, they can request a meeting with the instructor to discuss their concerns in more detail. Should further resolution be needed, the student may escalate the matter to the department head or use formal grievance procedures as outlined in the sections below. (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4 (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/article-04.shtml)).

TAMIU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMIU student, you are bound by the TAMIU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMIU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at Student Handbook (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMIU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism**: Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to give freshmen and sophomore students a "zero" for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of "F" (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade;

the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.

- *Caution*: Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that "it was only a draft" will not be accepted.
- *Caution*: Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.

- **Penalties for Cheating**: Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a "zero" for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an "F" in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an "F" in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a "W."
  - *Caution*: Chat groups that start off as "study groups" can easily devolve into "cheating groups." Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal**: Faculty will notify students immediately via the student's TAMIU e- mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member's charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member's e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to SafeZone (https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml) for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to $100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to $250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students located in Student Center 124. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from making

accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Office of Disability Services for Students.

For accommodations or assistance with disabilities, contact the Disability Coordinator, Karla Pedraza, at karla.pedraza@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2763, or visit Student Center 124.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides
LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: Student Handbook (https://www.tamiu.edu/handbook/index.shtml)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. Students who experience or observe alleged or suspected discrimination due to their pregnant/parenting status, should report to the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site, *Report It*, at https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit (https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit/index.shtml).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Compliance (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiu.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodation. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student needs a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.#As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOAs for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule.#Both rules can be found in the TAMIU *Student Handbook*.

For parenting-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the Parenting Liaison, Mayra Hernandez, at mghernandez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2265, or visit Student Center 226.

For pregnancy-related rights, accommodations, and resources, contact the TIX Coordinator, Lorissa Cortez, at lorissaM.cortez@tamiu.edu, call 956.326.2857, or visit Killam Library 159.

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiu.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt (https://www.tamiu.edu/reportit) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.

Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

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. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.