



Community and Population Focused Nursing
RNBS 4601.P460
Fall 2026 – Flex 2

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Leticia Gutierrez MSN, RN, TCRN, ACUE

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-4:30 pm Central Time

Also available via appointment, email, canvas messaging*, conference call, and/or zoom.

*Best way to contact me.

Course Description: This course introduces the RN to concepts of community health utilizing the population focused nursing process. Includes levels of disease prevention, principles of epidemiology, community assessment, environmental health, disaster preparedness, and professional nursing roles and interprofessional collaboration in various community settings. Emphasis is on health promotion, risk reduction, and disease management across the lifespan in selected community settings

Prerequisites: Admission to the RN-BSN track.

Successful completion of:

RNBS 3312

RNBS 3333

Corequisites: RNBS 4309

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. **Professionalism:** Explore principles of public health science and population-focused care as they relate to the role of the community health nurse.
2. **Patient-Centered Care:** Describe how to coordinate and plan evidence-based nursing interventions for communities based on the nursing process.
3. **Evidence-Based Practice (EBP):** Discuss research findings from evidence-based literature and research-based interventions to the practice of the community health nurse.
4. **Informatics & Technology:** Interpret data collected through technology and information systems to improve population health outcomes

5. **Quality Improvement:** Discuss basic knowledge of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments that affect the health of diverse populations.
6. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Explain the process of effective communication among healthcare professionals that reflects human caring for diverse populations through multidisciplinary collaborations.
7. **Wellness and Prevention:** Discuss the impact of the social determinants of health on diverse populations. Discuss prevention initiatives to improve health outcomes in the community.
8. **Leadership:** Examine community-based activities to promote advocacy, collaboration, and social justice.
9. **Safety:** Explain the importance of promoting quality and safe environments and their impact on communities and populations.
10. **Strengths:** Determine how Strengths (signature talent themes) influence the role of the nurse and clinical decision-making.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

1. RNBS 4601 Course Syllabus and Schedule.
2. Ochs, J., Roper, S. L., & Schwartz, S. M. (2024). *Population health for nurses*. OpenStax. Free web text: [OpenStax Population Health for Nurses](https://openstax.org/r/population-health-for-nurses). Digital ISBN: 978-1-961584-39-6.
3. APA 7 Online Manual: <https://stylemanual.apa.org/dashboard>
OR
4. Purdue Owl for information regarding American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition requirements for formatting, grammar, and punctuation.
owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Special Course Notes:

- a. Students are responsible for all course assignments and content, including announcements posted in Canvas learning management system. All work submitted must include the student's full name and date. All work must be typed on templates provided or as Word, Excel, or PowerPoint documents.
- b. Weekly module content, including video lectures and interactive learning activities (ILAs) are posted in Canvas by module. Students are responsible for viewing the lecture video and any other required videos then completing the Interactive learning activities. Completion of ALL components of the interactive learning activities results in a percentage of completion grade in the grade center. Completion of the course work for each module is recommended for successful completion of the course.
- c. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, examinations, etc.) are the property of the School of Nursing.
- d. Late assignments are discouraged and will be accepted at the discretion of faculty. A five (5) percent penalty for each day the assignment is late may be applied to the final grade at faculty discretion.

- e. Communication with faculty will be via canvas, phone, scheduled Zoom meetings, UTT Patriot email or scheduled appointment. Students are required to use their student Patriot or Canvas email accounts for all correspondence. **Email communication should include RNBS-4601 in the subject line**. Students are expected to check their university email at least every two business days. Faculty will respond to email correspondence within two business days.
 - a. Students must communicate with course faculty all potential/late assignments/exams and discuss options for making up and submitting late course work. Students will contact course faculty as soon as possible to discuss the situation. Students are subject to failing the course assignment/exam if they do not communicate with course faculty.
 - b. **All clinical activities and exams are required** to be completed to pass this course.

Computer Requirements: Access to a current, working computer or laptop with internet access using Firefox or Chrome browser is required for this internet-based course. The Canvas learning system works best using Firefox or Chrome browsers. It is essential to have access to a reliable PC/laptop and internet access for this course.

Internet Instructions: Course modules are online in Canvas (see course calendar). UT Tyler online canvas courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. Canvas works best using Chrome or Firefox browser. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course content. Lecture videos are optimally viewed in high definition.

- Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files.
<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web.
<http://www.java.com/en/download/>
- QuickTime allows users to play back audio and video files.
<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Criteria for Evaluation	Percentage of Grade
Getting Started Quizzes (Syllabus Quiz, Clinical Expectations Quiz, and APA Quiz)	15%
Interactive Learning Activities and Discussion Boards	35%
Clinical Grade: Required Clinical Activities • Windshield Survey • Virtual Community Assessment • Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness • Clinical Self-Evaluation	50%
Total	100%

Grading Scale: Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 75-79
- D - 60-74
- F - Below 60

Final course grades less than 75% are not rounded up. The combined weighted calculation of all course assignments, quizzes, exams, and clinical activities must be at least 75% in order to pass the course.

Grade Appeals: Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
 - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
 - a reduced or failing grade for the course
 - removal from the Nursing program
 - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply.

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Grade Replacement: Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Detailed instructions and, in some cases, examples are provided.

- **Syllabus Quiz:** Students will take a brief quiz over the syllabus which will be open during the first week of the course. No extensions are given for this quiz. This is required for validation of initial course attendance.
- **APA Quiz:** Students will take a brief quiz about APA which will be open during the start of the course. The quiz will cover content from the APA resources included in the Start Here Module and the APA Manual which is a required text for this course. No extensions are given without prior faculty approval for the quiz.
- **Clinical Expectations Quiz:** Students will take a brief quiz on the clinical expectations for the course which will be open during the first week of the course. No extensions are given without prior faculty approval for the quiz.

Interactive Learning Activities: This grade will be comprised of the interactive activities included within each module.

Clinical Activities: Three major clinical activities will be due throughout the course, including The Windshield Survey, The Virtual Community Assessment, and The Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness Clinical Activity.

- **Windshield Survey:** For Community Health Nurses to be able to knowledgeably plan services for a community, it is essential to know a specific community, identify health-related resources that may be helpful to members, and learn about gaps in services. A windshield survey is conducted from a car and provides a visual overview of a community. Conditions and trends in the community that could affect the health of the population are noted. This data provides background and context for working in the community or for conducting a community assessment. More thorough instructions will be available on Canvas.
- **Virtual Community Assessment:** The purpose of this clinical activity is to conduct a virtual community assessment by using secondary assessment data to identify a priority health promotion intervention. As part of this activity, you will prepare a report to be submitted through the assignment link. More thorough instructions will be available on Canvas.
- **Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness Clinical Activity:** This clinical activity helps meet the clinical objective to utilize the teaching/learning process to provide appropriate educational support to patients, care providers, and the public and to help you understand the importance of being individually disaster-prepared and aware of emerging infectious diseases. This activity consists of viewing disasters and emerging infectious disease-related material and starting an individual disaster plan/kit. You will also write a journal about this experience. More instructions will be available on Canvas.
 - a. Meet with course instructor for any **clinical activity** with a grade of less than 75%. All clinical activities must be passed with a score of 75% or greater to meet the student learning outcomes. Extenuating circumstances may apply.
 - b. Please review any additional course addendums for specific clinical information for this course. Passing the clinical component for this course is required to pass the entire course.

Weekly Open Office Hours: There are scheduled weekly office hours as noted in the Getting Started Module in Canvas. These meetings offer an opportunity where students can meet with the instructor to get questions answered and discuss course work and student success strategies. Students are encouraged to attend these sessions. Each session is recorded for

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin: October 19, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): October 23, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: November 18, 2026 – Please contact your advisor to discuss withdrawing from the course and notify your instructor.

Last day of class: December 12, 2026

Final Grades Posted: December 15, 2026

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:

Course Schedule				
Week #	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Course Preview Days	10/15/2026-10/16/2026	Canvas opens. The course faculty will not be available for questions.		- Your CliftonStrengths® assessment should be done through the VSU (Virtual Student Union) - No modules will be open for you to begin work in canvas.
Week 1	Monday 10/19/2026 Clinical Orientation Zoom at 1500	Module 1: Factors Influencing Nursing in Community and Population Health	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Chapter 1: What Is Population Health? Chapter 2: Foundations of Public/Community Health Chapter 3: Public/Community Health in Practice Section 16.1: The Community as the Client	
	Wednesday 10/21/2026			- Student Forms - Student Information - Syllabus Quiz - APA Quiz - CliftonStrengths® Assessment in VSU Due by 2359
	Friday 10/23/2026	Course Census Day	Last Date to Withdraw Without Penalty	
	Sunday 10/25/2026			Clinical Expectations Quiz Due by 2359
Week 2	Monday 10/26/2026	Module 2: Forces Affecting Nurses in Community and Population Healthcare Delivery	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Section 5.3: Virtual Care and Technology Section 5.4: Health Care Workforce	

			• Section 7.1: Factors Affecting Public Health Policy • Section 8.1: Economic Stability • Chapter 14: Environmental Health • Sections 21.1–21.3: Cultural Influences on Health Beliefs and Practices • Section 16.1: The Community as the Client • Section 17.1: Community Assessment Tools and Application • Section 28.4: Conducting a Family Nursing Assessment	
	Sunday 11/1/2026			• Windshield Survey • Eco Map – Clinical Activity • Interactive Learning Activities M2 Due by 2359
Week 3	Monday 11/2/2026	Module 3: Conceptual Frameworks Applied to Nursing Practice in the Community	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: • Chapter 11: Evidence-Based Decision-Making • Chapter 12: Epidemiology for Population/Community Health Decisions • Section 10.2: Theories and Models of Health Behavior • Chapter 19: Planning Community Health Education	
	Wednesday 11/4/2026			• Windshield Survey Post-Assignment Reflection: Initial Discussion Post Due by 2359

	Sunday 11/8/2026			- Windshield Survey Post-Assignment Reflection: Peer Response - Interactive Learning Activities M3 Due by 2359
Week 4	Monday 11/9/2026	Module 4: Issues and Approaches in Health Care Populations	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Chapter 16: Creating a Healthy Community Chapter 17: Assessment, Analysis, and Diagnosis Section 17.3: Analyzing Population Health Data and Identifying Patterns Section 20.5: Funding and Sustainability Chapter 13: Pandemics and Infectious Disease Outbreaks Chapter 32: Principles of Disaster Management	Midterm Evaluation opens
	Sunday 11/15/2026			- Virtual Community Assessment - Interactive Learning Activities M4 Due by 2359
Week 5	Monday 11/16/2026	Module 5: Issues and Approaches in Family and Individual Health Care	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Chapter 28: Caring for Families Chapter 26: Health Promotion and Maintenance Across the Lifespan	
	Wednesday 11/18/2026			Midterm Evaluation Closes Virtual Community Assessment Post-Assignment

				Reflection: Initial Discussion Post Due by 2359
	Wednesday 11/18/26	Last Day to Withdraw from the Course		.
	Sunday 11/22/2026			- Virtual Community Assessment Post-Assignment Reflection: Peer Response - Interactive Learning Activities M5 - Genogram – Clinical Activity Due by 2359
Thanksgiving Break	11/23/2026–11/29/2026	Thanksgiving Break	No class or course activities	No assignments due
Week 6	Monday 11/30/2026	Module 6: Vulnerability: Predisposing Factors	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Section 8.5: Cumulative Effect of Inequalities on Health Section 9.1: Health Disparities Defined Chapter 27: Caring for Vulnerable Populations and Communities Section 13.3: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control	.
	Sunday 12/6/2026			- Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness - Interactive Learning Activities M6 Due by 2359
Week 7	Monday 12/7/2026	Module 7: Nursing Practice in the Community: Roles and Functions	OpenStax Population Health for Nurses: Sections 3.2–3.3: Scope, Competencies, Functions, and Practice	Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness Post-Assignment Reflection: Initial Discussion Post

			• Section 29.4: Public Health Nursing and Public Health Departments • Sections 33.1–33.2: Nursing Advocacy in Population Health • Section 34.2: Why Nurses Are Key Players in Health Policy • Section 35.2: Leading Initiatives to Transform Health Systems	Due by 2359
	Wednesday 12/9/2026			• Clinical Activity Log • Interactive Learning Activities M7 • Disaster & Infectious Disease Preparedness Post-Assignment Reflection: Peer Response Due by 2359
		Course Ends 12/12/2026	All assignments close on 12/12/2026 at 2359	Final Grades Post 12/15/2026

Required Syllabus Language:

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in [UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy](#).

AI is not permitted in this course at all.

For this course, to best support your learning, you must complete all graded assignments by yourself to assist in your learning. This exclusion of other resources to help complete assignments includes artificial intelligence (AI). Refrain from using AI tools to generate any course context (e.g., text, video, audio, images, code, etc.) for an assignment or classroom

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.