Welcome!

We are excited to have you with us this semester! The semester will go by very quickly and there is much to do. NURS4212 is delivered entirely online. That said, please do NOT stress if you have a question. We expect that you will ask away. Post questions on the Generic Discussion Board (tab to the left of the announcements), answer each other, and / or email Anthe or Beth.
For some this may be one of their first online courses. Others are old hands at distance education. The best advice we can give is: 1) be organized and 2) if you are unclear about anything, ask a question! The syllabus includes detailed information about the different aspects of the course. Read it carefully, refer to it often and if you don't understand something, ask (are you hearing a theme?). This is obviously a different environment than if we were all in a classroom together and questions could be shared face-to-face or you could drop by the instructor's office to discuss your ideas. We want you to be successful and are available to support you in your effort.

We expect that you will spend about three hours "in class" every week. This includes time to complete readings and learning activities such as surveys, discussion board, group presentations and journal entries. Because we respect your schedule, we worked very hard to appropriately estimate how much time you will spend on the reading and learning activity assignments each week. You are adult learners and the course has been designed to include many independent activities. We trust that you will complete all of the activities as required.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Semester Hours: 2 Hours

PREREQUISITES: Full admission to the nursing program and completion of Adult Health 1 and Mental Health.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Theories and concepts related to gerontologic and nursing principles are presented within the framework of critical thinking and caring. The focus is on health promotion through nurturing, protective, and generative, evidence based practice interventions emphasizing the well and the vulnerable older adult population.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. Recognize attitudes, values, and expectations about aging and their impact on care of older adults and their families.

2. Analyze aging theories, concepts, and models that guide healthcare for the aging population.

3. Use interpersonal caring, critical thinking, and evidence based practice to reduce risk, maintain, and restore health of older adults and caregivers.

4. Identify cultural and ethical issues to consider when providing nursing care for older adults.

5. Analyze the impact of health policy related to access, equity, and affordability of care for older people.
6. Identify beliefs and attitudes about death and dying and methods nurses can employ to ease patient and family’s transition.
REQUIRED TEXT


GRADING POLICY

Completion of NURS 4212 is based on satisfactory attainment of all course criteria. Any student failing to meet the course objectives and expectations must repeat the course and may not progress to the next level.

Grades for the course will be weighted as below. Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average to pass the course (74.5 -74.9 is not rounded to 75). Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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

There are eight modules. Assignments, due dates, and assignment weighting by Module are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Total Grade</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>1. Survey: Aging Changes</td>
<td>1. 2%</td>
<td>1. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Journal Entry: Age of Champions</td>
<td>2. 4%</td>
<td>2. 10</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Discussion Board post: Lab experience (<em>1 original post &amp; 1 response</em>)</td>
<td>3. 10%</td>
<td>3. 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>1. Discussion Board post: Theory (<em>1 original post &amp; 1 response</em>)</td>
<td>1. 10%</td>
<td>1. 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>1. Discussion Board post: Physio Question (<em>1 original post &amp; 1 response</em>)</td>
<td>1. 10%</td>
<td>1. 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Journal Entry: Consultant Chat 1</td>
<td>2. 4%</td>
<td>2. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>1. Group Presentation</td>
<td>1. 10%</td>
<td>1. 100</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Journal Entry: Consultant Chat 2</td>
<td>2. 4%</td>
<td>2. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>1. Adaptation Assignment</td>
<td>1. 10%</td>
<td>1. 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Journal Entry: Consultant Chat 3</td>
<td>2. 4%</td>
<td>2. 10</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS

As you can see, there are four types of assignments: (a) surveys, (b) journal entries, (c) individual discussion board posts, and (d) group assignments.

All assignments for each Module are due at midnight on the date indicated. **Five points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late.** If unavoidable situations occur, e.g. work or family emergencies or illness that prevents timely submission of assignments, contact your instructor **BEFORE** the assignment is due. Extensions to assignment deadlines can be negotiated but this needs to be done **in advance**; retrospective extensions will not be awarded. Student assignments will not be re-graded. Instructors will not pre-grade or give opinions on assignments before they due. Grading rubrics for all assignments are linked in each assignment. Rubrics vary by assignment so be sure to review the rubric for each assignment to ensure your submission meets expectations.

The last day to withdraw from a course without penalty is **March 23**.

**Surveys**

In three Modules, you will be asked to complete a survey before completing other learning activities. These surveys are meant to raise awareness about aging issues. Answers to survey questions are anonymous so please respond honestly.

**Journal Entries & Consultant Chats**

There are six journal entry assignments. The first entry is in response to the video, Age of Champions, in Module 1. In Modules 3, 4, 5, and 6 you will interview an older adult, your Consultant, using assigned topics pertinent to the Module content. For each of these Consultant interviews, you will create a journal entry summarizing your conversation and sharing your critical thoughts about what you learned. **Note: When posting a journal entry, type in your comments directly into the journal window.** Do not type your comments into a document and then upload it. **Critical reflections of your consultant chat are a required component of the journal entries and are included in the grading rubric.** In Module 8, you will make one last journal entry summarizing your reflections about what you learned in the course.
About your Consultant: Please find an older person, 70 years or older. It can be a parent, friend, neighbor, or church member. Ask them to spend about three hours with you over the next couple of months. You will be asking them some questions about themselves, their health, and healthcare; assessing their environment, and helping them complete a Medical Emergency ID Wallet Card. If you know more than one person willing to serve as a consultant, please post your name and phone number on the Generic Discussion Board, “I know a Consultant”. If you don’t know someone 70 years and older, check out the forum and contact your colleague who has a consultant to spare. If your consultant is unable to finish the chats for some reason, contact your instructor and discuss options for meeting assignment requirements.

Discussion Board

The purpose of the discussion board (DB) in an online course is to take the place of conversations or presentations that would occur in a face-to-face class. It is your opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the assigned readings and your ability to supplement those readings with expanded exposure to related information. To that end, we will expect you to share ideas you have gained from the literature noting the source and interpreting into your own words (read: do NOT plagiarize!). We do not care if you use big words or a lot of words, but we are eager to read your thoughtful insights into the questions and statements.

Group Assignments

There are two group assignments during the course in Modules 4 and 6. You will be assigned to a small group at the beginning of the semester. The groups consist of about five students and might include students from different levels. We urge you to connect with your small group colleagues early on in the course and plan on how to communicate about the assignment (use Blackboard or other wiki, face-to-face, or via email). For group assignments, ONE document per group should be posted to the appropriate DB forum. Place all students’ names that contributed to the completion of the assignment at the top of the assignment. All students whose names are listed will receive the same grade. Group work can be fun and often produces better outcomes that individual efforts. Why? Because there are multiple brains working on the same problem. You also have the opportunity to explore more issues and problems in the context of group work. Yes, it is difficult to get everyone on the same page. Do you know what? That will ALWAYS be the case whether you work in the hospital, community, a doctor’s office or clinic, or teach. It is called “process” and a necessary life skill. We hope that you will embrace this opportunity and sincerely look forward to the outcomes produced! Individual work on a group assignment will not be accepted or graded.

Whether the DB assignment is individual or group, there are a few things that must be addressed:
1. Each student is responsible for participating in the asynchronous discussions. This participation will include posting answers to questions posed by the instructor and/or replying to other participants' postings. Two posts from each student are expected during each discussion.

2. APA format is expected including grammar, spelling, capitalization, sentence structure and punctuation, accurate presentation of reference citations in text and with full citations at the bottom of the post. And remember, plagiarism is not tolerated.

3. Postings must be timely. Deadlines are listed above and on the Course Calendar (tab to the right of the course homepage). Please note that all discussion postings must be completed by midnight Central Standard Time on the due date. Postings should be done in advance of the deadline in order to allow other participants the opportunity to read and comment.

4. Participants should plan on entering the DB forum at least two times. Once in order to read and a second time to comment on others' postings.

5. Quality of answers is as important as quantity. A participant's comments should add to the discussion. Comments should be supported with references cited appropriately. The instructor and/or participants may use synchronous chats as the need arises. All required points outlined in the assignment should be in the body of the posted comments.

6. If you disagree with a colleague or the instructor, that is OK. PLEASE show respect when you share a different opinion or idea.

Note: When posting to the discussion area, please type in your comments directly into the discussion. Do not type your comments into a document and then attach it to the discussion-this method is difficult for some students and instructors to access. We suggest that you type your comments into a Word document, then copy and paste it into the Discussion Board. Sometimes Blackboard has a mind of its own and loses content entered into a text box (very frustrating!). You must use the "clipboard icon" on the top of the discussion board frame into which you are typing in order to paste in Blackboard.

Assignments/Projects Turn-In Process

All assignments and projects will be submitted through the Assignment Tab. Use the following process to prepare and submit assignments:

- Prepare your assignment using Microsoft Word. Name your assignment with the following convention: your last name, first name initial, and assignment title (for example, JonesKPhysioQuestion.doc). This is important since it helps us download and save files but still know whose file it is. Please also note your name within the assignment.

- Click on "View/Complete Assignment" in the Assignment Tab
  - Number 1-shows the assignment instructions
• Number 2-is where you add your comments (NOT the assignment itself)
• Number 3-when all attached files (your completed assignment files) are uploaded, click submit

• NOTE: DO NOT ATTACH a word document for journal and discussion board assignments. Please create your assignment in a word document then copy and paste directly into the assignment window.

When assignments are received, they will be opened in Microsoft Word or SPSS for grading. This will enable us to make comments, ask questions, etc. Your assignment can then be returned through the student grade book area. You must click on the grade to view comments. Be advised that your written work is subject to the plagiarism detection program, SafeAssign, see below.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

1. Students are expected to assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted as homework and examinations.

2. Students are advised to review the UT Tyler Academic Dishonesty Policy and Academic Integrity Policy in the Current College of Nursing Student Handbook and Academic Integrity Policy for UT Tyler students at www.uttler.edu; click on current students, then Vice-President for Student Affairs, then Student Guide for Conduct and Discipline at UT Tyler. These policies are fully endorsed and enforced by all faculty members within the College of Nursing.

3. Plagiarism, cheating, and collusion are unacceptable and if found violating any of these standards the student will be disciplined accordingly (See BSN/MSN Nursing Student Guide for definitions).

4. The College of Nursing reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for any infraction of a legal, moral, social, or safety nature, pursuant to the procedures detailed in the Regent’s Rules.

5. SafeAssign is a feature provided by Blackboard that is designed to detect plagiarism or non-original student work. Your instructor may set up this feature so that when you submit assignments, they are automatically sent through SafeAssign. The program checks your work against a comprehensive database of source material including previous students’ work and other papers and materials found on the web. An originality report will be generated that indicates the percentage of non-original material (text that matches existing sources) found in your paper. The purpose of using SafeAssign in your course is to ensure you are writing original papers and to encourage you and all students to properly attribute all sources used.
**STUDENT DRESS CODE**

It is the philosophy of the College of Nursing that the student has a responsibility to be neatly groomed and modestly dressed. Appearances should promote good health, safety and general well-being of the student. Clothing should avoid brevity and/or design that are offensive to the dignity and rights of others. School officials have the right and responsibility to counsel with the student or take any other corrective action. Types of clothing (other than those specified in this document) may be worn at the direction of the nursing instructor for special events.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

A. General

1. All assignments are located in Blackboard Modules. Each Module will remain accessible throughout the course.

2. All submitted written material (papers, assignments, journals, etc.) are the property of the College of Nursing. They will be maintained in an archived file in the College of Nursing.

3. The BSN/MSN Nursing Student Guide is available on the CON website at [http://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/](http://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/). The student must sign the statement indicating they have accessed the guide and return the signed Student Guide Affirmation Form to the program secretary for placement in the student file. (Responsibility of Level 1 faculty to include in syllabus)

4. All nursing students are required to use their student email accounts (Patriot accounts) for all correspondence. Faculty is not required to open any other emails sent by students.

*IMPORTANT:* Please check your UT Tyler email and course announcements every few days. We will send you updates regarding assignments as they become available.

5. Our goal is to return assignments within a week from the due date. Please know that there might be extenuating circumstances that require more time; for example, if we are traveling. We will notify you in advance regarding any delays.

B. Expectations of Students in NURS 4212.060

1. Students will read and prepare weekly according to syllabus and objectives.

2. All students must have reliable access to Internet including ability to view Tegrity recordings. Students must have alternative plans to access Internet in case their primary source is unavailable.
3. Students are responsible for all announcements, course assignments and course materials placed on BlackBoard as well as textbook assignments. If you experience any problems that you are not able to resolve by accessing the Information Technology Support Services at ITSupport@patriots.uttyler.edu, contact your course faculty at the numbers listed above.”

4. Assigned projects will be turned in on the date assigned unless prior arrangements have been made with faculty. Late work will only be accepted at the discretion of the faculty. A five (5) point deduction will be taken for each day any assignment is late. Due dates can be negotiated in advance; please talk to your faculty in the case of personal or family emergency.

5. Technology requirements and information are located on the Student Resources page.

Expectations of Faculty in NURS 4212.060

1. Class materials will be posted in a timely manner.

2. Response to student emails will be done in a timely manner. Responses will be given Mondays through Fridays during work hours, 8:00a.m. through 5:00p.m. Faculty will only respond to Patriot email. If a response is not received by student in 2 working days, email should be re-sent.

3. Faculty will be available during posted office hours.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES (http://www.uttyler.edu/academic/syllabuspolicies.pdf)

STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

GRADE REPLACEMENT/FORGIVENESS AND CENSUS DATE POLICIES

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 (January 26, 2015) 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. If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade.
point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog)

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.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date).
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade).
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment.
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid
STATE-MANDATED COURSE DROP POLICY

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Student Accessibility and Resources Services (Formerly Disability Services)

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria apply to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to cstaples@uttyler.edu.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement:

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g.,
via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation:

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.