

## Course Overview

### Course Information

Course Name:	Nursing: Fundamentals
Course Number:	543-101
Instructional Area:	Nursing
Credits:	2
Contact Hours:	36 hours

### Instructor Information

#### Ann Ruesch

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Questions are best sent to me by email, or voicemail. The normal response time to expect is 48 hours for me to respond to your message. I am available to you Monday through Friday during normal working hours.

**My office hours are: Mondays from 1100 -- 1200 and Tuesdays from 1400 -- 1500.**

### Course Description

Nursing Fundamentals is a 2 credit, 17-week, first semester nursing course. This course focuses on basic nursing concepts that the beginning nurse will need to know to provide care to diverse patient populations. Current and historical issues impacting nursing will be explored within the scope of nursing practice. The nursing process will be introduced as a framework for organizing the care of patients with alterations in cognition, elimination, comfort, grief/loss, mobility, rest, integument, and fluid/electrolyte balance.

### Course Prerequisites

#### Prerequisites

- Admission to nursing program
- Must have completed all general education and elective courses

#### Pre/Corequisite

- General Anatomy and Physiology or Anatomy and Physiology 1

## Course Information

### Learning/The Adult Learner:

Self-directed, independent study requires that the student accepts responsibility for learning specific objectives within a defined period of time. The adult learner must assume an active role by setting priorities for all personal activities, thus allowing adequate time to prepare for discussions and clinical laboratories to meet course objectives. Sessions will only be meaningful if the student has prepared themselves prior to attending discussions or clinical lab.

## **Course Competencies**

1. Differentiate scopes of practice within the nursing profession.
2. Maintain a safe, effective care environment.
3. Use appropriate communication techniques.
4. Use the nursing process.
5. Adapt nursing practice to meet the needs of diverse clients in a variety of settings.
6. Provide nursing care for clients with sleep/rest/mobility alterations.
7. Identify principles of body mechanics for caregiver, client, and significant others.
8. Provide nursing care for clients with nutritional, fluid, and electrolytes disturbances.
9. Provide nursing care for clients with commonly occurring alterations in elimination patterns.
10. Provide nursing care for clients with integumentary disorders.
11. Provide nursing care for clients with infection.
12. Provide nursing care for clients with cognitive and sensory impairments.
13. Provide nursing care for clients and families experiencing grief and loss.

## Course Grading Policy

1. Grades will be determined with the following weighing of activities:

Unit Quizzes (5 total)	10% each (or 50% total)
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%
Small Group Project	5%
One Case Study	5%
Discussion Forum Postings	<u>10%</u>
	100% (see course calendar for quiz/exam dates)

2. The following standards must be met:

- a. To successfully complete a nursing theory course a student must earn a grade of a "C" (80%) or above.
- b. In order to pass the course the student **MUST** have a solid 80% average or greater on unit and final exams. Failing to do so will result in a "D" course grade. Except for the final grade, all coursework with a score of 0.5 and above will be rounded to the next whole number. The final course score will not be rounded.
- c. In the event a student does not pass a unit exam with a minimum of 80%, the student will be required to meet with the instructor to assess individual circumstances, blocks to learning, and previous test taking history. Recognizing that the application of classroom learning is crucial to safe nursing practice and successful completion of the licensure exam, retake exams will not be allowed. **It is the responsibility of the student to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the failed exam.**
- d. A student who does not receive at least a grade of "C" must repeat the course before progressing further in nursing courses.
- e. The group project and case study along with due dates will be assigned the first week of classes by the instructor.
- e. Weekly discussion questions will be assigned on ten weeks of the seventeen weeks. Discussion questions will be collected by the instructor during class.
- f. See the Evaluation Policy 3.2.3 in the Nursing Program Handbook for more specific details for the nursing program.

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3. A letter grade will be assigned on the following percentages:

A	95-100%
A-	93-94%
B+	91-92%
B	87-90%
B-	85-86%
C+	83-84%
C	80-82%
C-	79%
D+	78%
D	77%
D-	76%
F	below 76%

Course Expectations:

- a. **Attendance** – Attendance in theory class is expected. Attendance Policy 3.2.1 in the Nursing Program Handbook applies to this course. See handbook for detailed attendance policy.
- b. **Class Participation** - You will be expected to actively participate in class discussion. At times the instructor will call on students to promote discussion.
- c. **Written Assignments** - You will be expected to hand in all written assignments on the due date and time. Late papers will only be accepted if the instructor is notified prior to the due date of the extraordinary circumstance that prevents you from completing the assignment on time. Graded Assignments: 5 points a day will be deducted for late assignments. Non-Graded Assignments: 0.5 points will be deducted from the final course grade for each late non-graded assignment.
- d. **Library – Journal Usage** - When using journals for nursing related assignments from the library, **do not** rip articles from the journals. This makes it difficult for other students to access the information. This conduct violates the student code of conduct and students may be prosecuted for destruction of college property.
- e. **Exams and Quizzes** – Exam and quiz questions may include information from the text, class discussion, worksheets, assigned videos, or other learning activities. You will be held responsible for any of the material assigned.
- f. **Missed Exams** - You will be expected to complete exams during the exam time frame. If you are unable to complete the exam by the due date, you **must** notify the instructor before the due date and make alternative arrangements. An exam can only be rescheduled once during a semester. If an exam is missed and you fail to contact the instructor prior to the due date, 5 points will be deducted from the exam score. You will only be allowed one reschedule during the semester. You will receive a zero if a second exam needs to be rescheduled.
- g. **Safety** - You will be expected to utilize Universal Precautions in the Skills Lab and clinical settings at all times.

**Personal Safety** - In order to maintain student and faculty safety, we ask that students inform faculty if there are any domestic situations that we should be aware of, including if you have a restraining order against any individual. If any student has a current restraining order it is imperative that you notify your instructor of this so we can help to keep you safe. In addition, in complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, MSTC can release the following directory information without the consent of the student: name, address, email address, telephone number, date and place of birth, past and present classes enrolled in, major fields of study, dates of enrollment, degrees and

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awards received, educational institutions attended and other similar information as defined by the institution. Students do have the right to inform MSTC that any or all of the above information should not be released prior to their consent. Students who wish to do this must complete and sign a form revoking any disclosure. If you choose to do limit disclosure, you should make an appointment with the college registrar.

- h. **ADN Student Handbook** - Student expectations are discussed in detail in the ADN Student Handbook.
- i. **Disability** - If you know that you have a recognized disability, or suspect that you might have one, it is your responsibility to identify yourself as soon as possible to the Disability Staff in Student Affairs. Course standards will not be lowered but various kinds of accommodations are available to you. In order to qualify for these accommodations, there must be written documentation from a medical disability specialist describing your disabilities. Adequate and reasonable time will be required to develop and provide appropriate accommodations, so contact Disability Services as soon as possible. It is MSTC's goal to assist you in your individual educational plan. (Approved by the Dean's Council March 20, 2002)
- j. **Testing Accommodations** – You must notify the instructor the first week of classes if you require testing accommodations. It is your responsibility to arrange appointments with the Testing Center for all exams/quizzes. You should make appointments for all tests for this course within the first week of class. You can refer to the course calendar which will provide you with all testing dates. Once you have scheduled all of the testing dates, please inform the instructor of the dates and provide the instructor with the required paperwork. If the Testing Center cannot accommodate you during the time when the exam should be taken, arrangements should be made to complete the exam prior to the rest of the class, rather than after the assigned date. Remember, you represent the nursing department and professional behavior at the testing center is absolutely expected. On the date of the test, you are expected to report to the Testing Center on time and return to the classroom on time to participate in the lecture.
- k. **Any Problems or Concerns** - If you are having difficulty achieving unit competencies and learning objectives see your instructor in their office as soon as possible to discuss the problem. You do not need to have a recognized disability to seek help from your instructor. Take initiative to contact your instructor. Don't assume your instructor knows you desire some assistance.
- l. **Academic Honesty** - The Mid-State Technical College Board, administration, faculty, and staff believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education. All students are expected to maintain and promote the highest standards of personal honesty and professional integrity. These standards apply to all examinations, assigned work, and projects. Therefore, a student who is found to have been dishonest, fraudulent, or deceptive in the completion of work or willing to help others to be so or who is found to have plagiarized (presented the work of others as his or her own) is subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension. (Approved by the Deans Council May 15, 2002)

Review the MSTC Student Code of Conduct. Go to the MSTC web site <http://www.mstc.edu/students/policies.htm> and review the Student Code of Conduct Policy.

## Textbook Information

Ackley, B.J. & Ladwig, G. B. (2010). *Nursing diagnosis handbook: An Evidence-based guide to planning care*. (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Required: Yes

Berman, A., Snyder, S., Kozier, B., & Erb, G. (2008). *Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of nursing: Concepts, process, and practice*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

Required: Yes

MSTC. *Fundamentals Syllabus*. Wisconsin Rapids, WI: Mid-State Technical College.

Required: Yes

O'Toole, M. (2003). *Miller-Keane encyclopedia & dictionary of medicine, nursing, & allied health*. (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: Elsevier Science.

Required: No