



UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS  
ARLINGTON  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

## Syllabus

# **NURS 3425 Holistic Health Assessment Across the Lifespan**

## **Spring 2015 Session 2 (Feb 23 – March 29)**

Instructor(s):

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Faculty profiles available at: <https://mentis-test.uta.edu/>

Before using the email addresses above, please use the email through Blackboard first. Your coach will be your first contact, whom you will “meet” during the attestation process. If Blackboard should go down, then use the email addresses above.

Description of Course Content: Theory and practice of holistic health assessment of individuals and families across the life span designed for the Registered Nurse (RN-BSN Students only). (4 semester hours)

Student Learning Outcomes:

Performance Outcomes	Measurement Strategies
1. Demonstrate appropriate techniques to conduct holistic health assessment across the lifespan.	Quizzes Assessment forms
2. Identify normal, variations of normal and abnormal assessment finds based on variations across the lifespan.	Quizzes Assessment forms
3. Conduct comprehensive assessments of individuals and families to include nutritional, physical, psychosocial dimensions.	Assessment forms

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Course Prerequisite: N3645 Professional Nursing (may be enrolled concurrently).

- 1) Internet access (preferably hard-wired for quiz-taking)
- 2 ) Blackboard ID & password (given to you)
- 3) Word processor that allows students to submit assignments in the following formats: .doc or .docx.

.odt is not supported by the Blackboard assignment viewers which our coaches must use, despite the fact that Blackboard instructions state it does allow them. Assignments in .odt cannot be viewed or graded by instructional staff.

Note: Many students using tablet computers have had trouble submitting assignments and taking tests, so we recommend the use of hard-wired internet capabilities and a laptop or desktop computer. At this time we highly recommend that you do not use the Blackboard app on your phone for taking quizzes and turning in material—students who try are consistently having difficulties with the program. (Perhaps soon Blackboard will be able to work out the details, but at this time the app is mainly useful only for checking on results.)

**You will need access to the following equipment in order to conduct required assessments:**

1. Otoscope—an inexpensive model is fine. Many students have purchased one from a local drug store or Amazon for less than \$15.00.
2. Diagnostic tuning fork, in the same price range as the otoscope, but usually not sold at drug stores. You could purchase one from a medical supply or order online.
3. Reflex hammer
4. Tongue blade or similar tool for assessing the mouth/tonsils
5. Stethoscope, sensitive enough to distinguish S3 and S4 heart sounds—an inexpensive Sprague- A Sprague – Rappaport type of model for under \$20.00 would be sufficient for

your needs in this class. The stethoscope should have both a bell and diaphragm so you can better ascertain detailed heart sounds.

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. All students are expected to pursue their scholastic careers with honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test or other course work, plagiarism (offering the work of another as one's own), and unauthorized collaboration with another person. Students found guilty of dishonesty in their scholastic pursuits are subject to penalties which may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Please see the academic dishonesty section of this syllabus.
2. Students are responsible for contacting faculty members for consultation regarding a problem with, or questions about, the course. Contact your coach first, and if the coaches cannot help you, they will forward your request to the faculty responsible for that function.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Weber, J. & Kelley, J. (2014). Health assessment in nursing (5th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott. \*\*\* Please note EBook does not have page numbers and previous students have preferred hardcopy due to the nature of assignments in the course\*\*\*

ISBN-13: 9781451142808

ISBN-10: 1451142803

Students not receiving their textbooks by the day of class will appreciate the provision by the UTA library, of making the first week readings available through the e-reserves at the following site: <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>

**SUPPLEMENTAL/OPTIONAL TEXTBOOKS:**

1. Weber, J., Kelley, J., & Sprengel, A. (2014). Lab manual to accompany health assessment in nursing (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott.
2. Weber, J. (2014). *Nurse's Handbook of Health Assessment* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott. ISBN: 978-1-4511-4280-8
3. American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations (see master schedule for due dates):

Component	% of grade
Weekly quiz	10 % each module x 5 weeks = <b>50%</b>
Weekly Assignments (9 total assignments worth 5% each.)	Week 1: 5% (Only 1 assignment) Week 2: 10% (2 assignments) Week 3: 10% (2 assignments) Week 4: 10% (2 assignments) Week 5: 10% (2 assignments)      Total assignment grade = <b>45%</b>
Discussion board	No discussion board for weeks 1 and 2. 1% for week 3, 2 % for modules 4 and 2% for module 5 = <b>5%</b>
Total	100%

**All assignments are due at 23:59 Saturday night, CST of the week the assignment was given (Module 1 assignments are due the Saturday night of week 1, etc.) Late penalties will apply: 5% per day, beginning at 0001 Sunday morning.)**

**Module 5 is the final module and because grades are due to UTA registrar, ALL assignments must be turned in by 23:59 of the last week/weekend of the class. Medical emergencies compelling students to turn in work late may result in a grade of incomplete, or the grade earned without the late assignment added in. If that should occur, the grade will be rectified through the required university channels, after processing and grading of the late work.**

**The quiz portals close at 2359 pm of the weekend night (Sunday night—see schedule for clarification), and the coaches will only allow late submissions for appropriate, documented reasons such as medical emergencies. Late discussion postings receive no credit—though you may still make comments and answer questions other students pose if you choose to, after the due date is expired.**

#### **GRADING POLICY:**

In order to successfully complete an undergraduate nursing course at UTA, the following minimum criteria must be met:

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- 70% weighted average on written assignments (i.e. non-proctored written, computerized assignments, etc.)

In undergraduate nursing courses, all grade calculations will be carried out to two decimal places and there will be **no rounding of grades**.

Letter grades for tests, written assignments, end of course grades, etc. shall be:

A:	90.00 - 100.00
B:	80.00 - 89.99
C:	70.00 - 79.99
D:	60.00 - 69.99

The existing rule of C or better to progress remains in effect; therefore to successfully complete a nursing course students shall have a course grade of 70.00 or greater.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

**Attendance:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I require a passing score and evident log-ins and student work.

**Drop policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

As in the past, the last date to drop a RN-BSN course is adjusted. The adjusted date will now reflect a point two-thirds of the way through the course.

In the Spring of 2015, drop dates for RN-BSN Holistic Health Assessment 3425 are as follows:  
Courses for starting 2/23/2015, drop date: 3/16/2015.  
For 4/6/2015, drop date: 4/27/2015.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable

accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Plagiarism and cheating:**

Copying another student's paper or any portion of it is plagiarism. Additionally, copying a portion of published material (e.g., books or journals) without adequately documenting the source is plagiarism. If five or more words in sequence are taken from a source, those words must be placed in quotes and the source referenced with author's name, date of publication, and page number of publication. If the author's ideas are rephrased, by transposing words or expressing the same idea using different words, the idea must be attributed to the author by proper referencing, giving the author's name and date of publication. If a single author's ideas are discussed in more than one paragraph, the author must be referenced at the end of each paragraph. Authors whose words or ideas have been used in the preparation of a paper must be listed in the references cited at the end of the paper. Students are encouraged to review the plagiarism module from the UT Arlington Central Library via <http://library.uta.edu/tutorials/Plagiarism>

**Collusion (getting information on quizzes and assignments from other students), cheating, and plagiarism are not tolerated and will result in the student being sent to the Office of Student Conduct for academic dishonesty. The student's name may be submitted to the Board of Nursing for the state they reside in, should the Office recommend such action. All assignments are submitted through the plagiarism-monitoring tool, SafeAssign for screening.**

**Student Support Services:**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University

College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication Policy:**

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu).

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** In general, for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 4-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 12 hours of reading, study, etc. Students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least 12 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Student Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state

law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**LIBRARY INFORMATION:** Peace Williamson, Nursing Librarian  
(817) 272-7433, E-mail: [peace@uta.edu](mailto:peace@uta.edu)

Research information on Nursing: <http://libguides.uta.edu/nursing>

**RN-BSN PROGRAM****SUPPORT STAFF:**

Pamela Smith, Administrative Assistant I  
Room 657 Pickard Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
(817) 272-2776 ext. 4814  
Email: [pamsmith@uta.edu](mailto:pamsmith@uta.edu)

## **COLLEGE OF NURSING INFORMATION**

### **UTA College of Nursing Policy**

Effective for students entering the nursing program Fall 2009 (Jr I) and forward, the following policy applies:

Students within the program, enrolled in an upper division NURS course are permitted to drop the course one time. Upon attempting the course for the second time, the earned grade is retained. Students may drop no more than three upper division NURS courses during their undergraduate career. Elective and pre-nursing courses are exempt from this policy.

### **STUDENT CODE OF ETHICS:**

The University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing supports the Student Code of Ethics Policy. Students are responsible for knowing and complying with the Code. The Code can be found in the Student Handbook.

### **BLACKBOARD CONDUCT:**

The BLACKBOARD discussion board should be viewed as a public and professional forum for course related discussions.

Students are free to discuss academic matters and consult one another regarding academic resources. The tone of BLACKBOARD postings should be professional in nature.

It is not appropriate to post statements of a personal or political nature, or statements criticizing classmates or faculty.

Inappropriate statements/language will be deleted by the course faculty and may result in denied access to the Main Discussion board.

Refer to UTACON RN-BSN Student Handbook for more information.

### **Rules for Blackboard**

1. It is the student's responsibility to check Blackboard every day for course related information.

### **Blackboard Etiquette**

1. Discussion postings are for class-related activities only. No political postings or non-related class postings are allowed. Separate discussion board is created for discussions related to senior activities like pinning, Sigma Theta Tau induction and/or Graduation information.
2. Questions posted on the discussion board by students will be answered in a timely manner—our goal is to have a 24- hour response time, but occasionally it may be

longer. On weekends or evenings, questions may not be answered. Please post questions about exams early the day before the exam, as these may not be answered after 5:00 p.m. If a student has a question about an exam that may benefit the entire group, please post it on the discussion board.

#### **NO GIFT POLICY:**

In accordance with Regents Rules and Regulations and the UTA Standards of Conduct, the College of Nursing has a “no gift” policy. A donation to the UTA College of Nursing Scholarship Fund would be an appropriate way to recognize a faculty member’s contribution to your learning. For information regarding the Scholarship Fund, please contact the Dean’s office.

#### **OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:**

Undergraduate Nursing faculty and students shall follow the University policy regarding Observance of Religious Holy Days:

([http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic\\_regulations.aspx#6](http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#6))

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

***The Student Handbook can be found by going to the following link:***

**<http://www.uta.edu/nursing/bsn-program/> and clicking on the link titled BSN Student Handbook.**