

**Department of Nursing Education and Health
Studies Course Outline
Winter 2024**

**NS1250: Nursing Practice – Health Assessment & Nursing Process
4 credits (2-0-3) 75 Hours 15 Weeks
(Groups A3/B3/C3)**

INSTRUCTOR: Course Lead	Teresa Evans RN, PhD(c)	PHONE:	(780) 539-2805
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Northwestern Polytechnic respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: NURSING PRACTICE – HEALTH ASSESSMENT & NURSING PROCESS

The focus is on the health assessment of the adult and expected health assessment findings throughout the lifespan. The course provides a beginning foundation of the nursing process as framework for developing assessment skills and use of clinical technologies necessary for determining client health status and provision of care.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S):

Prerequisites: NS1500 and NS1205

Corequisites: MI1330 and NS1240

Note: Available only to Nursing students.

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition.

Ackley, B.J., Ladwig, G. B., Makic, B. B. F., Martinez-Kratz, M., & Zanotti, M. (2020) Nursing Diagnosis Handbook – An Evidence Based Guide to Planning Care (12th ed.). Elsevier

Astle, B.J., & Duggleby, W., Potter, P.A., Perry, A., Stockert, P.A., & Hall, A.M. (2019). Canadian fundamentals of nursing (6th edition). Elsevier Canada.

Jarvis, C., Browne, A., McDonald-Jenkins, J. & Luctar-Flude, M. (2023). Physical examination & health assessment (4th Canadian Edition). Elsevier Canada.

Jarvis, C., Eckhardt, A., Van Pelt, L. & Irving, L. (2023). Student laboratory manual for physical examination and health assessment (4th Canadian Edition). Elsevier Canada.

Required supplies

- Stethoscope
- Penlight
- Watch with a second timing indicator
- Scrubs (While NWP scrubs are not required for labs their use is encouraged)
- Appropriate footwear
- Black pen
- Student Identification Card

DELIVERY MODE(S): Over 15 weeks Lecture 2 hr/week Lab 3 hr/week

All components of this course are delivered in person at the GPRH HEC campus. Lecture will be in the classrooms, as indicated on the student schedule/section. Labs will be held in the various lab spaces.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides the beginning foundation of the nursing process as framework for developing assessment skills and use of clinical technologies necessary for determining client health status and provision of care.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Understand the role of health assessment in nursing practice and patient care in all settings.
2. Develop and demonstrate the relationship of health assessment and assessment skills in the nursing process through understanding of subjective and objective data collection, validation of findings, and exploration of beginning phases for patient care.
3. Provide rationale underlying for assessment techniques for subjective and objective data collection.
4. Apply therapeutic communication skills to facilitate professional relationship building, conducting health history interviews, health promotion activities, risk reduction identification, and patient learning.
5. Describe and demonstrate a holistic approach to health assessment across the lifespan.
6. Acquire the skills of physical examination and demonstrate safe, competent patient assessments.
7. Demonstrate professionalism and ethical practice during health assessment and nursing practice.
8. Demonstrate accurate, organized, concise documentation of health assessment findings.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

EVALUATIONS:

Assignments	Due Dates	Weight
1. Lab Handbook Activity Completion	At beginning of each weekly lab (10 labs).	10% total
2. General Assessment Interview	Sunday February 4 th at 23:59	20%
3. Midterm Exam	February 29 th In Class	30 %
4. In Class Focused Assessment Activity	April 4 th In class	10%
5. OSCE	During lab time week of April 1-5 th .	Pass/Fail
6. Final Exam	April 11 th In Class	30%

1. Lab Handbook Activity Completion:

Students must have purchased a hard copy of the following textbook:

Jarvis, C., Eckhardt, A., Van Pelt, L. & Irving, L. (2023). *Student laboratory manual for physical examination and health assessment* (4th Canadian Edition). Elsevier Canada.

Referring to each week's COPE sheet, students will complete the required section in the Laboratory Manual and present to their lab instructor each week at the beginning of class. If students have not completed the required section, or are absent from the lab, they will obtain a zero for that day's activity.

2. General Assessment Interview:

To become more comfortable with asking questions and using communication skills when working with patients, students will have opportunity to complete a health history on a person they know that has an illness or condition. This cannot be completed on a peer that is in the course. Consent to be interviewed and to have the information shared with your instructor will be obtained prior to the interview (see MyClass). Utilizing the laboratory manual as a guide, students will complete a thorough health history that covers all systems. Marking guideline and further description of this assignment will be posted on MyClass.

3. Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be a paper-based exam, written on scantron sheets. Please ensure that you have HB pencils for the exam. Accommodations will be granted if needed for students requesting changes in time or length of exam and at the instructor's discretion. The exam may be composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank and matching questions.

Exam will include content from lectures, required readings, and labs from Week 1 – Week 6 inclusive.

Concepts being covered: Communication, Spirituality, Culture, Pain, Thermoregulation, Tissue Integrity, Sensory Perception, Functional Ability, Mobility, Elimination & Nutrition.

4. In Class Focused Assessment Activity:

Students will complete an in-class focused assessment case study provided for them with all pertinent information. Students are required to answer questions utilizing critical thinking, knowledge from prior learning (anatomy, physiology, pharmacology), and from content learned in this course. Once complete, peers will evaluate and provide feedback to each other.

The assignment will be in class on April 4th, 2024. Students must be physically present in class to complete the activity. If students are absent and have not provided 48 hours' notice of absence, they will receive a mark of zero with no chance to complete. The completed assignment and all notes associated with it will be submitted to instructor at the end of class.

5. Final Examination

The final examination will be written in person using scantron sheets. Please ensure that you have HB pencils for the exam. The content is from midterm, and covers all lectures, required readings, and laboratory experiences.

Concepts to be covered include: Safety, gas exchange, perfusion, sexuality, cognition, and the complete health assessment.

The exam will be composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank and matching questions. Please refer to NWP's final examination policy located on the NWP website.

6. Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

OSCEs are designed to test clinical skill performance and competence in a range of skills. It is a practical, real-world approach to learning and assessment.

To pass NS1250, students are required to pass the OSCE. A total of 3 attempts to pass an OSCE are permitted. All OSCE re-testing must be completed by the end of the course to receive a pass in NS1250.

If the student is unsuccessful in passing the OSCE after 3 attempts; the student will be deemed unsuccessful in the course. If a student is absent and does not provide notice, they will receive a failure on the attempt.

Students will complete one OSCE. Which OSCE will be randomized between the following possible OSCEs at the time of assessment:

- Abdominal Assessment
- Cardiovascular Assessment
- Respiratory Assessment

GRADING CRITERIA

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

Nursing courses require **a minimum of 67% (C+) pass on all components** to pass the nursing course.

The assignments are marked as raw scores according to the percentage weight assigned to each or provided with a grade. The marks on course assignments will contribute to the overall letter grade according to the percentage that each assignment is weighted in the course.

At the end of the course, all assignment scores are totaled for a term summary mark in the course based on the grading scale below. The **FINAL COURSE GRADE** is based on the cumulative total of individual student's weighted assignment marks. **Final course grade must be a C+ to pass the course.**

SPECIALIZED SUPPORTS AND DUTY TO ACCOMMODATE

Specialized Support and Duty to Accommodate are aligned with the office of Disability Support Services: Learner Assistance Program (LAP) guided by federal and provincial human rights legislation and defined by a number of NWP Policies. NWP is obligated by legislation to provide disability-related accommodations to students with identified disabilities to the point of undue hardship.

If you have a documented disability or you think that you would benefit from some assistance from a disability's counselor, please call or visit the Disability Supports Office (780) 539-2722 to book an appointment. Services and accommodations are intended to assist you in your program of study, while maintaining the academic standards of NWP. We can be of assistance to you in disclosing your disability to your instructor, providing accommodations, and supporting your overall success at Northwestern Polytechnic.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Students are to refer to the 2023-2024 [Northwestern Polytechnic Important Dates](#) document.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Dates	Related Concept(s)	Theory/Lab
1	Jan 8-12	Communication, Spirituality & Culture	Spiritual & Cultural Assessment PPE & Hand Hygiene
2	Jan 15-19	Pain & Thermoregulation Jan 17 Last Day to Add/Drop Courses Jan 17 Last Day to Pay Winter Fees	Vital Signs & Pain Assessment
3	Jan 22-26	Tissue Integrity	Skin, Hair, & Nails
4	Jan 29 – Feb 2	Sensory Perception	Eyes, Ears, head, face, neck, nose & mouth
5	Feb 5 – 9	Functional Ability & Mobility General Assessment Interview Due: April 4th at 23:59	Musculoskeletal & Functional Assessment
6	Feb 12-16	Elimination & Nutrition	Abdominal, nutrition, genitourinary assessments
7	Feb 19-23	WINTER BREAK	
8	Feb 26-March 1	Midterm Exam – During Class Thursday February 29th. No Theory Class	Lab/Lecture: Safety, walkers/wheelchairs/crutches
9	Mar 4-8	Gas Exchange	Thorax, lungs & Breast with regional lymphatic Assessments
10	Mar 11-15	Perfusion	Heart, neck vessels, peripheral vascular and lymphatic assessments.
11	Mar 18-22	Sexuality	Neurological Assessment & Cranial Nerves
12	Mar 25-29	Cognition	Cognition Assessment in Theory Class. Good Friday March 29th NO LABS THIS WEEK
13	Apr 1-5	April 1 – Last Day to Withdraw with permission April 4th – In Class Focus Assessment Activity	OSCEs
14	Apr 8-12	Final Exam – April 11th IN CLASS	OSCE Repeats The Complete Health Assessment

NURSING PROGRAM POLICIES:

Students are to refer to the 2023-2024 [Northwestern Polytechnic Academic Calendar](#) and the *University of Alberta Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program with Northwestern Polytechnic Student Handbook* for specific nursing program policies that may pertain to the course.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments, examinations, and quizzes must be completed.

Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty. If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to 48 hours prior to the assignment due date and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered. Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment. If the late penalty places the grade below the necessary pass grade, students will be unsuccessful in the course. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received.

Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

General Assessment Interview

Assignment Rubric

	3	2	1
Consent Obtained /5	Consent form included and signed by participant.		
Biographical Data/Source/Reason /5	Provides thorough and accurate biographical data, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of its relevance to health assessment. Source and reason for assessment included	Presents basic biographical data with notable omissions. Source or reason included	Shows limited understanding of the importance of biographical data, with frequent omissions or inaccuracies. Source and reason not included.
Current Health or History of Current Illness /5	Effectively assesses the current health status, demonstrating a detailed understanding of key indicators and their implications.	Provides a basic assessment of current health status, with notable gaps or oversights.	Fails to assess current health status adequately.
Past Health History /10	Thoroughly and accurately gathers and presents past health history, demonstrating an understanding of its impact on current health.	Presents a basic overview of past health history with noticeable gaps or inaccuracies.	Fails to gather and present relevant past health history.
Family History /10	Provides a comprehensive and accurate family health history, demonstrating an understanding of its relevance to potential health risks.	Shows limited ability to gather and present family health history, with frequent gaps or inaccuracies.	Fails to gather and present relevant family health history.
Review of Systems /20	Conducts a thorough and accurate review of systems, demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of body systems and their interconnections.	Conducts a basic review of systems with noticeable gaps or some systems not assessed.	Fails to conduct a relevant review of systems.
Functional Assessment /20	Effectively assesses the client's functional status, demonstrating a detailed understanding of activities of daily living and their impact on health.	Provides a basic assessment of functional status, with missing information	Fails to assess functional status adequately.
/75			