

### Course Syllabus Intro to Nursing

COURSE: RNSG 1209 (2:2:0) Introduction to Nursing

SEMESTER: Fall 2026

CLASS DAYS: All online - See course calendar

CLASS TIMES: All online – See course calendar

INSTRUCTOR: Shelly Schafer MSN, RN

OFFICE: AH 112 D

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

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**“South Plains College improves each student’s life.”**

#### GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

\*It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with the content and requirements listed in the course syllabus.\*

#### **STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION PICTURES (added 12/3/2025)**

**EFFECTIVE SPRING 2026:** In order to comply with institutional identity-verification procedures, students enrolled in courses at South Plains College must have a current photo available in the College’s student information system. Approved photos are used solely for instructional, advising, and security purposes and are protected under applicable privacy laws. Students without a photo on file must update their record during the first week of class.

Pictures may be uploaded using these [instructions](#).

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an overview of nursing and the role of the professional nurse as a provider of patient centered care, member of the health care team, patient safety advocate, coordinator of care, and member of a profession. Topics include: nursing history, knowledge, judgment, theory, research, interprofessional roles, skills, and professional values with a legal/ethical framework. The course provides an introduction to professional writing utilizing American Psychological Association (APA) format.

This course is an online course meaning Blackboard will be utilized predominantly for content and communication. The student is expected to check the Blackboard course frequently to check for new messages,

access content, get assignment postings, take exams, and view changes to the calendar, schedule or content should this become necessary.

If you are having difficulty accessing or using any components of Blackboard please use the following contact information. If you need Instructional Technology support, please make sure you contact the South Plains College Help Desk. For an email address that reaches everyone in the Instructional Technology department, please use [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu).

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

|                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| At the completion of the semester students will:                                                                                                            |
| 1. Analyze the relationship between historical and contemporary events and the development of nursing.                                                      |
| 2. Describe ethical and legal concepts relevant to the practice of professional nursing.                                                                    |
| 3. Evaluate the role of the nurse as a member of the interdisciplinary team.                                                                                |
| 4. Discuss the importance of key concepts in nursing including: philosophy in nursing education, research, and practice nursing theory, caring, and holism. |
| 5. Identify the importance of professional writing, scholarship, and membership to professional nursing associations.                                       |
| 6. Discuss the nursing role as a patient advocate.                                                                                                          |

## EVALUATION METHODS

Teaching methods: module instruction, power point presentations, discussion board forums

Evaluation methods: individual assignments, exams

Web based: exams, and assignment submissions

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating** - Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in the office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of coursework. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism** - Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism. An "F" may be assigned to a student in the case of academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism at the discretion of the instructor, as clearly defined in the course syllabus, due to the severity of the student's actions and disregard for the learning objectives of the course. If a student is found to be cheating or plagiarizing, the following incident report ("Academic Dishonesty/Integrity Incident Report") found on the SPC website will be submitted and the incident will also be reported to the Dean of Students.

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SouthPlains&layout\\_id=20](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SouthPlains&layout_id=20)

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

### **Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:**

AI applications are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as, generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

### **Collaboration and Consultation:**

While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations. Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

### **Critical Thinking and Originality:**

AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

### **Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:**

AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI. Therefore, when using AI, just like with using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

### **Responsible Engagement:**

Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

### **Compliance with South Plains College Policies:**

Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

***Remember, AI can be a tool to support your learning in certain courses and assignments, but it cannot replace the critical thinking, creativity, and independent work that are integral to your overall academic growth.***

## **BLACKBOARD**

Blackboard is an e-Education platform designed to enable educational innovations everywhere by connecting people and technology. This educational tool will be used in this course throughout the semester.

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## **SPECIFIC COURSE INFORMATION**

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### **TEXT AND MATERIALS**

Black, B. P. (2023). *Professional nursing: Concepts & challenges* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Saunders; Elsevier.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY (\*READ CAREFULLY)**

#### **Course Attendance**

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the logging into Blackboard, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who never attends and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of that policy. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

[http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=47&navoid=1229#Class\\_Attendance](http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=47&navoid=1229#Class_Attendance)

### **ASSIGNMENT POLICY**

All assignments must be completed by the assigned due date. The final project must be submitted to the discussion board *and* to the project assignment tab and you must respond to peers about their topic as well; **if submitted late it will be a 10 point deduction on the first late day, and if more than 24 hours late it will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be recorded.** Discussions and exams, missed due to an unexcused absence may not be made up. Assignments are due by the assigned dates and times in Central Standard Time (CST) on the class schedule. Students should contact faculty prior to the due date and time if they anticipate material will be late. Please note contacting faculty will not guarantee the receipt of an extension for the assignment. Please allow enough time for preparation and submission of each assignment prior to the scheduled due date. Due to the time constraints within this course, there are no allowances for extra credit assignments or resubmissions of an assignment. Please allow enough time for preparation and submission of each assignment prior to the scheduled due date.

### **EXAMS:**

Students will be required to complete four exams listed on the class schedule, **each worth 50 points** for a total of 200 points of the final course grade. These are not long exams at 50 questions on each unit exam. You select the time on the scheduled day, but **it must be completed between 0600 and 2359** on the day it is assigned. The student will receive 1 minute per question to complete the exam. Exams are located under the assigned week in Blackboard. Examinations will be open-book and taken from the student’s home or preferred location and are due to be completed by the dates listed on the class schedule. These exams are not to be done in groups, but individually. Once entered the student must finish the exam in one setting; if a student exits the exam it will

automatically submit. **It is the student's responsibility to notify the facilitator if technical difficulty occurs during the examination immediately through SPC email. Without proper notification within 24 hours of exam completion, access to a new exam will not be granted.** Any exam not completed during the assigned time frame will receive a zero. During the exam NEVER click the Back, Forward, or the Refresh buttons. Let the screen resolve when saving an answer before clicking next. Exam reviews are not permitted. **There are no "dropped" grades or extra credit assignments in this course.**

### **Policy on Exam Administration:**

Exams will be administered according to the schedule set by the course facilitator documented in the course syllabus. Any changes to the exam schedule will be at the discretion of the course facilitator.

To better prepare the student for the licensure exam testing format, unit, and comprehensive exams will be administered as follows:

- Questions will be given to the student one at a time.
- The student must answer and save the answer before going to the next question.
- The student will not be allowed to return to previous questions.
- Any question not saved by the student will be marked wrong.

### **DISCUSSION BOARD FORUMS:**

Students will be required to complete four discussion board forums plus the discussion board tied to the final project all accounting for of the final course grade. **These are worth 100 points each for the four discussion forums and another 100 points that is built into the final project.** The forums have a due date for your initial response and the responses to your peers and are due by the dates listed on the class schedule in the syllabus. There are no makeups for discussion boards as this is an interactive assignment with peers and must be completed during the assigned time frame. It is the student's responsibility to locate the discussion forum in blackboard; if a student is unable to view the forum the student should notify the course facilitator on the first day of the forum and notify information technology. You will not see your peer postings until you have posted your initial prompt. Follow all instructions for successful completion of discussion boards.

### **FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION:**

Each student will complete a final project that the student selects from a list of topics accounting for **400 POINTS** of the final course grade. This is an individual project, and each student will complete their own power point presentation project. A discussion board is also tied to the presentation. The presentation and peer responses are due by the dates listed on the class schedule.

**Failure to upload the final project to both the discussion board and to the assignment link will result in a 10-point deduction each day late up to 3 days. After three days, the student will receive a zero for the assignment.**

### **GRADING POLICY**

The grade for this course will be determined upon completion of the following components:

|                                                                   |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Exams (4) each worth 50 points                                    | 200 points         |
| Discussion Board Forums 4 Discussion Boards each worth 100 points | 400 points         |
| Final Project with Discussion Board #5                            | 400 points         |
| <b>Course Total</b>                                               | <b>1000 points</b> |

Course grades are based on the following scale and there is no rounding of grades:

A= 90-100%      =    900 -1000 points  
B= 80-89.99%    =    800 - 899 points  
C= 70-79.99%    =    700 –799 points

D= 60-69.99% = 600 –699 points  
F= below 60% = 0 – 599 points

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

The “Turn It In” application will be utilized for detection of plagiarism and use of artificial intelligence. Turn It In will review your document and generate a percentage of detected plagiarism and AI. The maximum percentage allowed to pass is:

Turn It In: 25% or less  
Artificial Intelligence: 15% or less

If a student does not meet the Turn it in and AI usage percentage their work may be investigated for plagiarism. If a student is found to be cheating or plagiarizing, the following incident report (“Academic Dishonesty/Integrity Incident Report”) found on the SPC website will be submitted and the incident will also be reported to the Dean of Students.

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SouthPlains&layout\\_id=20](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SouthPlains&layout_id=20)

## CIVILITY

While there are no classroom meetings for this course, students are expected to demonstrate respect and civility towards faculty and other students in an online environment. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a virtual classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure all students have the opportunity to gain information from the learning environment; students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction, disrespect, inappropriate language or behavior in online interactions. Inappropriate behavior in the virtual classroom will be dealt with by the course faculty on an individual basis. **Please use the faculty email as the primary source of communication.** There are no office hours for this course.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Rules and regulations relating to the students at South Plains College are made with the view of protecting the best interests of the individual, the general welfare of the entire student body and the educational objectives of the college. As in any segment of society, a college community must be guided by standards that are stringent enough to prevent disorder, yet moderate enough to provide an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and personal development.

A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. When a student enrolls at South Plains College, it is assumed that the student accepts the obligations of performance and behavior imposed by the college relevant to its lawful missions, processes and functions. Obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity and common sense guide the actions of each member of the college community both in and out of the classroom.

Students are subject to federal, state and local laws, as well as South Plains College rules and regulations. A student is not entitled to greater immunities or privileges before the law than those enjoyed by other citizens. Students are subject to such reasonable disciplinary action as the administration of the college may consider appropriate, including suspension and expulsion in appropriate cases for breach of federal, state or local laws, or college rules and regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus which is likely to have adverse effects on the college or on the educational process which identifies the offender as an unfit associate for fellow students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards may be asked to withdraw. Rules and regulations regarding student conduct appear in the current Student Guide.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS PLAN**

The Return to Campus Plan is a living document that is subject to change. Revisions to a specific section will be noted in the title of the section and updated in the Table of Contents, on the cover page and with notations at the end of the document. The most recent version will be posted on the SPC COVID-19 Resource page (<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>). Historical copies of the plan are available from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

For college policy statements related to: Intellectual Exchange Statements, Disabilities Statements, Non-Discrimination Statements, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statements, CARE, or Campus Concealed Carry Statements visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

See the schedule for the course under the “Course schedule” tab in Blackboard.