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Course Syllabus

COURSE: PTHA 1309 Introduction to Physical Therapy (3:3:0)
SEMESTER: Spring First 8 Weeks 2026
LOCATION: AH 104 (Levelland Campus)
CLASS DAYS: M/W
CLASS TIMES: 1:00P – 4:00P

INSTRUCTOR INFOMATION

Name	Phone Number	Email	Office	Office Hours
Kevin Beaugh	(806)716-2518	kbeaugh@southplainscollege.edu	AH 103F	M-F 8A-9A

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course includes an overview of the knowledge and professional skills necessary to reach competence in the provision of physical therapy services. Topics will include the role of the physical therapist assistant, and the PTA’s role in the healthcare team, the ever-changing healthcare system and laws and regulations encountered in the profession of PT, the role cultural diversity plays in the provision of healthcare, and professional oral and written communication skills utilized in the healthcare setting.

PREREQUISITE COURSES: ENGL 1301; MATH 1314; PHYS 1410; PSYC 2314; SCIT 1409 **OR** BIOL 2401 AND BIOL 2402; HUMA

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:
(click arrow to expand each outcome and reveal subtopics)

1. Summarize important trends in the development of physical therapy.
2. Explain the importance of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the APTA’s *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*.
3. Differentiate among the roles of the PTA, PT, and other health care providers.
4. Explain the effect of patient diversity on physical therapy care.
5. Discriminate effective communication techniques in a variety of physical therapy situations with all stakeholders.
6. Assess emotional responses common to physical therapy settings.
7. Examine ethical issues related to physical therapy care.
8. Classify legal issues related to physical therapy care.
9. Recognize patient confidentiality issues related to physical therapy care.
10. Generate appropriate SOAP note format documentation.
11. Interpret a patient’s/client’s impairments and activity/participation limitations using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.
12. Compare and contrast common physical therapy settings and diagnoses.
13. Participate in professional and community activities that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy, and leadership.
14. Demonstrate generic abilities related to course content.

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OUTCOME ASSESSMENT METHODS

Computer-based exams, written assignments, quizzes, and other assignments and projects as assigned.

Formative assessments (low point value activities designed to improve student understanding) include

- ❖ Classroom Participation
- ❖ Assignments
- ❖ Worksheets

Summative assessments (high point value activities designed to assess student understanding) include

- ❖ Midterm and Final Exams

GRADING FORMULA

Assignment Total	Average of all course assignments	15%
Exam Total	Average of Midterm and Final Exams	75%
Professionalism	Attendance and participation, based on Professionalism Rubric	10%

Percentage	Grade
90-100%	A
80-89.9%	B
75-79.9%	C
74.9% and below	F

GRADING POLICY

Any student whose final course grade is below the passing requirement (75% or greater) will not be allowed to continue in the PTA Program. Any student whose course grade is below a 77% at any time during the semester will be responsible for initiating a meeting with the course instructor to discuss adding action plan(s) to the student’s Success Plan to improve the student’s performance. It will outline the student’s academic issues, list interventions to address these issues, and will assess the student’s participation/completion of these interventions. The student will be responsible for completing their Success Plan action plans.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Assignments are due by the assigned dates and times (in Central Standard Time) as indicated on the assignment calendar. Assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard as a Word Doc or PDF. Please allow enough time for preparation and submission of each assignment prior to the scheduled due date to avoid issues with technology. Students should contact faculty prior to the due date and time if they anticipate material will be late. Please note that contacting faculty will not guarantee the receipt of an extension for the assignment. All assignments must be completed by the assigned due date. Late and/or incomplete work may be accepted, but with daily grade deduction for no more than 3 days, after which a grade of zero will be recorded. Assignments, quizzes, exams, and skills checks missed due to an unexcused absence will be made up only with advanced notification of illness or emergency situation. Failure to complete any assignment by due date will result in Professionalism points deduction.

EXAM POLICY

Exam Completion : The written exams will be administered via computer to prepare students for the NPTAE. Additionally, many exam questions will be constructed in the same manner as NPTA, allowing students to prepare for the licensure testing format.

- ❖ All summative assessments will be proctored by SPC Faculty/Staff and by Honorlock. The following will be monitored : your computer screen and web traffic (including URL(s) visited) (to verify that only one tab of one web browser is being open/running/in use, for the sole purpose of displaying your exam). The following will be disabled and not allowed : copying and pasting, printing, ability to open any applications/programs.
- ❖ Personal belongings are not allowed in the testing area during testing.
- ❖ Pencils and scratch paper will be issued to students prior to exam. These items must be returned prior to exiting testing area.
- ❖ Cell phones and/or smart watches are not allowed in the testing area during testing.
- ❖ Students must adhere to classroom rules.
- ❖ Hats or hoodies may not be worn.
- ❖ Talking will not be permitted; questions will be answered by an instructor.

Any action interpreted as cheating by proctoring instructor may result in immediate removal from testing area, a zero recorded for the test grade, and/or possible removal from SPC PTA Program.

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SPC CAMPUS STATEMENTS

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

STUDENT CONDUCT

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 everything : quizzes of whatever length, examinations, daily reports, term papers, etc..
- ❖ **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 the internet, artificial intelligence, books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.
- ❖ **AI Usage**- Dependence on AI tools can decrease human discretion and oversight. Students should not copy from any source, including AI, without prior approval and proper citation of source. Students should not submit AI-generated work as their original work.

Complete honesty is required throughout all aspects of coursework, including quizzes, examinations, and any assignment/work used to assess knowledge and skill. Any assessment receiving a score of 0 or F due to cheating may result in the student being dropped from the course.

Class Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. For the College's class attendance policy, use this link: http://catalog.southplainscollege.edu/content.php?catoid=47&navoid=1229#Class_Attendance.

- ❖ **Absence** - Missing more than 30 minutes of scheduled class time is considered an absence.
 - Excessive Absences : more than three absences is considered excessive. The student will initiate a meeting with the course instructor no later than after a second absence.
- ❖ **Tardy** - Missing any time after class starts (at beginning of class or after a break) is considered being tardy. The student will notify the course instructor prior to class start/restart time of anticipated tardiness.
 - Two tardies are considered the equivalent of one absence (consideration based on prior notification may be given on a case-by-case basis).
- ❖ Any absence from class should be reported to the instructor in advance whenever possible, or as soon as possible after the absence if advance notice is not possible. This allows instructors time to adjust planned class activities and provide necessary support (such as address any missed coursework).
- ❖ The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined above.

Success Plan Expectation

Students are expected to schedule an appointment with their Faculty Mentor at least once a month to discuss progress on their Success Plan and develop strategies for the successful completion of the PTA Program and preparation for the NPTAE.

CLINICAL SKILLS

- ❖ You **may not apply clinical skills** you are learning to the general public because you are a student PTA and are learning physical therapy techniques.
- ❖ You will be practicing these skills on each other under the instructor's supervision.
- ❖ If you are presently working in a clinic as a technician, you **cannot practice these skills on clinic patients**.
- ❖ Once you have passed the class, you still **cannot practice the acquired skills in a clinic** except during your assigned clinical experiences under the supervision of a clinical instructor.
- ❖ You will only be permitted to apply these skills to the general public under a clinical instructor's supervision once you begin your clinical experiences.

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Enrollment in this course does not guarantee successful performance in this course, successful completion of the PTA curriculum, or licensure.

COMMUNICATION

Electronic communication between the instructor and students in this course will utilize the South Plains College email system. Text messaging may also be used for communication. The instructor will not initiate communication using personal email accounts. Students are encouraged to check their SPC email on a regular basis (i.e. daily), and respond to emails and text messages promptly (within 24 hours), outside of class time. Students will have electronic access to course material via Blackboard.

- ❖ If technological difficulties are encountered (e.g. with accessing Blackboard or email), appropriate support services should be promptly contacted for assistance. The SPC Help Desk can be reached by calling (806)716-2600. Also, the instructor should be informed to avoid delays in access to necessary class content and activities.
- ❖ This policy aims to facilitate effective and efficient communication between the instructor and students, promoting a seamless learning experience.

EMAIL

Students are required to use their official South Plains College (SPC) email addresses for all college-related communications. Official SPC email addresses are provided to each student upon enrollment and are the primary means of communication between students, faculty, and the college.

- ❖ **Email Etiquette:**
 - Students are expected to maintain a professional and respectful tone in all email communications with faculty, staff, and fellow students. Offensive, disrespectful, or inappropriate language in emails is strictly prohibited.
- ❖ **Email Security:**
 - Students should take steps to protect their email accounts. This includes using strong, unique passwords and not sharing email login credentials. If students suspect their email accounts have been compromised, they should report it immediately to the College's Information Services department.
- ❖ **Check Email Regularly:**
 - Students are encouraged to check their official SPC email accounts regularly. Important announcements, updates, and notices from instructors, administrative departments, and the College as a whole are communicated through these accounts.
- ❖ **SPC Alerts:**
 - Students are automatically enrolled in SPC Alerts, which is an emergency notification system. Students are encouraged to ensure their contact information is up to date in SPC Alerts to receive important safety and emergency notifications.
- ❖ **Email Support:**
 - If students encounter technical issues with their SPC email accounts or need assistance with email-related concerns, they should contact the college's Informational Services for assistance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

This social media policy is meant to help students understand professional responsibility and use of social media platforms, given the sensitive nature of healthcare and patient information.

- ❖ Clinical site, patient information, and any other content related to clinical experiences should not be shared on any social media platform. Sharing this information can lead to dismissal from the PTA Program.
- ❖ Instructor information, course information, and any other content related to the PTA Program or South Plains College should not be shared on any social media platform unless approved by the College or Program.
- ❖ The PTA Program has a Facebook page at "[South Plains College PTA](#)". It is mainly used to distribute Program information to the public, and may also be used (in addition to the [South Plains College website](#)) to communicate College-wide announcements (regarding weather delays/closures, etc.). “Liking” the South Plains College PTA Facebook page is not necessary, nor are personal Facebook accounts, in order to access this page.

CELL PHONE/SMART WATCHES

- ❖ Cell phones must be **silent** during class unless prior approval has been given by the instructor.
- ❖ Telephone conversations are to occur **outside** of the classroom.
- ❖ Student may be dismissed from class if phone usage distracts from class (e.g. it continuously rings/vibrates). If dismissed from class, the student will receive an absence for the day.

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PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

- ❖ Students must uphold the highest standards of patient confidentiality. Do not discuss specific patients, cases, or share any patient-related information on social media platforms, even if patient names or identifiers are not disclosed. Be cautious about sharing any content that might indirectly reveal patient information, such as photos or stories taken in clinical settings.

RESOURCES

This course uses Open Education Resources (OERs) only. There is no required or recommended textbook, and you do not have to purchase any materials for this course. All resources are made available on the course’s Blackboard.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZ, AND EXAMS
WEEK 1 Monday Jan. 12 th	Introduction to PTHA 1309 : Syllabus, Expectations PRACTICE : The History of PT & the APTA	Acknowledgement Quiz DUE Monday, Jan. 12th by 3PM Patient Care Team Member Interview DUE Tuesday, Jan. 13th by 11:59PM
WEEK 1 Wednesday Jan. 14 th	EsPRIT DE CORPS : The Role of the PTA, PT/PTA Team, Interprofessional Healthcare Team	Disability Awareness Experience & Disability in the Movies Questions BOTH DUE Sunday, Jan. 25th by 11:59PM
WEEK 2 Monday Jan. 19 th	NO CLASS – MLK, Jr. Day	
WEEK 2 Wednesday Jan. 21 st	PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS : Cultural Competence	
WEEK 3 Monday Jan. 26 th	PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS : Chronic Illness and Hospitalization, Loss & Grief	
WEEK 3 Wednesday Jan. 28 th	RAPPORT : Communication, Patient Instruction/Education	
WEEK 4 Monday Feb. 2 nd	RAPPORT : Motivational Interviewing	
WEEK 4 Wednesday Feb. 4 th	Midterm Exam POTENTATES : Ethics, Professionalism	Midterm Exam Wed., Feb. 5th at 9AM
WEEK 5 Monday Feb. 9 th	POTENTATES : Laws and Regulations, Reimbursement	
WEEK 5 Wednesday Feb. 11 th	PRACTICE : Disablement, Documentation	
WEEK 6 Monday Feb. 16 th	PT SPECIALTIES : Cardiopulmonary Rehab, Neurorehabilitation, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Pelvic Health, Oncology, Wound Care, Sports Rehab	
WEEK 6 Wednesday Feb. 18 th	PT PRACTICE SETTINGS : Acute Care, Inpatient Rehabilitation, Home Health, Rural Health Care, Prison, Private Outpatient, Skilled Nursing Facility, Telehealth	
WEEK 7 Monday Feb. 23 rd	PT PRACTICE SETTINGS : Patient Care Delivery Models	
WEEK 7 Wednesday Feb. 25 th	Final Review	
WEEK 8 Monday Mar. 2 nd	Final Exam	Final Exam Mon., Mar. 2nd at 9AM
WEEK 8 Wednesday Mar. 4 th	Clinical Prep Clinical Experience Panel at 12:15P	Clinical Experience Panel Discussion DUE Wednesday, Mar. 4th by 11:59PM Clinical Site Preferences DUE Wednesday, Mar. 4th by 11:59PM