SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
NUR 4305
Rural and Border Community Public Health
Senior Spring Semester

NUR 4305 RURAL AND BORDER COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH
SEMESTER HOURS: Three (3) Credits (Hybrid)
DIDACTIC CONTACT HOURS: 2 Clock Hours/Week
LAB CONTACT HOURS: 4 Clock Hours/Week
TOTAL CONTACT HOURS: 96

LEVEL: Senior

PREREQUISITES: Successful Completion of Previously Assigned Courses

This course will

> **FACULTY INFORMATION:**
> **Name:** Dr. Traci Henry
> **Contact Information:** Traci.Henry@sulross.edu
> **Office Hours**: Virtual appointments as needed
> **Phone number(s):** 713-825-4137

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course emphasizes transition to practice through the role of community and public health concepts and is designed and adapted to rural and border individuals/populations/communities. Assessment of national, state, and local services and policies that address health promotion and disease prevention and goals are included in the course. The various roles of nurses in the community health systems are explored and practiced and build on previous clinical experiences in the community. The course addresses community assessment and policy planning unique to the setting. Challenges faced by community health nurses are explored.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, each student will understand community health issues and services within a rural/border environment through activities designed to ensure that the student will be able to:

1. Identify evidence-based practice strategies applied to promote, maintain and restore health of rural and border community members.
2. Analyze concepts of health disparities, health literacy, and cultural beliefs essential to the local community assessments.
3. Describe community health resources benefiting patients, populations, and the community.

4. Describe disaster preparedness and emergency health services at national, state, and local levels.

REQUIRED REFERENCES:

This course will utilize school purchased third party vendors such as Uworld, Mark Klimek, and Faculty developed lecture modules, all are resources for student learning.
Each resource is embedded within the LMS shell, with clickable links.

COURSE LEARNING ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING, AND EXPECTATIONS:

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Students will use a variety of learning resources within this course. Embedded and live lecture series, knowledge checks, and Uworld capstone content. Students will participate in group activities, induvial learning domains, and provide competency through Exams.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING:

1. Evaluation of student performance is based on evidence of achievement of course objectives. Students are graded on their attendance and participation in the class discussion, reflections and observations, and when applicable, knowledge and comprehension of reading assignments, and completion of course assignments. Criteria for each course activity and assignments, including grading rubrics are delineated in the syllabus.

2. **Summary of Measures for Evaluation**:

Course Requirements	Course Requirements
Homework Assignments Review Modules	15 %
Knowledge Checks Quizzes	25 %
Capstone Lab Modules Assignments	Complete/Incomplete
Exams	60 %
Total	**100%**

Evaluation Rubrics attached following syllabus narrative.

3. **Calculation of Final Grade**: The final grade is derived as a summary of the points delineated on specific rubrics for the assignments and participation.
Grading Scale
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 75-79
D = 69-74
F = 69 OR BELOW

POLICIES FOR EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Testing/Assessments: Examinations will be given in class or via the use of Proctor Free. Instructions will be provided at the time of the examination.

Missed Examinations and Makeup Examinations: Faculty members must be informed immediately when a student is aware that an examination will be missed. Make-up should occur within a week of the scheduled examination as agreed on between faculty and student. Should scheduling conflicts and/or family emergencies arise, students should contact faculty by phone, email, or text as soon as possible. If students have spoken with faculty and an agreement is reached, late make-up exams can be arranged without penalty.

Late and Make-up Assignments: To achieve the designated points for an assignment, the assignment must be submitted at or before the scheduled date and time. Five points per calendar day will be deducted for late submission of assignments. Should scheduling conflicts and/or family emergencies arise, students should contact faculty by phone, email, or text as soon as possible. If students have spoken with faculty and an agreement is reached, late and make-up assignment extensions can be arranged without penalty.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics	Competencies
Week 1	Pathophysiology Review: Fluid and Electrolytes, Acid Base, Test Taking Strategies, and Drug Classifications	Baseline Assessment Practice Quiz
Week 2	Cardiac System: EKG, Coronary Artery Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, Myocardial Infarction, and Aortic Aneurysm	Pharmacology Module Pharmacology Exam Practice Quiz
Week 3	Continued Cardiac – Pedi Ortho - Crutches, Canes, and Walkers Mental Health Psychotropic Medications	Fundamental Module Fundamental Exam Practice Quiz
Week 4	Drugs for Ortho, Pain, and Mental Health Test Taking Strategies	Health Assessment Module Health Assessment Exam Practice Quiz
Week 5	Endocrine System	Adult Health Module Adult Health Exam Practice Quiz
Week 6	Endocrine, Infectious Disease and Transmission Based Precautions	Maternal Newborn Module

		Maternal Newborn Exam Practice Quiz
Week 7	Lab Values, Adult Neuro	Child Health Module Child Health Exam Practice Quiz
Week 8	Pediatrics and Neuro	Mental Health Module Mental Health Exam Practice Quiz
Week 9	Spring Break – No Assignments	
Week 10	Intro to Maternity and Test Taking Strategies	Unit 1: Klimek Review Homework Unit 1: Practice Quiz
Week 11	Reproductive System	Unit 1: Knowledge Check Quiz in class Unit 2: Klimek review homework upload Unit 2: Practice Quiz
Week 12	Management of Care	Unit 2: Klimek Knowledge Check Quiz Unit 3: review homework upload Unit 3: Practice Quiz
Week 13	Maternity and Pediatric	Unit 3: Klimek Knowledge Check Quiz Unit 4: Klimek Review Homework Upload Unit 4: Practice Quiz
Week 14	Emergency Care	Unit 4: Knowledge Check Quiz Unit 5: Klimek Review Homework Upload Unit 5: Practice Quiz
Week 15		Unit 5: Klimek Knowledge Quiz Unit 6: Klimek Review Homework Upload

		Unit 6: Practice Quiz
Week 16	Mandatory In-person 2-day NCLEX Live Review, April 28th/April 29th, Tuesday and Wednesday Final Predicator April 30th. Failure to attend both days will result in a course failure.	Unit 7 and 8 Klimek Review Homework Upload Practice Quiz Comprehensive Predictor April 30th
Week 17	Remediation and additional testing	

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:
Orientation to Course: The course orientation is on the first day of class. Students are expected to be present and participate in the course objectives, expectations, and evaluation.

Faculty and Student Picture and Biography:
Faculty will submit a picture and summary of educational and professional experiences that prepared them to teach in respective courses.

During the first week of class, students must each submit a snap-shot or picture of themselves with a brief personal and professional biography, including educational and clinical experiences and any personal information that highlights why they are choosing to seek a BSN.

STUDENT/FACULTY EXPECTATIONS IN THE TEACHING/LEARNING PROCESS:

Learning is a shared endeavor based upon respectful and collaborative relationships between students and faculty. The learning activities designed for this course were developed based upon the following:
1. As adult learners, we are partners in learning.
2. Faculty members serve as mentors and provide resources. Faculty also guide, or coach and serve as a professional peer.
3. Our work and life experiences differ and serve to enrich our individual and mutual learning.
4. Each member of the class is committed to preparing for and successfully completing class learning activities.
5. Each member of the class will organize time, learning goals, work schedules, and family arrangements to fully participate in the course and assignment activities.
6. Each member of the class is able to use computer technology and access resources via the internet and other mobile technologies as needed for this and other courses.

COMMUNICATIONS:
- **Announcements** Check announcements each time you log onto the course.
- **Course email** Check course email frequently for communications and make sure that your email address is current. Faculty will respond to inquiries and comments within 24 hours Monday-Friday.

- **Use of technology**: If you have any technical questions, problems, or concerns with Blackboard, do not spend more than 15 minutes on any technical problems. Seek help immediately. Contact 24-7 Help Desk at: 1-888-837-2882 and/or techassist@sulross.edu.
- **Responses to emails and course postings**: Please respond to faculty requests and/or communications within 24 hours. Use course or Sul Ross email and, if not available, mobile phone or texting between the hours of 9 AM and 6 PM if possible. Messages received on the weekends or holidays will be answered by the next working day.
- **Assignments:** Assignments will be reviewed and returned with feedback/grade within 4 days of submission.
- **Writing and use of APA**: All written assignments and bulletin board postings will be submitted using the American Psychological Association (APA) Guidelines, as indicated by faculty. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:
- Your attendance is expected at every class meeting, both face to face and online.
- Readings and learning activities relevant to the weekly topic are identified in the course schedule and modules.
- Scholarly and knowledgeable participation requires that you read your assigned readings prior to joining the class discussions.
- An online course requires participation in all areas for accurate evaluation of performance, including responding to faculty requests or communications.
- If you have an emergency and cannot attend a class meeting or complete an assignment by the due date, you must contact your faculty by phone, email, or text as soon as possible and make arrangements to make up the assignments.
- Blackboard course platforms have a tracking feature. This feature quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course. The Blackboard tracking function may be utilized to verify student online participation.

RULES OF NETIQUETTE:
The term "netiquette" refers to written and unwritten rules regarding appropriate communication on the Internet. It primarily applies to your interactions on the course Discussion Board, assignments both individual and group, and e-mail communications.
1. Help create a community of scholars by encouraging a cooperative win-win attitude in which all members of the class are willing to work together, each contributing in their own way.
2. Be courteous and respectful to students and faculty in the course.
   a. There is a difference between making a statement that is a critical appraisal of an idea and criticizing someone for their point of view.
   b. Be careful with the tone of what you are communicating, i. e., sarcasm and subtle humor; one person's joke may be another person's insult.
   c. Do not use all caps in the message box (it is considered shouting).
   d. Do not use language that is inappropriate for a classroom setting or prejudicial in regard to gender, race, or ethnicity.

3. Be helpful and be sure to do your part in an online class or in group work so that assignments can be completed.
4. Common courtesy and good manners, along with proper use of grammar, sentence structure, and correct spelling, are essential when taking an online class.
    a. Use a meaningful title in the Subject line. For e-mail, include course number.
    b. Use the person's name you are writing to as a greeting in the first line of the message this helps ensure you are writing to the intended person (group).
    c. Close the posting by writing your full name at the end of the message.
5. Discussion Boards are public, and the University archives all materials. Do not post anything too personal as all students in the class and your instructor will see what you write.
    a. Keep the messages you post to the Discussion Board relevant to the course and assignment and provide a rationale including references as appropriate to support your point-of-view.
    b. Avoid duplication. Read the previous discussions before you comment or ask a question as the information may have already been covered.
    c. When posting a response, make sure you identify the post to which you are responding.
    d. If the topic you plan to address is covered in an existing thread, do not start a new thread.
    e. When responding to a specific comment, quote only the relevant part of the comment and stay focused on the assignment.
    f. Try not to lurk, meaning you are just reading and not participating.
6. Quality of online communications/postings is important.
    a. It is not acceptable to present work or ideas of others as your own. Use APA format when you quote directly from a source-use quotation marks and provide the original author's name, year, and page or location in the body of the narrative; when you paraphrase a source—using your own words to explain your understanding of another's ideas or work—provide author and year in the body of the narrative. At the end of the posting provide the complete reference using APA format.
    b. If the posting is going to be long, use paragraphs.
    c. Do not overuse acronyms like you use in text messaging. Some of the participants may not be familiar with acronyms.
    d. Just as you would proofread a formal paper, before posting:
        i. Read what you have written for content;
        ii. Rethink what you have written for tone;
        iii. Reread what you have written for organization and coherence; and iv. Revise what you have written for grammar, punctuation and mechanics.
        v. Once you submit your work, discussion, or e-mail, you cannot change what you have written.
7. Don't send large files, since someone may have a relatively slow internet connection.
8. Be sure to check for viruses when sending files.
9. Be patient if you do not get an immediate response to your postings as others may be on a different schedule. If it is urgent, you can contact other students or faculty by e-mail, phone, or text.

MANDATORY UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS:

Academic Honesty Policy: The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Academic Dishonesty includes:

1. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a non-administered test.
5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a non-administered test.
7. Purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist.
8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.
9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.
10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Statement for use of AI
The rise of generative AI technologies—such as ChatGPT and DALL·E—has generated significant interest among students in our field. These tools can support a range of academic activities, including idea generation, deeper exploration of complex questions or problems, and creative engagement with course materials.

In this course, we may incorporate generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) to critically examine how such technologies can enhance our understanding of the subject matter. You will receive clear instructions regarding when and how these tools may be used, along with appropriate guidance on attribution where applicable.

Please note: Any use of generative AI tools outside where specified guidelines permit will be considered a violation of academic integrity and treated as plagiarism.

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty, but

must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the Department Chair, the Associate Provost/Dean, and eventually to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case.

In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the Vice President for Academic Affairs may refer the matter to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process except as provided under Interim Disciplinary Action.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT:

Sul Ross State University is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Qualified students with disabilities needing academic or other accommodations to facilitate full participation in our programs, services and activities should contact the Accessibilities Coordinator, Ferguson Hall Room 112, Monday Friday 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m., 432-837-8203 at the Alpine campus. At the Uvalde Campus, Room C102, Monday Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

ONLINE COURSES:

Web courses (offered online) are not self-paced and require considerable work in order to meet requirements. Students should be prepared to devote approximately 12 hours per week to accomplish the work required for a 3-hour class (i.e. student should devote approximately the same study time for an online course as would be spent in a regular class with outside work requirements —a measure generally calculated at 3 hours outside work for each hours in class.) Students MUST have a reliable high-speed internet connection available on a regular basis for course work and other assignments whenever University computer laboratories are not open. Computer labs are open Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Fri. 8 a.m-5 p.m. University computer labs are not open on weekends and holidays.

GENERAL CAMPUS REGULATIONS AND CONDUCT:

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the University's functions as an educational institution. It is also expected that all students who enroll at Sul Ross State University agree to assume the responsibilities of citizenship in the university community. Association in such a university community is purely voluntary, and any student may resign from it at any time when he/she considers the obligation of membership disproportionate to the benefits. All students are subject to university authority, and those students whose conduct is not within the policies of the University rules and regulations are subject to dismissal. Students are responsible for abiding by all published University rules and regulations. Failure to read publications will not excuse the student from the requirements and regulations described therein. The SRSU Student Handbook and other official University publications outline specific regulations and requirements.

Crosswalk of Course Objectives with Texas BON DECs and AACN Essentials

Objectives	TBON DECs	AACN Essentials

1. Identify evidence-based practice strategies applied to promote, maintain and restore health of rural and border community members.	II B1,5 III C6	VI 1, 6, 8, 9 VII 3, IX 22
2. Analyze concepts of health disparities, health literacy, and cultural beliefs essential to the local community assessments.	II H3 IV D2	I 4, III 4,6 IV 6
3. Describe community health resources benefiting patients, populations, and the community.	I A, B7	V 5, 8
4. Describe disaster preparedness and emergency health services at national, state, and local levels.	II B10 IV A5, E2,3	IV 8, V 2, 6 VIII 6