



**Diagnostic Methods and Procedures
NURS 5339
Spring 2025**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

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Office Hours: (Virtual office hours weekly and one-on-one virtual office hours by appointment). Please email to make a one-on-one virtual appointment. **Office hours will be on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted in Canvas for weekly virtual office hours.**

The best way to contact me is via email. Please allow a 24-hour response time (longer on weekends and holidays). **If it is urgent**, you may also text me at the number provided in Canvas. Please use discretion regarding the timing of texts and phone calls. Calls or texts received after 6 p.m. may not be returned until the next day at my discretion. If you call and expect me to return your call, **please leave a voicemail with your name and a good callback number.**

Course Description: Selected clinical procedures, diagnostic laboratory, and imaging tests utilized by Advanced Practice Nurses (APN) are explored. Evidence-based clinical decision-making for selecting appropriate tests or procedures and interpreting diagnostic tests are evaluated.

Prerequisites: [NURS 5352](#), Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to MSN NP or [NURS 5352](#), Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to the NP Cert program.

Corequisites: Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to MSN NP or Pre-Requisite or Co-Requisite of [NURS 5354](#) AND Admission to the NP Cert program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Select, perform, and evaluate results of commonly utilized diagnostic tests and procedures for clinical decision-making.
2. Discuss ethical, legal, financial, and regulatory considerations for selecting, collecting, and evaluating diagnostic tests and procedures.

3. Integrate scientific knowledge and theories from nursing and related disciplines into advanced nursing practice.
4. Apply organizational and systems leadership principles and methods for the promotion and evaluation of quality, ethical, and safe patient care.
5. Translate, integrate, and disseminate scientific evidence into practice;
6. Utilize technologies to deliver, enhance, integrate, and coordinate communication, education, and patient care.
7. Intervene at the systems level through the policy development process and employ advocacy strategies to influence health care.
8. Managed care through collaboration with other healthcare professionals as a member and leader of healthcare teams.
9. Integrate organizational client-centered concepts to provide preventive and population-based care.

Required and Recommended Textbooks and Readings:

Author	Title	Edition	Publisher/ISBN	Status
Mastenbjork & Meloni (2024)	EKG/ECG Interpretation: Everything You Need to Know About 12-Lead EKG/ECG Interpretation and How to Diagnose and Treat Arrhythmias	2nd	Medical Creations/ 978-1734741353	Required
Campo et al. (2021)	Essential Procedures for Emergency, Urgent, and Primary Care Settings	3rd	Springer/ 978-0826141048	Required
Pagana et al. (2021)	Mosby's: A Manual of Diagnostic & Laboratory Tests	7th	Mosby/ 978-0323697033	Required
Farrell (2019)	Radiology 101: The Basics and Fundamentals of Imaging	5th	LWW/ 978-1496392985	Required

Slater (2021)	Pocketbook of Differential Diagnosis	5th	Elsevier/ 978-0702077777	Required
Muniz (2019)	Sparkson's Illustrated Guide to ECG Interpretation	2nd	Medcomic/ 978-0996651370	Recommended

Important Course Dates:

Census Date: 1/14/25

Intensive Days: 2/3-4/25; 3/3-4/25

Holiday: New Year's Day - 1/1/25, MLK - 1/20/25, Spring Break 3/17-21/25 (Offices are closed)

Last Date to Withdraw: 3/11/25

Last Day of Course: 4/18/25 - all assignments will need to be completed before this date

Special Course Notes: Exams are timed (usually 45 minutes) and must be completed within a specific four-hour testing period (6 a.m. - 10 a.m.). Exceptions are made for extenuating circumstances only and are at the discretion of the faculty.

Mandatory Intensive Dates: Intensive days are **required attendance**. Intensive days are held twice during the semester: 2 days for Intensives #1 and 2 days for Intensives #2, a total of 4 days. **Intensive dates count as clinical hours, and there is no excusing them unless there is an emergency and the faculty is notified immediately, understanding that they will have to be made up the following semester. Dog shows, soccer games, concert tickets, work schedules, etc., are not emergencies.**

Electronic Subscriptions

Derm for Primary Care (Required): Derm for Primary Care (DFPC) is a large body of modules, questions, and exams related to derm issues and expanding on derm presentations in acute and chronic diseases. You will use this across your courses. This is generally purchased in prior courses, but purchasing information will be posted in the Modules section of Canvas. There is an assignment based on the successful completion of the Derm modules, and you will get a grade for this.

UpToDate (Recommended): You can get this free through the school. It is a great resource for drugs, labs, and disease processes that you can use across the program.

Office Hours: Office hours are provided weekly and allow you to interact with faculty for more information regarding the course and concerns or to go over subjects you may be struggling

with. As this is asynchronous learning, you are not required to attend office hours; however, it is a way for you to engage with faculty and to get information related to assignments, tests, etc. If you do not attend office hours, it is recommended that you view and listen to any recordings if they are available.

Required Course Technology

*ProctorU*Auto is a virtual proctoring service that will be used for all exams. **UT Tyler will pay for this technology.** You must create a ProctorU account and install the ProctorU browser before attempting any exam. To create a ProctorU account, follow the ProctorU tool within Canvas. Please make sure you are using the current version of **Chrome**. To do so, download the ProctorU extension, which is available at <http://bit.ly/proctoruchrome> or <https://www.proctoru.com/firefox>.

To use ProctorU, you will need the following:

- High-speed internet connection (not dial-up)
- Webcam and microphone (internal and external)
- Windows, Mac, or Chrome Operating System
- Up-to-date Chrome browser and ProctorU extension installed
- Valid photo ID (Driver's License or State Issued ID)
- Quiet environment to take your exam
- A lamp by the side of your monitor/computer for good lighting

All exams are proctored using ProctorU. Hats, sunglasses, headphones, earbuds, smart watches, or phones are prohibited unless permitted by faculty. No food or drinks are allowed while testing.

Assignments and Weights/Percentages

Criteria for Evaluation:	Percentage of Grade:
Module Exams	50%
Radiology Modules/Screen shots	5%
Procedure Writeups	15%
Intensive #1 Attendance	Pass/Fail
Intensive #2 Attendance	Pass/Fail
Workup Paper	20%
Syllabus Quiz	Pass/Fail
Derm For Primary Care Module/Quiz	10%, must be over 80 average

Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79
- D - 60-69
- F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). **The simple average of all exam grades, including a final, must be at or above 80% to pass the course.** Once the student has achieved a simple unit exam average of 80% or higher, course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required coursework. **Students must achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.**

Although the university policy allows 60 days for grade appeals, the School of Nursing follows a stricter timeline of 10 days to facilitate students' timely progression through the curriculum. In the case of extenuating circumstances, please consult the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for guidance.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Artificial Intelligence (AI):

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

Most assignments in this course will permit using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT or Copilot. When AI use is permissible, it will be documented in the assignment description, and all use of AI must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. When using AI tools for assignments, add an appendix showing (a) the entire exchange (e.g., prompts used), highlighting the most relevant sections; (b) a description of precisely which AI tools were used, (c) an explanation of how the AI tools were used (e.g. to generate ideas, elements of text, etc.); and (d) an account of why AI tools were used (e.g. to save time, to surmount writer's block, to stimulate thinking, to experiment for fun, etc.). Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed to do so.

<https://www.uttyler.edu/digital-learning/ai/>

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
 - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
 - a reduced or failing grade for the course
 - removal from the Nursing program
 - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply and at the discretion of faculty. Late assignments will not be accepted after one week unless previously approved by faculty.

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

1. There are 5 Module exams aligned with the module content in Canvas. All exams must be proctored.
2. A syllabus quiz that tests your knowledge of the syllabus and resources available to students. It is an open-book quiz.
3. Intensive On-Campus days are mandatory and are usually considered fun. We will suture and staple, have interactive lectures, and perform other procedures.
4. There will be a Procedure Write-up Paper that will include information you have learned through your text and through Intensives on how to write up a patient injury and the type of repair you would do.
5. You will have a workup paper with a complaint, HPI, ROS, and a medical history with a physical exam. You will then “work up” the patient based on these findings and your resources to produce an assessment and plan for the patient.
6. The *Derm for Primary Care* module overviews common office procedures and tests your knowledge.
7. Radiology modules are a self-paced lecture series with post-tests that cover a wide variety of radiology material. Not all modules have a post-test.

Please Note: Detailed information and grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Course Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates/Times: Subject to change based on the needs of the course

Week/Module	Assignment	Due Date/Time (all times are Central Time)
Weeks 1-4/Module 1 Laboratory & Diagnostic Testing	Zoom orientation	01/6/25 @ 1900
	Syllabus Quiz	01/08/25, 11:59 pm
	Discussion Board - Introductions	Initial post due by 1/8/25, 11:59 pm; Peer response due by 1/10/25, 11:59 pm
	Grad Student Affirmation	01/08/25, 11:59 pm
	Intro to Work-Up Paper	Final paper due 3/9/25
Census Date		1/14/25
MLK		1/20/25; offices closed
	Module 1 Exam	1/27/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Weeks 5-6/Module 2 Intensives 1	Intensives 1 (On-Campus) Days 1 and 2	2/3/25 and 2/4/25 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
	Procedure Paper	2/7/25, 11:59 pm
	Module 2 Exam	2/10/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Weeks 7-8/Module 3 Differential Diagnoses	Module 3 Exam	2/24/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am

Weeks 9-10/Module 4 Intensives 2	Intensive 2 (On-Campus) Days 1 and 2	3/3/25 and 3/4/25 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
	Work-Up Paper	3/9/25, 11:59 pm
Last day to withdraw		3/11/25
	Derm for Primary Care: Common Office Procedures Modules	3/16/25, 11:59 pm
Spring Break	March 17 - 23	No assignments due!
Weeks 11-12/Module 5 Introduction to Radiology	Module 5 Exam	3/24/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
	Radiology Modules	3/30/25, 11:59 pm
Weeks 13-15/Module 6 EKGs and Course Wrap-Up	Module 6 Exam	4/7/25, 6:00 am - 10:00 am
Last day to submit ALL assignments		4/18/25

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.