



**Neurobiology Overview: Mental Health and Illness
NURS 5357
Summer 2025 Syllabus**

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Dr. Angie McInnis DNP, APRN, ENP, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

Course Section: TBD

Phone: 713-397-9773

Email (**Best Contact***): mmcinnis@uttyler.edu

***Best way to contact me is by email, then text.**

Do not use Canvas messenger. Please include your full name, course and section number, and patriot ID in all correspondence.

Office Hour for Dr. McInnis: Virtual Office Hours: Weekly virtual office hours are available, with opportunities for one-on-one appointments upon request. Additional days and times can be arranged to accommodate your schedule. To schedule a one-on-one appointment, please email the faculty. The Zoom link and schedule for weekly office hours will be provided in Canvas.

There will be **four live Zoom meetings hosted prior to each of the four exams.** The date for the scheduled Zoom meetings will be posted to the course announcements as the exam approaches. Live Exam sessions will be recorded to benefit those who cannot attend and posted to the course announcements.

Optional Q &A sessions and peer conversations will take place during indicated Zoom office hours above only. **These office hours are optional and based on student need.**

Course Description: This course is foundational for advanced practice nurses caring for individuals with mental disorders as well as substance use disorders. The course focuses on key mental disorders across the lifespan. Multifactorial causes for these disorders are explored, including developmental, genetic, injury, trauma, infection, and neurodegeneration. Maintenance of homeostasis within the mind- body relationship will be examined with respect to mental disorders.

Prerequisites: NURS 5350 Advanced Pathophysiology; NURS 5352 Advanced Health Assessment; NURS 5354 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics

Corequisites: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. **Professionalism:** Demonstrate and apply professional and ethical behavior.
2. **Patient-Centered Care:** Differentiate an individualized plan of care for patients who are acutely ill and for patients of special populations.
3. **Evidenced-Based Practice (EBP):** Synthesize and apply evidence to evaluate and improve patient outcomes. Demonstrate knowledge of psychoactive medications and neurotransmitter syntheses, biochemical basis of the neuronal impulse, the various classes of psychopharmacological agents, various brain circuits involved in psychological symptomatology and appropriate prescribing of psychoactive medications, biochemical theories underlying schizophrenia, mood disorders, and anxiety disorders, and demonstrate knowledge of the proprietary names, mechanisms of action, therapeutic indications, and side effects of a wide array of psychopharmacological agents.
4. **Informatics & Technology:** Apply informatics and technology in new environments.
5. **Quality Improvement:** Critique the effectiveness of quality improvement using a systematic data- guided approach.
6. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Appraise the effectiveness of teamwork and mutual respect with different communication styles.
7. **Wellness and Prevention:** Critique health, wellness, and prevention programs and their impact on a variety of communities and populations.
8. **Leadership:** Differentiate between leadership styles and how each impact professional practice.
9. **Safety:** Appraise safety and quality measures Implemented in the work environment.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

1. American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed. Text rev.)(DSM 5-TR). ISBN-13: 978-0-89042-576-3
 - The DSM–5 was updated to the DSM–5-TR in March 2022. For this course, either the DSM–5 or the DSM–5-TR is acceptable.
 - See DSM–5-TR Fact Sheets for information on changes to disorders in the DSM–5-TR which can be found at:
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm/educational-resources/dsm-5-tr-fact-sheets>
2. Stahl, S. (2021). *Stahl's essential psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific basis and practical applications* (5th ed.). Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 978-1-1089-7163-8
3. Higgins, Edmund (2018). *The Neuroscience of Clinical Psychiatry*. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer, 2018. ISBN-13 : 978-1496372000.
 - This text is available to students through the UT Tyler Library as an EBook

Special Course Notes:

1) Lockdown Browser Requirement:

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online exams. LockDown will be available to download in the Canvas. A video link will also be provided within the course for basic understanding of how to use LockDown Browser.

If you are not able to provide these items, you must contact me by the 2nd week of this course so we can arrange for you to take your exam on campus.

2) This course requires you to access the following free external websites to complete assigned homework or assessments:

- ScientiaCME - <https://www.scientiacme.org/>
- SMI Adviser - <https://smiadviser.org/>
- Psychiatric Times - <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/>
- Stanford Center for Continuing Medical Education - <https://stanford.cloud-cme.com/>
- Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS) - <https://learning.pcssnow.org/>

Specific instructions for how to access these external websites, create accounts, and what to submit for assignment credit are detailed within the individual assignment instructions.

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

1) Exams: 60%*

- Exam 1: 15%*
- Exam 2: 15%*
- Exam 3: 15%*
- Exam 4: 15%*

****Exams are only open on specific days and times, be sure to plan and review due dates. No travel arrangements should be scheduled on exam dates. Please plan your time accordingly in consideration of required exam dates. There will be no leniency if you have not provided enough time to complete your exam.**

2) Discussion Boards: 10%

3) Weekly Quizzes: 20%

4) Assignments: 10%

***The average of your four (4) exams must be greater than or equal to 80 to pass the course. Points from items 2-4 above will only be added after your average score of 80. You will not pass the course without making an 80 average on the four (4) exams.**

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 unit exam grades, including a final must be at or above 80% to pass the course. Once the student has achieved an exam average of 80% or higher, course grades will be determined based on the weighted calculation of exams and other required course work. Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.

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.

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) Exams (60% of total grade; 50 possible points per exam)

- **Exams in the course will be given online, using Lockdown Browser. With Lockdown browser, students are unable to open other tabs on their computers to seek resources while the exam is on.**
- Students must not take pictures or copies of the exams. This is considered cheating and you may face expulsion from the program.
- **Exams must be taken during the date and time specifically designated. Scheduled exam dates will not be changed, except in very extreme cases (Not guaranteed). As such, students must plan their schedules ahead of the scheduled examination dates.**
- If for any extreme reason, there is an alternate date, the exam will be comprised of essay questions and the student will need to notify the instructor immediately after recognizing a substantial (emergent) conflict. It is at the discretion of the instructor to provide these exams.
- **Exam dates are listed in the Course Calendar.**
- Students must achieve an **AVERAGE** of 80 on all four exams to pass the course. Even though you may have enough percentage in other areas to raise your overall grade, you still will not pass the course without an 80 overall **AVERAGE** on all exams.

- Each exam may be opened during the designated hours listed within Canvas, **but you will only have 75 minutes to complete the exam.** You must finish the exam by the end time established for the exam. Please pay strict attention to this time limit!
- The module objectives and assigned readings will guide the selection of items for the tests. Emphasis will be on application and synthesis of knowledge.
 - **Exam 1 will cover Modules 1-5**
 - **Exam 2 will cover Modules 6-7**
 - **Exam 3 will cover Modules 8-10**
 - **Exam 4 will cover Modules 11-13**

Make- Up Examinations (if applicable):

1. Students will be allowed **one** make-up exam in the case that a student misses the exam for emergent reasons. Proof will need to be given for missing an exam. Makeup exams are given at the discretion of faculty.
2. Students are to schedule **a Makeup Exam** prior to the original exam date and up to 48 hours after the exam is missed. This is the student's responsibility.
3. The make-up exam must be completed within **seven days** unless the faculty determines that there are other extenuating circumstances.
4. The make-up exam will be scheduled over a **four-hour window.**
5. There are a **maximum of one** make-up exams per semester.
6. All make-up exams will be concluded at faculty discretion and according to university accommodation policies.
 1. If necessary, opportunities for individual review of exam questions will be allowed within one week of the exam's administration. After that timeframe, the exam will no longer be reviewed.
 2. Any adjustment to exam grades will be at the discretion of the faculty. Grades will be posted on Canvas but should not be considered the official grade for the course until all exams have been taken and final grades have been posted.

2) Weekly Quizzes (20% of total grade)

There will be short quizzes throughout the weekly modules. These quizzes will open on the Saturday evening before the corresponding module week. The combined total of points for all quizzes will account for 20% of the final grade. If you fail to take a quiz, you will receive a 0. Please make sure to have the quizzes on your calendars so they are not missed.

3) Discussion Boards (10% of total grade)

Discussion boards may include a variety of topics relevant to the weekly module content in order to enhance learning. Initial responses are due by day 4 (Wednesday) and two peer responses are due by day 7 (Saturday).

4) Assignments: (10% of total grade). Due dates are located within the course in Canvas.

Important Course Dates:

Classes Begin for 14-Week session: Monday May 5th, 2025

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): May 19th, 2025

Last Date to Withdraw from one or more 14-week courses: July 8th, 2025

Students, please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Final Exams for 14- Week session: 08/4- 08/9

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates:

The specific assigned textbook and article readings, lectures, and video resources are detailed within each weekly course module within Canvas.

| Course Schedule | | |
|--|--|--|
| Week # and Topic | Assignments | Due Date |
| Week 1 Introduction to Neuroscience 05/05-05/11 | Discussion Board (DB) 1.1: Icebreaker | Initial Post: Class introductions open May 05 2 Peer Responses: due on Sunday May 11 @11:59pm |
| Week 2 Neurotransmitters, Receptors, and Signaling the Nucleus 05/12-05/18 | Quiz 2 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @ 11:59pm |
| Week 3 Modulators 05/19-05/25 | Quiz 3 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm Census Date |
| Week 4 Schizophrenia and Psychosis 05/26-06/01 | Quiz 4 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm <i>Monday May 26th Memorial Day, all offices closed, no classes.</i> |
| Week 5 06/02– 06/08 | DB 5.1 Exam 1: 06/12/25 | Initial Post: due by Wednesday Day 3 @11:59pm 2 Peer Responses: on different days, final post due on Sunday Day 7 @11:59pm Opens: Thursday 12 th , at 5:00pm CST Closes: Thursday 12 th , at 9:00pm CST |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | | |
| Week 6 Depression 06/09 – 06/15 | Quiz 6 | Due by Sunday, Day 7 @ 11:59pm |
| Week 8 Anxiety 06/23 – 06/29 | Quiz 8 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| Week 9 Pain 06/30-07/06 | Quiz 9 Exam 2: 07/03/25 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm Opens: Thursday July 3rd at 5:00pm CST Closes: Thursday, July 3rd at 9:00pm CST <i>Thursday July 4th, Independence Day, all offices closed, no classes.</i> |
| Week 10 Sleep/Wake Disorders 07/07 -07/13 | Quiz 10 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| Week 11 ADHD 07/14 - 07/20 | Quiz 11 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| Week 12 Dementia 07/21-07/27 | Quiz 12 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| | Assignment 12.1 Exam 3: 07/24/25 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm Opens: Thursday July 24th at 5:00pm CST Closes: Thursday, July 24th at 9:00pm CST |
| Week 13 Substance Use Disorders 07/28-08/02 | Assignment 13.1 PCSS: Overview of SUD | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| | DB 13.1 | Initial Post: due by Wednesday Day 3 @11:59pm 2 Peer Responses: on different days, final post due on Sunday Day 7 @11:59pm |
| | Quiz 13 | Due on Sunday, Day 7 @11:59pm |
| Week 14-15 Final Exam 08/04 -08/10 | Exam 4: 08/07/25 | Opens: Thursday, August 7th at 5:00pm CST Closes: Thursday, August 7th at 9:00pm CST Course wrap-up & Evaluations |

August 5th Final grade rosters open for 14-week session

August 12th - Final 14-week grades due in Faculty Center by 12:00PM CST for Summer Session

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

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

APA Guidelines: Points will be deducted if APA guidelines are not followed, as adherence to these standards is critical for maintaining academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism. Accurate citation and formatting are essential to scholarly work, ensuring that sources are appropriately credited and the work is presented professionally. Failure to use the updated APA guidelines not only undermines the credibility of the assignment but also constitutes a violation of academic standards. Therefore, it is imperative for students to meticulously apply APA formatting and citation rules to avoid penalties and uphold the quality of their work. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Student Resources to assist you in this course:

Online Library Access Link :<https://libguides.utt Tyler.edu/c.php?g=871729&p=10327003>

[UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)

[UT Tyler Writing Center](#)

[The Mathematics Learning Center](#)

[UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)

[UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)

[Robert Muntz Library](#) and [Library Liaison](#)

[Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)

Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)

LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam

[The Career Success Center](#)

[UT Tyler Testing Center](#)

[Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

[UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)

[TAO Online Support Center](#) (online self-help modules related to mental & emotional health)

[Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (support for all of our military-affiliated students)

[UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)

[UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)

[UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)

[Office of International Programs](#)

[Title IX Reporting](#)

[Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

University Policies and Information:

Withdrawing from Class: Students, you are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course through the University's Withdrawal Portal. Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and Summer terms.

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade

roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F or NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

Grade Appeal Policy: UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the dean of the college offering that course, who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

Disability/Accessibility Services: The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the SAR Portal (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/>) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the [SAR webpage](#) or call 903.566.7079.

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with me if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make me aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. I am willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military-affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the

actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

Use of Artificial Intelligence: All assignments in this course are individual assignments. In this class, you will often be discussing course concepts with your classmates and with me, but when you sit down to complete a quiz, write a discussion post, or work on a project, you are expected to do the actual work on your assignments independently.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, MidJourney, DALL-E, Open Evidence, etc. is explicitly prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own. Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and / or be reported for academic misconduct.

[Artificial Intelligence \(uttyler.edu\)](#)

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).

Absence for Religious Holidays: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of the semester.

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:
https://www.uttyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.