

## NUR 4381

### Introduction to Forensic Nursing

### Summer I 2022

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**Office:** Archer 318A2

**Office Hours:** Monday 0800-0900

Wednesday 0800-0900

Friday 0800-0900

or by appointment

#### **Course Information**

##### **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the many subspecialties of forensic nursing and how they are utilized in the criminal justice system. Forensic nursing draws from the knowledge of several disciplines: Forensic sciences, Medical science, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal justice and public health. Students will be introduced to the science of forensic nursing and how it works in conjunction with crime labs, law enforcement agencies, and in the criminal justice system. In addition to exploration of the many subspecialties of forensic nursing, students will also be introduced to appropriate care of forensic cases that they may encounter in the acute care setting, including best practices for evidence collection and preservation. Holistic care of victims and families will be emphasized. Students will review victimology, evaluate prevalent population-based health issues, and explore forensic nursing-based interventions. If available, guest lecturers and practitioners will offer insight into day-to-day investigative work and how they face challenges and successes.

**Warning: Please know that the topics and materials, including photographs, presented in this course are sensitive. If at any time you feel triggered by the discussions please feel free to momentarily leave the classroom/collaborate space at any time. Your instructor also available to you for debriefing.**

##### **Course Credits**

--- Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)

## Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing: Theoretical Foundations

### Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the Generic BSN program. Computer requirements are further delineated in the Department of Nursing Undergraduate Student Handbook and all students are required to have access to a dependable computer with a reliable Internet Service Provider. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Nursing Program Undergraduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course (<http://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/handbook/index.html>).

### BSN Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the program of study for the Generic BSN, the graduate will be prepared to:

1. Integrate nursing and related theories into the planning and/or delivery of safe nursing care.
2. Engage leadership concepts, skills and decision-making in the planning and/or implementation of patient safety and quality improvement initiatives.
3. Identify and appraise best research evidence to improve and promote quality patient outcomes.
4. Utilize technology to access information; evaluate patient data and/or document care.
5. Participate in political/legislative processes to influence healthcare policy.
6. Engage in effective collaboration and communication within interdisciplinary teams.
7. Design and/or implement health promotion & disease prevention strategies for culturally competent care.
8. Demonstrate standards of professional, ethical, and legal conduct.
9. Practice and/or coordinate, at the level of the baccalaureate prepared nurse, to plan and/or implement patient centered care

### Student Learning Outcomes

<b>Student Learning Outcome</b> By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	<b>Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:</b>	<b>Mapping to BSN Program Outcomes</b>	<b>Mapping to BSN Essentials</b>	<b>Mapping to DEC</b>
1. Evaluate the social, political, and public health issues that have contributed to the increased roles of the forensic nurse in the holistic care, advocacy and	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper; Discussion Board Case Studies	3, 5, 6, 7, 9	I II III V	I- A, B, C, D III- A, B, C IV- B, G

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quality improvement strategies for patients (whether victims of trauma or perpetrators of human violence) and families.				
2. Describe the various roles and subspecialties in which forensic nurses practice.	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper; Discussion Board Case Studies	1, 3	III VII	I- A, B, C  III- A, B, C, D, E, F  IV- A, B, C, D, E
3. Describe the role of the forensic nurse and professional nurse in the judicial/legal system.	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Discussion Board Case Studies	4, 5, 6, 8	III VI IX	I- A, B, C  II- A, C, E, F  III- A, B, C, D, E  IV- A, B, C, D
4. Analyze how the nurse collaborates with multidisciplinary teams in addressing forensic science/legal issues.	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper; Discussion Board Case Studies	2, 6, 8, 9	II VI VIII IX	I- A, B, C, D  II- C, E, F, H  III- A, B, C, D, E, F  IV- A, B, C, D, E, F
5. Relate how the nursing process, critical thinking, ethical principles and legal standards promote health and reduce risk in patients with health care needs that cross with the criminal justice system.	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper; Discussion Board Case Studies	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	V VI VII VIII	I- A, B, C, D  II- A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H  III- B, C, D, F  IV- A, B, C

6. Evaluate the role of the nurse and forensic nurse in collecting, preserving and documenting evidence.	Unit Exams, Comprehensive Final Exam, Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper; Discussion Board Case Studies	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	IV V VIII	I- A, B, C  II- A, E, G, H  III- A, B, C, D, E, D  IV- A, B, C, D, E, F, G
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## Course Delivery

This is a hybrid course, meaning in-class, face-to-face course as well as potentially online delivery that meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM in HHS 110. This course utilizes blackboard to post announcements, course documents, learning resources and supplemental materials. This course will be delivered via real-time delivery and will only utilize online recorded lectures based on the needs of the program/clinical schedule. Blackboard can be accessed at [Blackboard](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Depending on the needs of the program schedule and any needs or changes the university may make, there may be a need to utilize online classroom via live Collaborate sessions. Should the need arise, announcements will be made of any changes and class will be made available via the Blackboard Learning Management System. As always, the course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#).

## Required Texts and Materials

Lynch, V. A. & Duval, J.B (2011). Forensic Nursing Science (2nd Ed.). St. Louis, MO: Mosby/Elsevier.

## Recommended Texts and Materials

- Medical dictionary of your choice
- Nurse's Drug Handbook of your choice
- NANDA book of your choice
- Lab reference and diagnostic tests handbook of your choice
- Any NCLEX review book of your choice

## Technology Requirements

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the browser used to access course material on his/her computer is compatible with ASU's Blackboard Learning System. The faculty reserve the right to deny additional access to course assignments lost due to compatibility issues. Students are responsible for reviewing the guidelines posted in this course regarding accessing

Blackboard assignments. Problems in this area need to be discussed with faculty at the time of occurrence via email notification and/or in person.

Be sure to perform a browser test. Select the "Technology Support" tab from the Blackboard homepage (<http://blackboard.angelo.edu>). Then select "Test your Browser" option located under the Browser Test header.

There is always the possibility that ASU will have to change didactic courses to be delivered and tested all online as the semester progresses. It is the student's responsibility to be technologically prepared with needed equipment to meet the objectives of the course. Should the need for online course delivery be required, testing will take place using Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor (which requires a web cam), and lectures will be delivered via Blackboard Collaborate (which also requires a web cam).

To participate online, should the need arise, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

## Topic Outline

- Introduction to Forensic Nursing
- Violence, Ethics
- Vulnerable Populations
- Neurobiology of Trauma
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Death Investigation
- Documentation & Informatics
- Evidence Collection and DNA, Medical Photography
- Critical Thinking; Nursing Process in Forensic Nursing
- Sexual Assault and Medical Forensic Examination
- Correctional Nursing
- Forensic Nurse Witness
- Trial and Testimony

## Communication

Faculty will respond to email within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

**Written communication via email:** All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

Office hours are also appropriate for dialogue and appointments may be made with the instructor.

## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Discussion Week 1	10%
Guest Speaker Presentation Attendance Week 1	5%
Discussion Week 2	10%
Guest Speaker Presentation Attendance Week 2	5%
Discussion Week 3	10%
Guest Speaker Presentation Attendance Week 3	5%
Discussion Week 4	10%
Guest Speaker Presentation Attendance Week 4	5%
Final Forensic Nursing Reflection Term Paper	40%
Total	100%

### Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

- A = 90.00-100 points
- B = 80.00-89.99 points
- C = 70.00-79.99 points
- D = 60.00-69.99 points
- F = 0-59.99 points (Grades are not rounded up)

**STUDENT CONFERENCES WITH INSTRUCTORS ARE REQUIRED:** When a grade is below 75% and/or when course average is below 75%.

## Teaching Strategies and Methods

- Class lecture and discussion
- Class activities, case studies, and interactions
- NCLEX practice questions
- Assigned readings
- Case Study Discussion Board Assignments
- Term paper assignment

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

## Assignment and Activity Descriptions

**\*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

**Case Study Assignment (4 total):** These assignments will present the learner with probable and common examples that they will likely encounter during everyday practice after licensure. Students will reflect and respond to presented questions as well as practice brainstorming and critical thinking to explore and apply prudent nursing interventions for treatment of patients and families. Participation will be tracked through discussion board activities. Each scenario is worth 10% of the total class grade.

**Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper Assignment:** The Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper is designed to evaluate your writing skills as well as your understanding of the various roles and subspecialties of forensic nursing and the relationship between the forensic nurse and the judicial system. This is a final assignment, worth 40% of your total class grade. The term paper should be in APA format, between 4-5 pages of body, not including the title page and reference list. The term paper will be turned in to a submission link in your Blackboard course. To successfully complete this paper:

1. Choose a public health topic that forensic nursing plays a significant role in.
2. Describe the challenges presented by the topic (public health impact, quality of life impact, family impact, etc.)
3. Identify the role and responsibility of the forensic nurse that best fits your topic.

4. Describe how a prudent staff registered nurse or uncertified nurse would approach the topic.
5. Describe potential harm, mistakes or challenges that may occur in the clinical setting.
6. Describe potential challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary cooperation and teamwork relating to the topic.
7. Provide at least three academic citations to inform your paper.

Performance on this assignment will count five percent of the final course grade.

Below is a rubric for your Forensic Nursing Knowledge Term Paper:

Topic _____	Points = 100 possible
Introduction of chosen Forensic Nursing topic	10
Description of the challenges/impact of the topic	10
Description of role of forensic nursing with the topic	15
Description of the role of all prudent nurses with the topic	15
Describe potential challenges/mistakes/harm that can occur in the clinical setting relating to the topic	20
Describe the challenges and benefits of interdisciplinary cooperation and teamwork relating to the topic (law enforcement, mental health, etc.)	20
Provide at least three academic citations	5
APA formatting, free of grammatical and spelling errors	5

### Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at [adrienna.gonzalez@angelo.edu](mailto:adrienna.gonzalez@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

### Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late



assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

## General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)<sup>2</sup>
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [Undergraduate Nursing Student Handbook](#)<sup>4</sup>

## Important University Dates

- June 6<sup>th</sup> First Day of Classes for Summer I
- June 7<sup>th</sup> Last day to register or make changes to Summer I Term
- June 27<sup>th</sup> Last day to drop a class
- July 4<sup>th</sup> University closed for observance of Independence Day
- July 8<sup>th</sup> Final Exams for Summer I

## Student Responsibility and Attendance

Class attendance is necessary and required for successful and satisfactory completion of all course objectives; therefore, students must attend all course sessions in real-time. If a situation arises that prevents the student from attending, he or she should contact the instructor prior to the start of class. According to the undergraduate handbook, a week's worth of cumulative absences in any one course will result in faculty evaluation of the student's ability to meet course objectives and may result in failure of the course. Three tardies (over 5 minutes late for lecture, campus laboratory, or clinical) will equal 1 hour of absence. Failure to meet these requirements hinders the student's ability to complete the course. Attendance will be checked for each lecture.

Any recorded lectures offered will be assessed for complete viewing at 100% to meet attendance requirement.

## Policy on Missed Exams/Quizzes/Assignments

There will be no makeup exams or assignments. For serious personal illness or serious immediate familial misfortune, inform the instructor.

## Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>5</sup> for more information.

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).<sup>6</sup>

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)<sup>7</sup> in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Safe Assignment or Turnitin.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>8</sup>

## **Social Media/Professionalism Policy**

Students in the Nursing Program are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, not only in interaction with clients and hospital staff, but also with peers, faculty, and university staff. Students represent the Angelo State University Department of Nursing and the nursing profession, so students must maintain/demonstrate specific ethical obligations, standards, and commitments to patients and society. These professional ethical standards are delineated in the Code of Ethics for Nurses, American Nurses' Association (ANA), 2011. 18 The statements of the code and their interpretation provide guidance for nurses' behavior in relation to carrying out nursing responsibilities within the framework of ethical decision-making.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as

provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>9</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

## **Incomplete Grade Policy**

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>10</sup> for more information.

## **Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

## **Syllabus Changes**

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

## **Nursing Weblinks**

- [Board of Nursing for the State of Texas](#)<sup>11</sup>
- [BSN Student Resources](#)<sup>12</sup>

## **Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex

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discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## Course Schedule

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
Week 1 Monday, June 6, 2022 Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Friday, June 10, 2022 – Guest Speaker	Introduction to Forensic Nursing Violence, Ethics Vulnerable Populations, Trauma <b>**Case Study Discussion Due Sunday, June 12, by midnight</b>
Week 2 Monday, June 13, 2022 Wednesday, June 15, 2022 Friday, June 17, 2022 – Guest Speaker	Child Abuse Elder Abuse Death Investigation <b>**Case Study Discussion Due Sunday, June 19, by midnight</b>

Week/Date	Topic/Assignments/Assessments DUE
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Monday, June 20, 2022</b> <b>Wednesday, June 22, 2022</b> <b>Friday, June 24, 2022-</b> Guest Speaker	Documentation & Informatics in Forensic Nursing Evidence Collection and DNA, Medical Photography Critical Thinking and the Nursing Process in Forensic Nursing <b>**Case Study Discussion Due Sunday, June 26, by midnight</b>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Monday, June 27, 2022</b> <b>Wednesday, June 29, 2022</b> <b>Friday, July 1, 2022 –</b> Guest Speaker	Sexual Assault and Medical Forensic Examination Correctional Nursing <b>**Case Study Discussion Due Sunday, July 3, by midnight</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Monday, July 4, 2022- Holiday, no class</b> <b>Wednesday, July 6, 2022</b> <b>Thursday, February 17, 2022</b>	Forensic Nurse Witness and Trial and Testimony <b>**Reflection Paper due in Blackboard by 0900 on Friday, July 8, 2022 (Comprehensive: Weeks 1-5 Content)</b>

## Grading Rubrics

### Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

Areas of evaluation include:

1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
4. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
5. Learning to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems

## End of Syllabus

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- <sup>1</sup> <https://blackboard.angelo.edu>
- <sup>2</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/handbook/index.php>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>
- <sup>8</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)
- <sup>9</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>
- <sup>11</sup> <https://www.bon.texas.gov/>
- <sup>12</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/student\\_resources/undergrad\\_info.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/nursing/student_resources/undergrad_info.php)