



**VNSG 1230 – 501CL**  
**Maternal-Neonatal Nursing**  
**Fall 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Weeks**  
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1pm – 4pm**  
**Location: STEM Room 237**

**Instructor Information:**

Molly Gundermann, MSN-Ed, RN  
[mgundermann@com.edu](mailto:mgundermann@com.edu)  
409-933-8395

**Student hours and location:** Mondays 1400-1600; Tuesdays and Wednesdays 0900-1200. Other days/time by appointment.

**Required Textbook/Materials:** (See VN Fall 2025 Bundle)

Leifer, G. (2023). *Introduction to Maternity and Pediatric Nursing*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. St. Louis: Elsevier. (ISBN 9780323826808)

Leifer, G. (2023). *Study guide for Leifer: Introduction to Maternity and Pediatric Nursing*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. St. Louis: Elsevier. (ISBN 9780323826815)

**Course Description:** A study of the biological, psychological, and sociological concepts applicable to basic needs of the family including childbearing and neonatal care. Utilization of the nursing process in the assessment and management of the childbearing family. Topics include physiological changes related to pregnancy, fetal development, and nursing care of the family during labor and delivery and the puerperium. (Lecture 1, Lab 2). Credit 2. WECM.

### **Course requirements:**

1. **Unit exams (3):** Assess knowledge and application of incremental course content. The nursing curriculum is meant to build on knowledge learned in prior semesters. Exam content may include questions related to any previously learned content from prior courses. Exams will use multiple choice, multiple answer, and alternative style test questions as indicated to answer NCLEX-PN testing format. The type of remediation will be determined by the grade. See Academic Remediation Policy in Nursing Student Handbook.
2. **Comprehensive Final Exam (1):** Assesses overall knowledge and application of complete course content. The final exam will use multiple choice, multiple answer, and alternative style test questions as indicated to follow NCLEX-PN testing format.
3. **Benchmark HESI Exam (1):** Assesses overall knowledge and application of complete course content. The standardized final assessment (HESI Benchmark) will use multiple choice, multiple answer, and alternative style test questions as indicated to follow NCLEX-PN testing format.
4. **EAQ Quizzes (3):** Assesses knowledge and application of content integrated within the course. The student will have one attempt to complete each EAQ quiz. Students must complete each required quiz by the due date and time. Failure to submit a quiz by the due date and time will result in a grade of zero (0) for that quiz. The average of all assigned quizzes will be calculated for the final EAQ quiz grade.
5. **Sherpath Lessons (8):** Assesses knowledge and application of selected maternal/fetal content within the course. Students must complete each required lesson by the due date and time. Failure to submit a lesson by the due date and time will result in a grade of zero (0) for that lesson. The average of all assigned lessons will be calculated for the final Sherpath Lesson grade.
6. **Remediation:** See Academic Remediation Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

### Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

All assignments, including pass/fail, must be submitted to pass the course. The exam average must be at least 75% before non-examination assignment grades are calculated into the final course grade. See Grade Determination & Calculation in the Nursing Student Handbook.

<b>Computation of grades</b>	<b>%</b>
Exam 1*	16.66
Exam 2*	16.67
Exam 3*	16.67
Comprehensive Final Assessment*	10
Subtotal 75% Rule	
<b>Exam Total*</b>	<b>60</b>
EAQ Quiz Average (8.33% each for 1,2; 8.34% for 3rd) **	25
Sherpath Lesson Average (1.25% each) **	10
HESI Benchmark Exam**	5
<b>Assignment Total**</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Course Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
* $\geq 75\%$ weighted exam average required to pass the course	
**Weighted assignments calculated only after 75% exam average met	

### Grading Scale

A = 90 - 100.00

B = 80 - 89.99

C = 75 - 79.99\*

D = 60 - 74.99

F = < 60

\*A minimum final grade of “C” is required to pass this course.

### Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

All course assignments are expected to be completed and submitted on the specified due date. Assignment due dates are absolute. There are no make-up or extra credit opportunities. Assignment due dates are listed in the course calendar. See Completion of Assignments Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

### Attendance Policy:

See Attendance and Punctuality Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Emails to your instructor(s) should use proper email etiquette. Meetings are available in person, via Microsoft Teams invites, and/or via phone. To respect everyone's time, students are expected to schedule appointments in a timely manner.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. <b>Assist in comprehensive assessment</b> of obstetric and newborn patients and their families using structured data collection tools and both primary and secondary sources.	EPSLO 1,2,3,4	Exams EAQ Quizzes HESI Benchmark Exam Comprehensive Final Exam
2. <b>Prioritize and analyze patient data</b> to identify nursing problems and report findings requiring further intervention.	EPSLO 1,3,4,5	Exams EAQ Quizzes Sherpath Lessons HESI Benchmark Exam Comprehensive Final Exam
3. <b>Develop and implement nursing plans of care</b> in collaboration with obstetric and newborn patients from diverse backgrounds, their families, and the healthcare team, using evidence-based practice.	EPSLO 1,2,4,5,6	Exams EAQ Quizzes Comprehensive Final Exam HESI Benchmark Exam
4. <b>Evaluate patient outcomes and modify plans of care</b> based on changes in patient condition and nursing effectiveness	EPSLO 1,4,5,6	Exams EAQ Quizzes Comprehensive Final Exam HESI Benchmark Exam
5. <b>Coordinate human, information, and material resources</b> to support safe, efficient, and patient-centered	EPSLO 1,2,6	Exams EAQ Quizzes Comprehensive Final Exam HESI Benchmark Exam

care for obstetric and newborn patients and their families.		
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### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Any incidence of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Nursing Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating on exams, is an extremely serious offense. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website, and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

**Avoiding Plagiarism:** <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

### **Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards:**

All students must comply with federal, state and local laws, as well as COM policies including the College District's Student Conduct Rules (Policy FLB Local) and Nursing Program standards. Violations of conduct, whether on or off campus – including through social media or clinical activities – will be addressed and may result in disciplinary action. See Student Professional Conduct & Accountability Standards policy in the Student Nursing Handbook.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the VN Program Coordinator, Ms. Jalayne Henderson. If further resolution is required after meeting with the Program Coordinator, contact the Director of Nursing, Dr. Rachel Fano at [rfano@com.edu](mailto:rfano@com.edu). Please see the Student Concerns Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook for further instructions.

**Course outline:** See Course Calendar.

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## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade,*

*penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.

## **Course Policies**

### **Student Handbooks:**

Students are expected to adhere to all policies outlined in the College and Nursing Program Student Handbooks.

### **Syllabus Revisions:**

Faculty reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary.

### **Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture	Role Play
Critical Thinking Exercises	Independent Study
Small group discussion	Audiovisual instruction
Case Studies	Online Student Response System

### **Statement of Eligibility for an Occupational Licensure**

*Effective September 1, 2017, HB 1508 amends the Texas Occupations Code Section 53 that requires education providers to notify potential or enrolled students that a criminal history may make them ineligible for an occupational license upon program completion. The following website provides links to information about the licensing process and requirements:*  
[https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure\\_eligibility.asp](https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp).

*Should you wish to request a review of the impact of criminal history on your potential Vocational Nurse License prior to or during your quest for a degree, you can visit this link and request a "Criminal History Evaluation": [https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure\\_endorsement.asp](https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_endorsement.asp).*

*This information is being provided to all persons who apply or enroll in the program, with notice of the requirements as described above, regardless of whether or not the person has been convicted of a criminal offense. Additionally, HB 1508 authorizes licensing agencies to require reimbursements when a student fails to receive the required notice.*



## **Course Content**

### **Chapter 1: The Past, Present, and Future**

#### **Objectives**

1. Recall the contributions of persons in history to the fields of maternity and pediatric care.
2. List the organizations concerned with setting standards for the nursing care of maternity and pediatric patients.
3. State the influence of the federal government on maternity and pediatric care.
4. Understand the legal responsibilities of the nurse to report certain diseases or conditions to the public health authorities.
5. Contrast present-day concepts of maternity and childcare with concepts of the past.
6. Discuss how culture affects childbirth and childcare.
7. Discuss the role of technology in the nursing care of patients.
8. List the five steps of the nursing process.
9. Define critical thinking.
10. Discuss why statistics are important and the common terms used in expressing statistical data.
11. Compare and contrast a nursing care plan with a clinical pathway.
12. Discuss the role of critical thinking in the nursing process and in clinical judgment.
13. Examine the importance of documentation as a nursing responsibility.
14. Discuss the objectives of Healthy People 2030 as it relates to maternity and pediatric care.
15. Describe the role of the community health nurse as a health care provider.

#### **Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 1
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapter

### **Chapter 2: Human Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology**

#### **Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Describe changes of puberty in males and females.
3. Identify the anatomy of the male reproductive system.
4. Explain the functions of the external and internal male organs in human reproduction.
5. Describe the influence of hormones in male reproductive processes.
6. Identify the anatomy of the female reproductive system.
7. Explain the functions of the external, internal, and accessory female organs in human reproduction.
8. Discuss the importance of the pelvic bones to the birth process.
9. Explain the menstrual cycle and the female hormones involved in the cycle.

10. Discuss the physiological responses of the woman during coitus.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 2
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 3: Fetal Development**

**Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Describe the process of gametogenesis in human reproduction.
3. Explain human fertilization and implantation.
4. Describe embryonic development.
5. Describe fetal development and the maturation of body systems.
6. Describe the development and functions of the amniotic fluid, placenta, and umbilical cord.
7. Compare fetal circulation with circulation after birth.
8. Explain the similarities and differences in the two types of twins.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 3
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 4: Prenatal Care and Adaptations to Pregnancy**

**Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. List the goals of prenatal care.
3. Discuss prenatal care for a normal pregnancy.
4. Explain the nurse's role in prenatal care.
5. Calculate the expected date of delivery and duration of pregnancy.
6. Differentiate among the presumptive, probable, and positive signs of pregnancy.
7. Describe the physiological changes that occur during pregnancy.
8. Identify nutritional needs for pregnancy and lactation.
9. Discuss the importance and limitations of exercise in pregnancy.
10. Describe patient education related to travel and common discomforts of pregnancy.
11. Discuss nursing support for emotional changes that occur in a family during pregnancy.
12. Identify special needs of the pregnant adolescent, the single parent, and the older couple.
13. Apply the nursing process in developing a birth plan.
14. Identify the effects of medication ingestion on pregnancy and lactation.
15. Review immunization administration during pregnancy.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 4
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 5: Nursing Care of Women with Complications During Pregnancy**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Explain the use of fetal diagnostic tests in women with complicated pregnancies.
3. Identify methods to reduce a woman's risk for antepartum complications. Describe antepartum complications, their treatment, and their nursing care.
4. Describe antepartum complications, their treatment, and their nursing care.
5. Discuss the management of concurrent medical conditions during pregnancy.
6. Describe environmental hazards that may adversely affect the outcome of pregnancy.
7. Describe how pregnancy affects care of the trauma victim.
8. Describe psychosocial nursing interventions for the woman who has a high-risk pregnancy and for her family.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 5
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 6: Nursing Care of Mother and Infant During Labor and Birth**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Discuss specific cultural beliefs the nurse may encounter when providing care to a woman in labor.
3. Compare the advantages and disadvantages for each type of childbearing setting: hospital, freestanding birth center, and home.
4. Describe the four components ("four *Ps*") of the birth process: *powers*, *passage*, *passengers*, and *psyche*.
5. Describe how the four *Ps* of labor interrelate to result in the birth of an infant.
6. Explain the normal processes of childbirth: premonitory signs, mechanisms of birth, and stages and phases of labor.
7. Explain how false labor differs from true labor.
8. Determine appropriate nursing care for the intrapartum patient, including the woman in false labor and the woman having a vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC).
9. Explain common nursing responsibilities during the labor and birth.
10. Describe the care of the newborn immediately after birth.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 6
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 7: Nursing Management of Pain During Labor and Birth**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. List the common types of classes offered to childbearing families.
3. Describe the methods of childbirth preparation.
4. Describe factors that influence a woman's comfort during labor.
5. Discuss the advantages and limitations of nonpharmacological methods of pain management during labor.
6. Explain nonpharmacological methods of pain management for labor including the nursing role for each method.
7. Discuss the advantages and limitations of pharmacological methods of pain management.
8. Explain each type of pharmacological pain management including the nursing role for each.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 7
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 8: Nursing Care of Women with Complications During Labor and Birth**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Describe each obstetric procedure discussed in this chapter.
3. Illustrate the nurse's role in each obstetric procedure.
4. Analyze the nurse's role in a cesarean birth.
5. Describe factors that contribute to an abnormal labor.
6. Explain each intrapartum complication discussed in this chapter.
7. Discuss the nurse's role in caring for women with each intrapartum complication.
8. Review the nurse's role in obstetric emergencies.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 8
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

## **Chapter 9: The Family after Birth**

### **Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Describe how to individualize postpartum and newborn nursing care for different patients.
3. Describe specific cultural beliefs that the nurse may encounter when providing postpartum and newborn care.
4. Describe postpartum changes in maternal systems and the nursing care associated with those changes.
5. Modify nursing assessments and interventions for the woman who has a cesarean birth.
6. Explain the emotional needs of postpartum women and their families.
7. Recognize the needs of a grieving parent.
8. Describe the nursing care of the normal newborn (Phase 2).
9. Identify signs and symptoms that may indicate a complication in the postpartum mother or newborn.
10. Describe nursing interventions to promote optimal newborn nutrition.
11. Discuss the influences related to the choice of breastfeeding or bottle-feeding the newborn.
12. Explain the physiological characteristics of lactation.
13. Compare various maternal and newborn positions used during breastfeeding.
14. Plan appropriate discharge teaching for the postpartum woman and her newborn.
15. Identify principles of breast pumping and milk storage.
16. Discuss the principles of weaning the infant from the breast.
17. Describe techniques of formula preparation and feeding.
18. Discuss the dietary needs of the lactating mother.

### **Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 9
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

## **Chapter 10: Nursing Care of Women with Complications after Birth**

### **Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Describe signs and symptoms for each postpartum complication.
3. Identify factors that increase a woman's risk for developing each complication.
4. Explain nursing measures that reduce a woman's risk for developing specific postpartum complications.
5. Describe the medical and nursing management of postpartum complications.
6. Explain general and specific nursing care for each complication.
7. Compare and contrast mood disorders in the postpartum period.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 10
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 11: The Nurse's Role in Women's Health Care**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Explain aspects of preventive health care for women.
3. Describe each menstrual disorder and its care.
4. Explain each gynecological infection in terms of cause, transmission, treatment, and care.
5. Describe the various methods of birth control, including indications, side effects, and contraindications of each.
6. Describe how to use natural family planning methods for contraception or infertility management.
7. Explain the changes that occur during the perimenopausal period and after menopause.
8. Explain the medical and nursing care of women who are nearing or have completed menopause.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 11
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

**Chapter 12: The Term Newborn**

Objectives

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Briefly describe three normal reflexes of the newborn, including the approximate age of their disappearance.
3. Demonstrate the details of the physical assessment of the newborn.
4. State four methods of maintaining the body temperature of a newborn.
5. Define the following skin manifestations in the newborn: lanugo, vernix caseosa, mongolian spots, milia, acrocyanosis, and desquamation.
6. State the cause and describe the appearance of physiological jaundice in the newborn.
7. State the methods of preventing infection in newborns.
8. Interpret discharge teaching for the mother and her newborn.

**Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 12
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

## **Chapter 13: Preterm and Post Term Newborns**

### **Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. Differentiate between the preterm and the low-birth-weight newborn.
3. List three causes of preterm birth.
4. Describe selected problems and needs of preterm newborns and the nursing goals associated with each problem.
5. Describe the symptoms of cold stress and methods of maintaining thermoregulation.
6. Contrast the techniques for feeding preterm and full-term newborns.
7. Discuss two ways to help facilitate maternal-infant bonding for a preterm newborn.
8. Describe the family reaction to preterm infants and nursing interventions.
9. List three characteristics of the post term infant.

### **Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 13
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

## **Chapter 14: The Newborn with a Perinatal Injury or Congenital Malformation**

### **Objectives**

1. Define each key term listed.
2. List and define the more common disorders of the newborn.
3. Describe the classifications of birth defects.
4. Describe the symptoms of increased intracranial pressure.
5. Outline the nursing care for the newborn with hydrocephalus.
6. Discuss the prevention of neural tube anomalies.
7. Outline the preoperative and postoperative nursing care of a newborn with spina bifida cystica.
8. Differentiate between cleft lip and cleft palate.
9. Discuss the early signs of developmental hip dysplasia.
10. Discuss the dietary needs of a newborn with phenylketonuria.
11. Discuss the care of the newborn with Down syndrome.
12. Outline the causes and treatment of hemolytic disease of the newborn (erythroblastosis fetalis).
13. Devise a plan of care for a newborn receiving phototherapy.
14. Describe home phototherapy.
15. Discuss the assessment and nursing care of a newborn with macrosomia.

### **Learning Activities:**

- Read Chapter 14
- Complete review questions at the end of the chapters

