



North Central State College
MASTER SYLLABUS
2019-2020

- A. Academic Division: Health Sciences
- B. Discipline: Physical Therapist Assistant
- C. Course Number and Title: PHTA1040 Physical Agents Theory and Practice
- D. Course Coordinator: Leesa Cox
Assistant Dean: Melinda Roepke, MSN, RN

Instructor Information:

- Name: [Click here to enter text.](#)
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- E. Credit Hours: 4
Lecture: 2 hours
Laboratory: 5 hours
- F. Co-Requisites: PHTA1010 and PHTA1070
- G. Syllabus Effective: Fall, 2019
- H. Textbook(s) Title:
Patient Care Skills
- Authors: Charity Johansson and Susan A. Chinworth
 - Copyright Year: 2012
 - Edition: Latest
 - ISBN #: 978-0-8036-1527-4
- Physical Agents: Theory and Practice*
- Authors: Behrens and Michlovitz
 - Copyright Year: 2014
 - Edition: 3rd
 - ISBN #: 978-0-8036-3816-7
- I. Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual: None
- J. Course Description: The course will cover the clinical application of physical agents to be administered by the physical therapist assistant. Included are the presentation of basic physiology and theory of vital signs, patient positioning, body mechanics, transfers, sterile procedures, massage, wound care, heat, cold, hydrotherapy, pneumatic compression, ultrasound, light, and motorized traction electrical safety as well as physiology, theory, and application of ultrasound, various forms of therapeutic electrical stimulation, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, and biofeedback. Bed traction and patient instruction will also be included.

K. College-Wide Learning Outcomes:

College-Wide Learning Outcome	Assessments - - How it is met & When it is met
Communication – Written	
Communication – Speech	
Intercultural Knowledge and Competence	
Critical Thinking	
Information Literacy	
Quantitative Literacy	

L. Course Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall:

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
1. Demonstrate the ability to accurately assess and record vital signs which, include girth, length, weight, and height measurements in technically correct manner.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams Lab skills checklist and follow up Practical Exams
2. Recognizes absent or altered sensation, normal and abnormal integumentary changes, activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve, pain or altered sensations, or that can produce associated skin trauma and viable versus nonviable tissue.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
3. Administers standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain recognizes activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
4. Adjusts interventions within the plan of care established by the physical therapist in response to patient clinical indications and reports this to the supervising physical therapist.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
5. Apply in a technically correct manner, dressings for simulated open wounds.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
6. Distinguishes any changes in the patient’s status to the supervising physical therapist	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
7. Identifies when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for a physical therapist assistant and initiates clarification with the physical therapist.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
8. Contributes in educating patients and caregivers as directed by the supervising physical therapist.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
9. Completes thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams by providing a S.O.A.P note
10. Identify purpose and use of pneumatic compression	Written final exam
11. Demonstrate edema control in a technically correct manner	Lab skills checklist

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
12. Employ in a technically correct manner, athermal agent, biofeedback, compression therapies, cryotherapy, electrotherapeutic agents, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents and traction interventions used in simulated patient scenarios	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
13. Identify and respond constructively and respectfully to various individual and cultural differences, i.e. deafness, non-English speaking, etc. in stimulated patient scenarios.	Midterm and final practical exams
14. Interpret indications, precautions, and contra-indications for interventions covered.	Midterm and final practical exams and lecture midterm and final exams
15. Identify and differentiate between isolation techniques and universal precautions	Written midterm and final exams along with lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
16. Practice principles of proper body mechanics in simulated patient scenarios	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
17. Apply principles of patient positioning in simulated patient scenarios	Written midterm and final exams along with lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
18. Explain electrical safety in laboratory setting.	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
19. Interpret and collaborate with supervising PT when simulated interventions within plan of care are withheld, altered, or questioned.	midterm and final practical exams
20. Examine and monitor simulated patient response to identified physical agent or intervention	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
21. Explain and collaborate with supervising PT to determine proper parameters for simulated physical agents or interventions	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
22. Summarize physiological effects, parameters, indications, and contraindications for identified physical agents	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
23. Demonstrate technically correct application of identified physical agents, intervention, procedure	Lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams
24. Collect and accurately record simulated patient response to physical agent or intervention for comparison to patients' expected outcomes in simulated plan of care.	SOAP note assignment at midterm and final lab practical exam
25. Apply behavior that is consistent with the understanding of laws, rules, ethics, and desired professional behavior in lab and community situations	Written midterm and final exams along with lab mini tests throughout term and midterm and final practical exams

M. Topical Timeline (Subject to Change):

Schedule

- 1 Pt. positioning/Draping/Transfers/Pain scale
- 2 Vital signs, girth, etc./Universal Precautions
- 3 *Holiday
- 4 Sterile Procedures/Isolation/Infection control
- 5 Cold pack, Hot pack, Paraffin, Ice/Contrast
- 6 Hydrotherapy

- 7 Massage/Compression
- 8 MIDTERM EXAM *Midterm lab practical exams
- 9 Traction
- 10 Electrical Safety/Ultrasound/Phonophoresis
- 11 Electrotherapeutic Agents
- 12 Electrotherapeutic Agents
- 13 Biofeedback and combination US/E-stim
- 14 TENS; Patient Instruction/Laser/UV/Diathermy
- 15 Review *Final lab practical exams
- 16 FINAL EXAM

N. Course Assignments:

Evaluation Methods:

1. Written Exams:
 - a. 4 written exams worth 30% of course grade.
 - b. Quizzes/assignments will be given over assigned reading and lecture material worth 10% of course grade.
 - c. Final examination which is comprehensive worth 20% of course grade.
2. Lab Practical Exams:
 - a. Mid-term laboratory exam: 10% of course grade
 - b. Final comprehensive laboratory practical exam: 20% of course grade
3. Mini Lab Tests: total of 10% of grade
 - a. Vital signs
 - b. Transfers
 - c. Ice Massage
 - d. Cold Pack
 - e. Hot Pack
 - f. Paraffin
 - g. Hydrotherapy
 - h. Massage
 - i. Traction
 - j. Ultrasound
 - k. Electrotherapeutic agents
 - l. Iontophoresis
4. Lab Checklists: (Must pass or re-do)
 - a. Handwashing, positioning and draping
 - b. Height, weight and girth
 - c. Sterile technique
 - d. Diathermy/Light

O. Recommended Grading Scale:

NUMERIC	GRADE	POINTS	DEFINITION
93-100	A	4.00	Superior
90-92	A-	3.67	Superior
87-89	B+	3.33	Above Average
83-86	B	3.00	Above Average
80-82	B-	2.67	Above Average
77-79	C+	2.33	Average
73-76	C	2.00	Average
70-72	C-	1.67	Below Average

67-69	D+	1.33	Below Average
63-66	D	1.00	Below Average
60-62	D-	0.67	Poor
00-59	F	0.00	Failure

P. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

This is a lecture/lab course which requires a passing grade of 77% in both the lecture and lab component. Lecture is worth 60% of the total grade and lab is worth 40% of the total grade. Once each component has been passed with a 77% grade the two components will be averaged for the final course grade. Students falling below 77% in either component will have failed to meet the requirements to continue in the PTA program.

Q. Examination Policy:

A student who misses a quiz for any reason must notify the instructor and make arrangements for making up the quiz. The student will have three school days from the quiz date to make it up.

A student who must miss an examination for any reason is responsible for notifying the instructor prior to the exam, if possible, or within 24 hours of missed exam, and to make arrangements for making up the examination. The student will have a maximum of five school days from the date of the examination in which to make it up. If the instructor is not notified regarding a missed exam, the student will receive an automatic "0" on the exam.

Final exams will be held as scheduled. Requests to take a final exam earlier should be made only under unusual and extenuating circumstances. These requests are to be submitted, in writing, no later than one week prior to the last class day of the term to the Program Director's office.

R. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

The PTA program is a series of sequential courses developed to build from one class session and course to the next. It is imperative that the student attend all class and laboratory sessions based on the progressive sequence and amount of educational material to be presented in six semesters. All instructors will maintain attendance records and will follow college attendance guidelines and policies.

It will be the responsibility of the student to obtain lecture notes and to make up laboratory sessions. Any student missing two or more classes will be required to meet with the Program Director. Students have a primary responsibility for notifying their instructors about anticipated or planned absences.

S. Classroom Expectations:

Students are expected to attend every class session and listen attentively and interact and behave in a professional manor conducive to learning. If a student is found to be disrupting a class session he/or she may be asked to leave the classroom upon the discretion of the instructor and then be required to meet with the Program Director discuss professional behavior and expectations.

T. College Procedures/Policies:

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the [syllabus supplement](#) located at

<https://sharept.ncstatecollege.edu/committees/1/curriculum/SiteAssets/SitePages/Home/SYLLABUS%20SUPPLEMENT.pdf>

The information can also be found [Choose an item.](#)