



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS	2025-2026
------------------------	------------------

- A. Academic Division: Health Sciences
- B. Discipline: Physical Therapist Assistant
- C. Course Number and Title: PHTA1040 Physical Agents Theory and Practice
- D. Assistant Dean: Heidi Kreglow, PT
- E. Credit Hours: 4
Lecture: 2 hours
Laboratory: 5 hours
- F. Co-Requisites: PHTA1010 and PHTA1070
- G. Last Course/Curriculum Revision Date: Fall 2023 Origin date: 11/5/2014
- H. Textbook(s) Title:

Mobility in Context: Principles of Patient Care Skills

- Authors: Charity Johansson and Susan A. Chinworth
- Copyright Year: 2022
- Edition: 3rd
- ISBN #: 9781719642866

Physical Agents: Theory and Practice

- Authors: Behnens and Michlovitz
- Copyright Year: 2021
- Edition: 4th
- ISBN #: 9780803676671

PTA Examination Review & Study Guide

- O'Sullivan, Siegelman, & McGinty
- Publisher: TherapyE
- Copyright 2024
- 7th Edition
- ISBN: 9798989231416

Entry Level Skills Checklists for Physical Therapist Assistant Students, 1st edition

- Author: Terry Larson
- Copyright Year: 2023
- Edition: 1st
- Publisher Routledge
- ISBN 978-1630919986

Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual:

- 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

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
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
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 simulated patient scenarios.	Midterm and final practical exams
14. Interpret indications, precautions, and contraindications 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. 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

N. College Procedures/Policies:

North Central State College believes that every student is a valued and equal member of the community.* Every student brings different experiences to the College, and all are important in enriching academic life and developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Therefore, NC State College creates an inclusive culture in which students feel comfortable sharing their experiences.

Discrimination and prejudice have no place on the campus, and the College takes any complaint in this regard seriously. Students encountering aspects of the instruction that result in barriers to their sense of being included and respected should contact the instructor, assistant dean, or dean without fear of reprisal.

* *Inclusive of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (40 years or older), status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, genetic information, or sexual orientation*

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the syllabus supplement located at

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-081b.pdf>



North Central State College
SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

Academic Division:	Health Sciences	Discipline:	PTA
Course Coordinator:	Jennifer Lacey		
Course Number:	PHTA 1040-01	Course Title:	Physical Agents
Semester / Session:	Fall 2025 / Session B	Start / End Date:	10/13/2025 thru 12/12/2025

Instructor Information

Name:	Jennifer Lacey, BAS, PTA	Credentials:	PTA, REHS
Phone Number:	419-755-5634	E-Mail Address:	jlacey@ncstatetcollege.edu
Office Location:	HS-140	Office Hours:	Mon/Wed: 1:30-3:00 pm, Tue: 12:15-2:15 or by scheduled appointment

I. Topical Timeline / Course Calendar (Subject to Change):

WEEK	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENTS	Assignments
1a (10/13)	Intro, Universal Precautions/Sterile Processes/Isolation/Infection prevention/Pain	PA: Chapter 1 PCS: Chapters 1 & 4	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check-PPE
1b (10/15)	Vital Signs/Girth	PA: Chapters 2 (pages 13-24) & 3 (pages 42-48) PCS: Chapter 5	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check-Vitals (10/21)
2a (10/20)	Patient Positioning/Draping/Transfers/Ergonomics	PCS- Chapters 6,7,8,10,11,12	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check-positioning/draping (10/21)
2b (10/22)	Thermal Modalities (hot/cold), Laser, UV	PA: Chapters 3 (pages 39-42), 4, & 10 (pages 255-264)	Quiz #1 Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check-Thermal/Cold Modalities (10/28)
3a (10/27)	Hydro, Pool, Wounds, Dressings	PA: Chapters 2 (pages 25-30) & 6	Quiz #2 Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments
3b (10/29)	Massage, Compression	PA: Chapters 8 & 9	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check-Massage/Compression (11/4)
4a (11/3)	Midterm		Midterm Lecture Exam Midterm Lab Exam

Course Number: PHTA 1040-01
Semester / Session: Fall/Session B

Course Title: Physical Agents
Start / End Date: 10/13/2025 thru 12/12/2025

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
4b (11/5)	Electrical Safety, Traction Lumbar and Cervical, Saunders Traction	PA: Chapters 7 & 11 (page 303-305, table 11-10)	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check: Traction (11/11)
5a (11/10)	Veterans Day-No Class/Lab		
5b (11/12)	Ultrasound/Phonophoresis	PA: Chapter 5	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check: Ultrasound (11/18)
6a (11/17)	Foundations of E-stim, Electrodes & Wires, NMES & FES	PA: Chapters 11 (pages 272-292 & pages 303-308), 12, & 13	Quiz #3 Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments
6b (11/19)	Estim: Tissue Repair/Pain Management/IFC/MENS	PA: Chapters 14, 15, & 16	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessments Lab Skills Check: E-stim (11/25)
7a (11/24)	Iontophoresis, Biofeedback, Combo E-stim	PA: Chapters 11 (pages 292-303)	Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessment Lab Skills Check-Combo/Biofeedback (12/2)
7b (11/26)	Thanksgiving Break-No Class/Lab		
8a (12/1)	Diathermy, Clinical Decision Making	PA: Chapters 10 (250-255) & 17	Quiz #4 Clinical Pattern Videos/Assessment Lab Skills Check: Clinical Decision Making (12/2)
8b (12/3)	Student Lead Review for Lecture Final		Clinical Pattern Review
9a (12/8)	Student Lead Review for Lecture Final		Clinical Pattern Review
9b (12/10)	Final		Lecture Final Exam Lab Final Exam

II. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

Final Grade Calculation:

- Lecture: (60% of the final course grade once combined with lab)
 - 4 quizzes worth 40% of course grade (10% each)
 - One mid-term exam worth 20% of course grade
 - One comprehensive final exam worth 25% of course grade
 - Weekly assignments/assessments worth 15% of course grade
- Lab: (40% of the final course grade once combined with lecture)
 - Lab skills checks worth 50% of grade
 - One mid-term full lab practical examination worth 25% of lab grade
 - One final full lab practical examination which is comprehensive worth 25% of lab grade.

Course Number: PHTA 1040-01
Semester / Session: Fall/Session B

Course Title: Physical Agents
Start / End Date: 10/13/2025 thru 12/12/2025

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.

III. Examination Policy:

1. The reasons for which a student will be excused from taking an examination:
 - a. Hospitalization (with documented verification)
 - b. Death in the immediate family (with documented verification)
 - c. Personal illness or illness in immediate family - (doctor's excuse required).
2. A student who misses an examination for any reason is responsible for:
 - a. Contacting/notifying the instructor immediately
 - b. Make up per college policy/at instructor discretion at earliest date available
3. No makeup opportunity will be given for absences of unscheduled quizzes for:
 - a. Lack of notifying instructor
 - b. Lack of coordination with instructor to schedule make up quiz

IV. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. Class attendance is necessary to acquire the knowledge required to:
 - a. Successfully complete lab skills check offs with 80% or higher
 - b. Successfully pass lecture quizzes/tests and assess weekly assignments
2. Students are responsible for:
 - a. Weekly studying, assigned readings, completion of weekly assignments, and regular attendance in lecture and lab
 - b. Weekly assignments/activities, lecture quizzes and lab check offs

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.

V. Classroom Expectations:

1. Review weekly canvas announcements and canvas modules for information regarding weekly readings & assignments, supplemental material, class preparation, quizzes and lab testing.
2. Submits assignments according to due dates established in weekly canvas modules.
4. Complete weekly lab skills check over previous week/module material.
5. Pass all lab skills checks with an 80% or higher:
 - a. If less than 80% on first attempt, 2nd attempt given with a 10% grade reduction, and 3rd/final attempt given with a 20% grade reduction.

Course Number: PHTA 1040-01
Semester / Session: Fall/Session B

Course Title: Physical Agents
Start / End Date: 10/13/2025 thru 12/12/2025

6. Successfully pass both lecture and lab component with 77% or higher in each.

Students are expected to attend every lecture and lab session and listen attentively and interact and behave in a professional manner 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. Class and lab participation is expected and will be considered for 10% of the overall course grade.