

COURSE SYLLABUS

PTHA 2339

**Professional Issues**

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS DIVISION

LEVELLAND CAMPUS

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Spring 2019

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: PROFESSIONAL ISSUES  
COURSE CREDIT: 3  
CONTACT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Jackie Underwood PTA, BSMS  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** *By Appointment*

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

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**I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Prerequisites: The Profession of Physical Therapy (PTHA 1301), Pathophysiology (PTHA 1321), Basic Patient Care (1405), Functional Anatomy (PTHA 1413), Physical Agents (PTHA 1431, Therapeutic Exercise (PTHA 2509), Clinical I (PTHA 2260), Rehabilitation (PTHA 2535), General Education Courses (English Composition, College Algebra, Humanities, Lifespan Growth and Development, A & P for Allied Health, and Humanities)

**COMMON STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of South Plains College PTA degree, the student will be able to:**

**KNOW (K)** - Students will actively and independently acquire, apply and adapt skills and knowledge to develop expertise and a broader understanding of the world as lifelong learners.

**COMPREHEND (C)** - Students will think analytically and creatively to explore ideas, make connections, draw conclusions, and solve problems.

**APPLY (A)** - Students will exchange ideas and information with clarity and originality in multiple contexts, act purposefully, reflectively, and respectfully in diverse and complex environment.

**EVALUATE (E)** - Students will demonstrate integrated learning from different areas and solve problems with creative thinking.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A capstone course which engages the student in the discussion of professional issues and behaviors related to clinical practice and which prepares the student for transition into the workforce.

## GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Organize a professional portfolio and gather data for best practices.
2. Discuss leadership styles within organizations.
3. Present a professional in-service.
4. Recognize types of inappropriate behaviors such as abuse, neglect, and harassment.
5. Summarize quality assurance related to physical therapy care.
6. Recognize organizational structure related to physical therapy care.
7. Explain finances related to physical therapy care.
8. Comprehend the requirement for licensure as a PTA.
9. Develop a career plan.
10. Explain outcome assessment related to course content.
11. Formulate strategies to prepare for licensure exam.
12. Apply generic abilities related to course content.
13. Describe basic concepts related to the APTA *Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*.

## SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Organize professional portfolio to gather data for best practices.
  - a. Categorize diagnosis related information from clinical rotations.
  - b. Categorize treatment options from clinical rotations.
  - c. Categorize treatment outcomes from clinical rotations.
  - d. Relate observed treatment outcomes to best practices listed in the Guide to Physical Therapy Practice.
  - e. Present findings to fellow students.
2. Describe formal and informal leadership within organization
  - a. Describe informal and formal methods of communication in an organization.
  - b. Describe the effect an organization's culture and group dynamics on physical therapy care.
3. Present professional in-service.
  - a. Identify a topic relevant to clinical site.
  - b. Design a presentation with handout appropriate for audience.
  - c. Evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation.
4. Recognize types of inappropriate behaviors such as abuse, neglect, and harassment.
  - a. Define types of abuse or neglect such as physical, emotional, substance, and sexual.
  - b. Differentiate between risk factors, common symptoms, and reporting processes.
  - c. Evaluate strategies to avoid sexual harassment.
5. Summarize quality assurance related to physical therapy care.
  - a. Define productivity in terms of patient-related and non-patient related activities.
  - b. Identify external review organizations that provide quality assurance.
  - c. Describe the implications of poor resource management.
6. Recognize organizational structure related to physical therapy care.
  - a. Describe the role and relationship of all employees on an organizational chart.

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- b. Describe informal and formal methods of communication in an organization.
  - c. Describe the effect an organization's culture and group dynamics on physical therapy care.
7. Explain finances related to physical therapy care.
  - a. Describe the components of a budget for a physical therapy facility.
  - b. Describe methods of payment for physical therapy services.
  - c. Describe various coding systems.
  - d. Relate an intervention to a billable code.
  - e. Identify health care policies affecting patient care in various practice settings.
  - f. Describe the intrinsic rewards of providing pro bono services.
8. Comprehend the requirement for licensure as a PTA.
  - a. Identify any license requirements and state regulations for physical therapy for the state where the student plans to seek employment as a PTA.
9. Develop a career plan.
  - b. Write a cover letter and resume.
  - c. Perform a mock interview identifying personal strengths and weaknesses.
  - d. Develop a 5-year career plan identifying areas of continuing education and professional development such as becoming a clinical instructor.
  - e. Identify community organizations, agencies, and advocacy groups that offer volunteer opportunities.
  - f. Formulate strategies to prepare for licensure exam.
10. Explain outcome assessment related to course content.
  - a. Identify equipment and resources necessary for discharge.
  - b. Finalize a functional home exercise program including ADLs.
  - c. Provide input to the supervising physical therapist about outcomes.
11. Apply generic abilities related to course content. (*Generic Abilities adapted from the Physical Therapy Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May et al. Journal of Physical Therapy Education, 9:1, Spring, 1995.*)
  - a. *Commitment to Learning* – Demonstrate the ability to self-assess, self-correct, and self-direct. Identify needs and sources of learning. Seek new knowledge and understanding.
  - b. *Interpersonal Skills* – Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with patients, families, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the community. Demonstrate the ability to effectively deal with cultural and ethnic diversity issues.
  - c. *Communication Skills* – Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively (i.e., speaking, body language, reading, writing, and listening) for a varied audiences and purposes.
  - d. *Effective Use of Time* – Demonstrate the ability to obtain maximum benefit from a minimum investment of time and resources.
  - e. *Use of Constructive Feedback* – Demonstrate the ability to identify sources and seek out feedback and to effectively use and provide feedback for improving personal interaction.
  - f. *Problem-Solving* – Demonstrate the ability to recognize and define problems, analyze data, develop and implement solutions, and evaluate outcomes.
  - g. *Professionalism* – Demonstrate the ability to exhibit appropriate professional conduct and to represent the profession effectively.

- h. *Responsibility* – Demonstrate the ability to fulfill commitments and to be accountable for actions and outcomes.
- i. *Critical Thinking* – Demonstrate the ability to question logically; to recognize and differentiate facts, illusions, assumptions, and hidden assumptions; and to distinguish the relevant from the irrelevant.
- j. *Stress Management* – Demonstrate the ability to identify sources of stress and to develop effective coping behaviors.
  - i. Describe basic concepts related to the *APTA Guide to Physical Therapist Practice*.
- a. Integrate basic concepts presented in the *APTA Guide to Physical Therapist Practice* related to course content.
- b. Identify the parameters of the scope of practice of the PTA related to course content.

**ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES USED BUT NOT LIMITED TO:**

- 1. Assignments.
- 2. Midterm Student Evaluations using Generic Abilities.

**COURSE GRADING**

Students will successfully complete Program courses with a grade of 75 % or higher. Students who fall below passing requirements will not be allowed to continue in the PTA program.

A= 90-100%  
B = 80-89%  
C = 75-79%

**BELOW 77% at midterm of the semester will result in the development of a learning contract and the student being responsible for meeting established goals.**

Grade will be arrived at through attendance, class participation, written assignments, and exams.

Attendance/Participation	10%
Discussions/assignments	40%
Practice Exams (Scorebuilders & PEAT)	10%
Case study	40%

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100%

[Online Advantage –ScoreBuilders/PEAT 75% < average= A; 65-74% = B; and 60-64%=C]

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most

serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

### **ACCOMENDATION STATEMENT**

Students with identified disabilities should report their need for accommodations to the Special Services Office. Students with grievances related to discrimination on the basis of a disability may contact the Special Services Office, Counseling Center, or the Vice President for Student Affairs.

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

### **SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS**

1. Handbook:

Students are required to read the SPC Student Guide and the PTA Program Student Handbook and provide a signed Acknowledgement form for permanent student file.

2. Dress Code:

Students are expected to follow the dress code as stated in the PTA student Handbook.

3. Due Date:

A Course Assignment Calendar with due dates and description of assignments can be found on your Blackboard. For each day an assignment is late 10 points will be deducted; the 3<sup>rd</sup> day late the assignment will receive a failing grade.

4. Behavior:

Students are enrolled in a professional program and are expected to demonstrate professional behaviors such as respect, preparation for class, and dedication to learning.

Cell Phone use in class/clinic will not be tolerated. If the phone goes off during class or student is found to be texting the phone the student will be asked to leave class and receive 1 absence. (see absence policy)

5. Required Materials:

Students must have internet access and an internet browser and MS Office. If you do not have a computer with a modem at home, you can access South Plains College's Computer Lab. Jessica Tucker, Extension 2180 [jetucker@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jetucker@southplainscollege.edu), will be your tech support contact for Blackboard.

**Text Books:**

**ATTENDANCE**

A. ABSENCES

Attendance is mandatory and there are no excused absences as found in the student handbook. Anything over 5 days, the student cannot meet the objectives and is withdrawn from the course. Any missed assignments, exams, or other activities must be completed and arrangements must be made with course instructor to turn in work.

**\*Students MUST call in absences to the PTA faculty. 806.716.2470**

B. TARDIES

Three tardies count as one absence.

Refer to the student handbook for additional explanation of attendance policies.

**II. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

Students are expected to follow the ethics and rules of professional conduct as outlined in the student handbook. Unprofessional conduct on the part of a student as outlined in the student handbook results in dismissal from the PTA program.

**You may not apply what you are learning to the general public. You are a student PTA and are learning physical therapy techniques. You will be practicing these skills on each other when you are in lab under the course instructor's supervision. If you are presently working in a clinic you cannot practice these skills on patients. Once you have passed the class, you still cannot practice the acquired skills in a clinic. You will only be permitted to apply these skills to the general public under a clinical instructor's supervision once you begin your clinical internship.**