

**The University of Texas at El Paso
College of Health Sciences
Occupational Therapy Department**

**OT 6305 Biomechanics
SYLLABUS
Spring 2025**

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Lab Instructor
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Office Hours: Thursday 11 AM – 12 PM & by appointment

Lecture: Thursday, 9:00 am- 10:50 am Room: RSC 101
Lab A & B: Thursday 12:00 pm- 2:50 pm Room RSC 101 & 104

Course Description:

Biomechanics studies the applications of biomechanical principles in the control of human movement. This course prepares you to evaluate and treat the functional status of joints, posture, and limb movement. This course also includes theory and application with case studies to demonstrate biomechanical principles in the evaluation and treatment of strength, range of motion, stability, and endurance.

Primary ACOTE Objectives:

- 1) The structure and function of the human body to include the biological and physical sciences, neurosciences, kinesiology, and biomechanics. Human development throughout the lifespan (infants, children, adolescents, adults, and older adults). Concepts of human behavior to include the behavioral sciences, social sciences, and science of occupation. (ACOTE: B.1.1)
- 2) Demonstrate sound judgment in regard to safety of self and others and adhere to safety regulations throughout the occupational therapy process as appropriate to the setting and scope of practice. This must include the ability to assess and monitor changes in joint mobility and muscle tissue to ensure that the client is stable for intervention. (ACOTE: B.3.7)
- 3) Provide recommendations and training in techniques to enhance functional mobility, including physical transfers, wheelchair management, and mobility devices. (ACOTE B.4.13)

Clinical/Experiential Objectives (if any)

UTEP OTD Curricular Threads:

This course addresses the following curricular threads:

- Evidence-based practice

Areas of In-Depth Knowledge Development:

The UTEP OTD Program focuses on four areas of in-depth knowledge development: Clinical Practice Skills, Education, Advocacy, and Program and Policy Development. Students will choose one area to concentrate on with their OTD Capstone Experience and Project. OT 6305 can be applied to the following areas:

- ***Clinical Practice Skills***

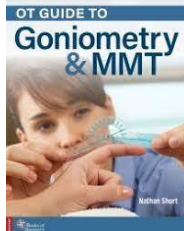
UTEP Edge Experiences:

- **LEARNING COMMUNITY:** Build friendships, gain academic support, and connect ideas across linked classes by joining a learning community
- **STUDENT LEADERSHIP:** Develop professional values by assuming leadership roles in your campus experiences

UTEP Edge Advantages:

- **COMMUNICATION:** Reach mutual understanding through effective exchanges of information, ideas, and feelings
- **CONFIDENCE:** Be self-assured through appreciating your own talents, abilities, and qualities
- **CRITICAL THINKING:** Analyze and evaluate issues in order to solve problems and develop informed opinions
- **PROBLEM SOLVING:** Find solutions to difficult or complex issues
- **TEAMWORK:** Participate as an effective, efficient member of a group in order to meet a common goal

Required Texts:



Recommended Texts:

Dadio, G. D., & Nolan, J. A. (2019). Clinical pathways and occupational therapy assessment for range of motion & manual muscle strength. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer.
ISBN-13: 978-1496387783

Methods of Instruction:

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments will be assigned utilizing the latest peer-reviewed evidence on the weekly topic. Students are expected to come to class prepared, including but not limited to completing all assigned reading.

Videos: The instructor will provide videos to enhance learning on body mechanics, ROM measurements, and manual muscle testing.

Lecture: The instructor will provide lectures on course materials relevant to all the learning objectives in an interactive way to allow for group and class discussion.

Visual Demonstrations for Lab: The instructor will demonstrate the biomechanical approach to assess joint motion and muscle activation/contraction.

Class discussions: The instructor will engage students by facilitating topics for discussion. Special emphasis will be directed toward biomechanical function and dysfunction that leads to injury and the impact on occupation performance. Students will be expected to contribute to every discussion and be prepared to answer questions in a team-based approach.

Methods of Assessment:

Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs): At the beginning of each unit of study, each student will take a short test to assess comprehension of text materials. Students will each take two RATs: individual and team tests.

Lab Practicums (3): Student knowledge of the required hands-on content on appropriate use of a goniometer, documentation of measurements, and manual muscle testing will be conducted regularly.

Final Practicum: The student will perform an OT full evaluation based on a provided case study. The student will apply clinical reasoning to determine the most appropriate assessment tools and develop a plan of care based on the testing results. The student will complete a chart review prior to the OT evaluation and then document the findings.

Returned demonstration: Student will demonstrate the ability to perform skills introduced in lecture/lab and receive individual performance feedback. It is each student's responsibility to review all feedback on all assignments and contact the instructor for needed clarification. This will include the completion of skill checklists, selection of assessment, and intervention for case studies.

Participation and Team Member Performance: Students are expected to attend all programmed portions of the course. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor before class time if any issue arises that may interfere with their ability to participate online. Active participation in all daily discussions and class/laboratory experiences in this course will be noted by instructors during each session. Students deemed to be disinterested, unengaged, or otherwise occupied will not receive participation points at the instructor's discretion with no recourse on the part of the student. Students should arrive prepared for class to discuss, answer questions, and participate in all class lectures, meeting times, and activities. Students should make every effort to use the bathroom during scheduled breaks offered approximately once per hour during instruction. Any student not engaged in the class, completing other activities unrelated to the course or the assigned activity, or completing assignments such as studying for another course will be asked to leave the class. Absence, tardiness, and participation points can all be affected by each incident. **Because your teamwork is crucial to your success in this course and that of your teammates, you will be held accountable for your contribution to your team. Your team members will give you feedback on your performance twice during the semester.**

Course Grading:		Letter Grade Equivalents:
iRATs:	10%	A = 90 - 100
tRATs:	5%	B = 80 – 89
Practicum I	15%	C= 70-79
Practicum II	15%	F = below 70
Practicum III	15%	
Application Activities	10%	
Class/team participation	10%	
Final Practicum	20%	
Total	100%	

Professional Behaviors:

- 1) **Punctuality and Attendance:** Students are expected to arrive promptly (5-10 minutes before the beginning of class) and to **attend every class**.
 - a. **Tardiness** without prior approval from the instructor will result in a loss of accrual of points toward the computed final grade percentage per incident up to **15%** of the final grade. A text message, voice message, or email to the instructor can be left for approval.
 - b. **Any excused/unexcused** absence will result in no point accrual for participation. Any **unexcused** absence after that will result in losing points for participation for a maximum of 15% of the final grade.
 - c. **Excused** absences are at the instructor’s discretion, but the daily points for attendance cannot be given for any reason as they are related to the level of participation. The 1st absence will result in no point accrual stated. Each **excused** absence afterwards will result in no point accrual. You are expected to make up missed work and get information and materials missed from your classmates.
 - d. **Participation:** Active participation in lectures and lab is required. Each lecture and lab will have points assigned for class participation, and points will only be given for active participation during the lecture and lab. If a student lacks participation, points will not be accrued for the lecture and/or lab. Please refer to Methods of Assessment regarding participation expectations.
- 2) **Time Management:** Late assignments will be deducted **10 points** off the grade, per day they are late. If assignments are due at the beginning of class and turned in after class has begun, **5 points will be deducted**.
- 3) **Acceptance of and participation in giving and receiving constructive criticism:** Students will be responsible for assessing fellow students’ performance and modifying performance based on feedback.
- 4) **Disruptive Behavior:** Behaviors that detract from students learning will not be tolerated. These behaviors include but are not limited to: talking during class when an instructor or other student has the floor, attire that distracts from students learning, entering and exiting during instruction, and incoming messages on electronic devices.
- 5) **Electronic Devices: All** Cell phones should be turned off during class.
- 6) **Computer-Online Netiquette:** As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- a. Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
 - b. Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
 - c. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
 - d. Be professional: do not lay down in your bed during class where everyone can see you. Find a quiet spot where you can sit upright.
 - e. Dress appropriately. Please do not wear pajamas or tank tops. Be comfortable, but not too comfortable.
- 7) Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.
- 8) **Clinical observations:** This course does not request participation in clinical observations or service-learning opportunities. However, in the event that students are allowed to observe, it is recommended students wear polo or button up shirts, pants and closed-toe, non-skid shoes.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to be above reproach in all scholastic activities. Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the university. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission of credit of any work or materials that are attributed in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty hard the individual, all students and the integrity of the university, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. If there is any suspicion of scholastic dishonesty, the student will be immediately referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Academic Integrity during/after practicum: Students are expected to be above reproach when completing a practicum. Students are expected to leave all electronic devices and/or belongings in a designated area as assigned by the instructor. Upon completion of the practicum, it is **EXPECTED** that students will not disclose any information about the practicum to any student who has not completed the practicum. Upon completion of the practicum, students are to immediately leave the testing area and not discuss with any other student waiting to take the practicum. If there is suspicion of any collusion/discussion between students during a practicum, the student will be immediately referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

From the UTEP Dean of Student Affairs

(<http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386>). It is an official policy of the university that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. "Cheating" includes:

1. Copying from the test paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test;
2. Possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed "crib notes";
3. Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission;
4. Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
5. Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; and
6. Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit

Plagiarism means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

NOTE: This includes cutting-and-pasting and photocopying from on-line and other material.

Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information

Test Proctoring Software

All iRATs will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The assessments will only be available at the times identified on the course calendar.
- A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
- You have 1 attempt to take the test. Once the window closes, your answers will be saved, and no changes can be made.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs are closed prior to the start of the test.
- Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.
- You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.
- Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.
- No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc).
- You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test

Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and others, is becoming increasingly common in both academic and professional settings. This policy outlines the appropriate and ethical use of AI in this course, ensuring that it enhances rather than compromises the learning experience.

Permitted Uses of AI:

1. Research and Idea Generation:

Students may use AI tools to generate ideas, brainstorm topics, or conduct preliminary research. However, all AI-generated content must be critically evaluated and verified by the student.

2. Writing Assistance:

AI tools may be used for grammar and spelling checks, improving sentence structure, or enhancing the clarity of writing. However, the student's original voice, critical thinking, and scholarly work must be maintained. *Please be aware that generative AI tools, while powerful, are not always accurate or reliable. Information provided by AI should be critically evaluated and independently verified for accuracy. Always cross-check AI-generated content with trusted sources before incorporating it into your work*

3. Learning Support:

AI may be used for study aids, such as summarizing course materials or generating practice questions. These tools should be used to complement, not replace, engagement with course readings and assignments. *Please be aware that generative AI tools, while powerful, are not always accurate or reliable. Information provided by AI should be critically evaluated and independently verified for accuracy. Always cross-check AI-generated content with trusted sources before incorporating it into your work*

Prohibited Uses of AI:

1. Assignment Completion:

AI-generated content cannot be submitted as original work. This includes, but is not limited to, essays, reflections, discussion boards, case studies, and other written assignments. All submissions must represent the student's own understanding and application of the course material.

2. Misrepresentation of Work:

Presenting AI-generated work as your own without proper acknowledgment is considered academic dishonesty. Any use of AI must be properly disclosed, including specifying the tool used and the extent of its contribution.

3. Critical Reasoning and Reflection:

AI tools should not be used to generate content for assignments that require personal reflection, critical & clinical reasoning, or synthesis of ideas. These assignments are designed to assess the student's ability to think critically and clinically and apply knowledge independently.

4. Exams: Students shall not use AI tools during in-class examinations, or assignments unless explicitly permitted and instructed. Overall, AI tools should be used wisely and reflectively with an aim to deepen understanding of subject matter.

5. Disclosure Requirement: Students are required to disclose the use of AI tools in their work. This can be done by including a brief statement at the end of the assignment, specifying the AI tool used and describing how it was utilized (e.g., "AI tools (ChatGPT) were

used to check grammar and improve the clarity of writing in this assignment.”). AI generated content should appear in a different colored font.

Consequences for Misuse: Failure to adhere to this policy will be treated as academic misconduct. Consequences may include a grade reduction, a requirement to redo the assignment, or more severe penalties as outlined in the university’s academic integrity policy.

Rationale:

This policy is intended to encourage the ethical use of AI in academic work while maintaining the integrity of the learning process. Students are encouraged to develop their own reasoning, writing, and problem-solving skills, which are essential for professional practice in occupational therapy.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148. You can also email the office at cass@utep.edu or go by their office in Union Building East. For additional information, visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Health and Safety

Your health and well-being are essential to your success in this course. While regular attendance is important and encouraged, if you are feeling unwell, please prioritize your health and consider staying home to rest and recover. Notify me as soon as possible, and we will work together to arrange any necessary accommodations or adjustments to keep you on track with your coursework.

Students are expected to make an effort to stay engaged with the course by reviewing assigned work and materials covered during any missed class. In some cases, you may be required to provide a doctor’s note to verify your illness and qualify for accommodations. Your proactive communication and commitment to staying up to date are greatly appreciated.

**OT 6305 Biomechanics
Tentative Course Calendar**

Spring-2025 – Thursday 9 AM-10:50 AM and LAB Thursday 12:00 PM to 2:50 PM

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the class calendar if necessary.

Date	Lecture/Lab Topics:	Lab	Readings & Assignments Due	Obj.
<p>Week 1 01/23/2025</p>	<p>Review syllabus</p> <p>Foundational Concepts of Occupational Anatomy</p> <p>Essential Nervous System</p> <p>Types of ROM Assessment</p> <p>-Types of Joint end feel</p> <p>-Manual Muscle testing</p>	<p>-Anatomical Position Planes and axes of movements, and anatomical directional terms</p> <p>-Goniometers parts and degrees of motion</p> <p>-Postural Screening and Functional Range of Motion Screening</p>	<p>Dadio & Nolan</p> <p>Ch. 1 & Ch. 2</p> <p>Application Activity</p>	<p>B.1.1</p>
<p>Week 2 01/30/2025</p>	<p>Shoulder</p> <p>-Anatomy</p> <p>- Osteokinematics</p> <p>- Arthrokinematics</p>	<p>Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks</p> <p>-Goniometric Measurements</p> <p>-Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers</p>	<p>Dadio & Nolan</p> <p>Ch. 1 & 4</p> <p>iRAT -1</p> <p>tRAT -1</p> <p>Application Activity</p>	<p>B.1.1</p> <p>B.3.7</p>

Week 3 02/6/2025	Shoulder	-Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks -Goniometric Measurements -Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers -Intervention (AROM, A/AROM, PROM). Strengthening activities	Dadio & Nolan Ch. 4 iRAT 2 tRAT 2 Application Activity	B.1.1 B.3.7
Week 4 02/13/2025	Practical Exam 1: Shoulder ROM and MMT			
Week 5 02/20/2025	Elbow and Forearm	Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks -Goniometric Measurements -Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers -Intervention (AROM, A/AROM, PROM). Strengthening activities	iRAT 3 tRAT 3 Dadio & Nolan Ch. 5 Application Activity	B.1.1 B.3.7
Week 6 02/27/2025	Wrist	Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks -Goniometric Measurements -Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers -Intervention (AROM, A/AROM, PROM). Strengthening activities	Dadio & Nolan Ch. 6 iRAT 4 tRAT 4 Application activity	B.1.1 B.3.7

Week 7 03/06/2025	Practical Exam 2: Elbow and Wrist ROM and MMT			
Week 8 03/13/2025	SPRING BREAK!!!! NO CLASSES!!			
Week 9 03/20/2025	Hand	<p>Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks</p> <p>-Goniometric Measurements</p> <p>-Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers (Grip and Pinch strength)</p> <p>-Intervention (AROM, A/AROM, PROM). Strengthening activities</p>	<p>Dadio & Nolan Ch. 7</p> <p>iRAT 5</p> <p>tRAT 5</p> <p>Application activity</p>	<p>B.1.1</p> <p>B.3.7</p>
Week 10 03/27/2025	Hand (Thumb)	<p>Functional Movement Patterns and Palpation of Surface Landmarks</p> <p>-Goniometric Measurements</p> <p>-Manual Muscle Testing Functional Muscle Movers (Grip and Pinch strength)</p> <p>-Intervention (AROM, A/AROM, PROM). Strengthening activities</p>	<p>Dadio & Nolan Ch. 7</p> <p>iRAT 6</p> <p>tRAT 6</p> <p>Application Activity</p>	<p>B.1.1</p> <p>B.3.7</p>
Week 11 04/03/2025	Lab Practicum 3: Hand and Thumb ROM and MMT			
	AOTA Conference			
Week 12 04/10/2025	Lower Extremity	LE ROM	i-RAT 7	B.1.1
	Functional	Functional Mobility adaptive	t-RAT 7	B.3.7

	Mobility	equipment Bed Mobility		
Week 13 04/17/2025	Lower Extremity Functional Mobility	LE ROM Functional Mobility adaptive equipment Transfers	Dadio & Nolan Ch. 10 i-RAT 8 t-RAT 8 Functional Mobility Skill Check	B.1.1 B.3.7 B.4.13
Week 14 04/24/2025	Review of the course and skill application	Case Study Application Assignment # 1	Review content from previous lectures	B.1.1 B.3.7 B.4.13
Week 15 05/01/2025	Review of the course and skill application	Practice for final Practicum	Review content from previous lectures	
Week 16 05/8/2025	Final Practicum			

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SYLLABUS
Spring 2025

Student responsibilities:

1. Regular class attendance and participation. Understand **Punctuality and Attendance** policies.
2. All information presented in all learning activities.
3. Prior approval from instructor for any excused absence.
4. Completion of all reading materials before attending class.
5. Read information about **AI use** in the classroom
6. All assignments are due as indicated on the course outline. Late assignments will be deducted **10 points** off the grade, per day they are late. If assignments are due at the beginning of class and turned in after class has begun, **5 points will be deducted.**
7. If a student is unable to take a scheduled exam or quiz, s/he is responsible for notifying the instructor before the examination. Another student informing the instructor of an absence is not acceptable. It is up to the discretion of the instructor to allow for rescheduling a quiz or exam.
8. Professional preparation of entry-level clinicians requires students to master the skill of active participation with team members; therefore, students are expected to participate in classroom and lab activities and discussions. Lack of consistent participation will result in a non-negotiable maximum deduction of 15% off the final class grade. Active participation includes asking questions, practicing hands-on activities, participation in class discussion and group activities.
9. For all clinical observations, it is recommended you wear pants (twill or chinos), closed-toe, non-skid shoes, and polo or button-up shirts.

Disclaimer: Due to the content of this course, there will be physical contact with other classmates and instructors in order to fully comprehend and correctly perform specific evaluation and intervention techniques. By reading and signing this statement, you agree to fully participate and accept the necessity for physical contact by instructors, guest speakers, and other classmates for professional and educational purposes.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____