

**The University of Texas at El Paso  
College of Health Sciences  
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

**PT 6203**

**Differential Diagnosis**

**Spring 2024**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Credit Hours:**

**Contact Hours:**     **Total: 30 hrs**  
*Lecture: 30 hrs; Lab: 0 hrs; Clinic: 0 hrs*

**Schedule:**           Campbell Building Room 211  
*Wednesdays           1:30 pm - 3:30 pm*

**Coordinator/Instructor(s):**

Faculty: *Michelle Gutierrez, PT, Dsc*

Office location: *Mesa Building, Room 115*

Phone #: *915-747-8148*

Cell Phone for emergency: *575-650-9121*

E-mail: [mgutierrez28@utep.edu](mailto:mgutierrez28@utep.edu)

Office hours: By appointment. *Schedule meetings at: <https://calendly.com/drgutierrez>*

*Virtual Hours are via Zoom platform with wait room enabled.*

*Zoom Meeting (or in my office)*

*<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/86456451410?pwd=YmprN3NpTVUvampMZIJpNFRDc0hHUT09>*

*I HIGHLY recommend adding the appointment to your calendar.*

*If the times don't work for your schedule, email some suggestions for meeting times.*

Teaching Assistant: *N/A*

**Course Description:** An evaluation of the musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, cardiopulmonary, and integumentary conditions encountered by physical therapists, with emphasis on physical therapist diagnosis, are presented. Recognition of signs and symptoms associated with various conditions beyond the scope of physical therapist intervention is developed, enabling the practitioner to make appropriate referrals.

**Course Prerequisites for DPT Students:** The UTEP DPT Program curriculum is a lock-step curriculum. Therefore, students must pass all courses in the prior semester of the DPT Program in order to enroll in courses in the subsequent semester. Faculty may consider exceptions for PT 6116 PT Capstone Project I and PT 6117 PT Capstone Project II.

**Course Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the signs and symptoms of a medical condition beyond the scope of practice for physical therapists. (7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D22, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35, 7D36) [Knowledge]
2. Recognize signs and symptoms requiring immediate medical attention, physician/other practitioner referral for the following systems: (7C (all systems), 7D10, 7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D22, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35, 7D36) [Knowledge]
  - a) Hematologic
  - b) Cardiovascular
  - c) Pulmonary
  - d) Endocrine
  - e) Musculoskeletal
  - f) Nervous
  - g) Hepatic & Biliary
  - h) Gastrointestinal
  - i) Reproductive
  - j) Urologic
  - k) Integumentary
  - l) Immunologic
3. Recognize and describe the medical “red flags” associated with selected medical conditions. (7C (all systems), 7D10, 7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35) [Comprehension]
4. Recognize the referred pain patterns originating from the visceral organs. (7D10, 7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35) [Knowledge]
5. Obtain and analyze evidence to evaluate and assimilate screening techniques when evaluating clients. (7D10, 7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35) [Analysis]
6. Perform and interpret client testing for chosen medical conditions. (7D10, 7D16, 7D17, 7D20, 7D24, 7D30, 7D33, 7D35) [Analysis]

**Curricular Threads:**

- **Cultural / Linguistic Engagement and Competence:** n/a
- **Evidence-Based Practice and Research:**
  - Students are expected to access current evidence and then apply it as part of their clinical decision-making in class assignments and cases.
- **Clinical Reasoning:**
  - Using the UTEP DPT Clinical Reasoning Framework as a foundation, clinical reasoning is woven across the course using paper cases, and faculty-guided questioning in class and lab. Clinical reasoning is assessed in quizzes and written exams.
- **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice:** n/a

**Methods of Instruction:** Teaching methods and learning activities will include lectures, learning exercises, small group discussion and problem-solving exercises, role-playing, independent reading, homework assignments, and independent case studies. Students

are expected to take full advantage of office hours and any supplemental study sessions as an opportunity for individual feedback from instructors and peers regarding understanding course material.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Student competence and attainment of course objectives are assessed using a variety of methods. These methods and their contribution to the final grade are listed in the table below.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Grade Composition</u>
Quizzes (written)	10%
Assignments	10%
Exam 1(written)	25%
Exam 2 (written)	25%
Final Exam (written)	30%
Total	100%

**Grading Scale:** The following letter grade scale is used for the UTEP Doctor of Physical Therapy Program:

<u>Letter Grade Scale</u>	<u>Numerical Grade Scale</u>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	75-79
F	Below 75

**Required Textbooks and Other Learning Resources:**

1) Goodman CC, Heick J, Lazaro RT. Differential Diagnosis for Physical Therapists: Screening for Referral, 6th Edition. St. Louis: Saunders Elsevier, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-323-47849-6.

OR

2) Heick J, Lazaro RT. Goodman and Snyder's Differential Diagnosis for Physical Therapists: Screening for Referral, 7th editions. Louis: Saunders Elsevier, 2023. ISBN: 978-0-323-72204-9.

**Resources Available for Student Success:**

**Technology Requirements**

1. *Computing device is required. The computer device must support Respondus Lock Down Browser used to enhance the integrity of quizzes and exams completed online. Note: Tablets and cell phones are poorly suited to accomplish the majority of doctoral-level readings, assignments, activities, and research requirements of the program.*

**Confidential Resources:**

- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS):** 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 e-mail the office at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) or go by their office in Union Building East, room 106 (next to the UTEP post-office). For additional information, visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass>.

- **The UTEP Student Health Center:** Union East Suite 100; 915.747.5624; [www.utep.edu/chs/shc](http://www.utep.edu/chs/shc)
- **The UTEP Counseling and Psychological Services:** 202 Union West, 915.747.5302; [www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel](http://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel)

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Division of Student Affairs. 915.747.5076, [www.utep.edu/student-affairs](http://www.utep.edu/student-affairs)
- DPT Library Research Guide: <http://libguides.utep.edu/pt>
- Writing Center: 915.747.5112. <https://uwc.utep.edu>
- Computer Labs: Independent Learning Center (ILC), 1<sup>st</sup> floor Campbell Building
- Military Student Success Center: 915.747.5342, [www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc](http://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/mssc)
- Student Wellness Program. 915.747.6738, [www.utep.edu/chs/wellness](http://www.utep.edu/chs/wellness)
- UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit [https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html).



**University Policies:** All students are responsible for following UTEP policies and procedures found in the Handbook of Operating Procedures at [www.utep.edu/vpba/hoop](http://www.utep.edu/vpba/hoop)

**Program Policies:** All DPT students are responsible for following all policies and procedures documented in the current DPT Student Handbook. Course policies found in the DPT Student Handbook apply to all courses in the DPT curriculum. The current DPT Student Handbook may be found on the DPT Student Resources site on Blackboard.

**Academic Integrity:** The UTEP DPT Program has a “zero tolerance policy” for scholastic dishonesty. DPT students must demonstrate academic integrity at all times. The current DPT Student Handbook outlines specific definitions, expectations, details, and consequences related to academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty. Additional information related to academic integrity is available through the UTEP Division of Student Affairs at [www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html](http://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html)

**Course-Specific Policies:**

1. **Attendance Policy - Absences:** Refer to the current DPT Student Handbook “Attendance and Classroom Behavior” for the DPT Program policy. Additional course-specific policies are as follows:

- Attendance at all classes/labs is expected. **All faculty have different policies.** Treat this class as you would a job. I am expected to be at class/labs as scheduled and to be on time; I expect the same from you. You are expected to be in class during the time listed. In this class, students are expected to be on time and prepared to begin the course. If you expect to miss a class, you should notify the instructor in writing by email at a minimum of 24 hours in advance.
- If an emergency or illness prevents a student from attending class (e.g., documented serious illness or emergency), communication directly with the instructor is expected **2 hours prior to the beginning of class** in writing by email. A verbal message through another student will not suffice. For any missed class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain any materials presented in class and to ensure assignments are turned in on time. However (with very rare exceptions, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis), no accommodations will be offered for missed class time. Specifically, there is NO opportunity to make up in-class quizzes or exams, either in advance of or after the scheduled class or provide individual tutoring for missed content. Additionally, late work caused by your absence will not be accepted. You should make prior arrangements with a classmate to find out what you missed, and/or pick up any hand-outs.
- Missing 30 minutes or more of a class or lab will be considered an absence – during any part of the class/lab.
- Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction from your final course grade.

2. **Attendance Policy - Tardiness & Early Departures:** Refer to the current DPT Student Handbook “Attendance and Classroom Behavior” for DPT Program policy. Additional course-specific policy is as follows:

- Attendance at all classes/labs is expected. **All faculty have different policies.** In this class, students are expected to be on time and prepared to begin the course; therefore, students who are tardy will be penalized. I use the clock on the computer to determine when the class should start. If you expect to arrive late (e.g., doctor's appointment), you should notify me in writing by email at a minimum of 24 hours in advance.
- Please do not get up and leave during lectures without permission. This is considered disruptive behavior.
- Similarly, if you need to leave class or lab early, notify the instructor in writing at least 2 hours prior to the start of class.
- Each incidence of tardiness may result in a 1% deduction from your final semester grade.
- Missing 30 minutes or more of a class or lab will be considered an absence.
- Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction from your final course grade.

3. **Electronic Devices:** Refer to the current DPT Student Handbook “Electronic Devices” for DPT Program policy. Additional course-specific policy is as follows:
- Laptops are allowed for taking notes and accessing lecture/ lab material or books. Email and social media should be turned off during all class time.
  - Cell phones and telecommunication devices should be in silent mode, turned off, or left outside of the classroom during lectures, presentations, and labs. If any circumstance necessitates the student to have his/her cell phone turned on in the classroom, it **MUST** be discussed with the instructor **PRIOR** to class.
  - Any student who is observed to be using these devices during class time without permission will be deemed to be demonstrating unprofessional behavior and will be warned one time, and if the behavior continues, the student will be instructed to leave the classroom for the day, and the class session will be considered an unexcused absence. This includes but is not limited to using a laptop computer or smartphone/watch for accessing email, messaging, or the internet for purposes not related to class topics during class time.
  - If a student is consistently caught using electronic devices, the student will be contacted to meet with the instructor to discuss the problem.
  - Each subsequent incidence of using electronic devices may result in 1% deduction from the final semester grade.
  - **The taking of pictures or videos during classes or labs must be approved.**
4. **Professional Behavior Policy:** See DPT Student Handbook “Attendance and Classroom Behavior,” “Professional Behaviors,” and “Unprofessional Behavior:” for general program policy. Additional course-specific is as follows:
- Professional behavior will be expected in ALL class sessions and inside and outside of the classroom.
  - I expect each student to arrive at class and lab prepared and to actively participate while not being disruptive.
  - Students demonstrating unprofessional behavior will be warned one time. If the behavior continues, the student will be instructed to leave the classroom for the day, and the class session will be considered an unexcused absence.
  - If a student is consistently ill-prepared, not actively participating, and/or being disruptive (including leaving class during lectures), the student will be contacted to meet with the instructor to discuss the problem.
  - Each subsequent incidence of poor preparation, poor participation, and/or disruption may result in a 1% deduction from the final semester grade.
  - All students are expected to wear appropriate attire for all lab sessions. Appropriate attire is discussed in the Policies and Procedures manual. Professional dress is appropriate for presentations for all guest speakers and when representing UTEP outside of the classroom (i.e., clinic visits). Shorts and tank tops or t-shirts are required for all lab sessions (**JEANS OR OPEN-TOED SHOES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ANY LAB SESSION**). Students who are not appropriately attired will be instructed to leave the classroom for the day, and the class session will be considered an unexcused absence.
  - Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of your total class grade.
  - I highly value diversity and am committed to ensuring that you and all of your peers experience a sense of belonging in my course and our DPT Program.

University spaces are intended to be safe, welcoming environments that support learning and are respectful of all individuals. Disrespect, discrimination, and harassment based on any personal characteristics (including but not limited to race/ethnicity, sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation) are not acceptable. Any direct or indirect instances of intended or unintended disrespect (including microaggressions), discrimination, or harassment should be reported to me immediately so that I may work to improve our learning environment. If I inadvertently create an unwelcoming environment for you, I ask you to please arrange a time to meet with me so that I can do better.

- **TITLE IX INFORMATION:**
  - The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded educational programs or activities.
  - Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination including sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and acts of sexual violence. Sexual violence may include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion, stalking, and relationship violence. Title IX prohibits institutions from excluding, separating, denying benefits, or otherwise treating individuals differently on the basis of sex. Sex-based discrimination is prohibited at UTEP both by law and by University and UT System policies.
  - For additional information or questions, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, who can be reached by phone at (915) 747-8358, by email at [titleix@utep.edu](mailto:titleix@utep.edu), or by mail at 500 W. University Ave., El Paso, TX 79968, Kelly Hall, Room 312. In addition to or in lieu of contacting the Title IX Coordinator, inquiries may also be sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Office for Civil Rights.

5. **Late or Missed Assignments and Assessments Policy:** See current DPT Student Handbook "Written Examination Policy". Additional course-specific policy is as follows:

- All assignments will be completed in class and turned in by the end of class unless otherwise specified.
- Missed classes will result in missed assignments.
- No late assignments will be accepted.

6. **Guidance on Artificial Intelligence:** The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course for the following activities, which must be noted or cited:

- Brainstorming, initial concept development, and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

However, you may not use AI tools to complete the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts assigned to you or content that you put into a Zoom chat;
  - Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon and approved in class that you may utilize the tool;
  - Writing a draft of a writing assignment;
  - Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.
  - Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
  - Plagiarism detecting software: Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.
7. **Skills Check Policy:**
- not applicable
8. **Practical Exam Policy:**
- not applicable
8. **Expectations to Promote Success**
- Students attaining a grade **below 80% on any quiz, exam, or assignment** are expected to schedule a meeting with the professor. The goal is to ensure comprehension of the material, identify strategies to improve student performance and determine if alternative teaching methods may enhance learning. Our goal is for your success.
9. **Academic Integrity (continued): In addition to the information presented above, additional course-specific details follow.**
- **Junior Cohorts:** NO COURSE content will be shared with junior cohorts.
  - **Testing:** To accurately reflect the individual's knowledge contained within their grey matter and ensure fair, unbiased, and unassisted testing, I reserve the right to control the test environment. Controls may include (non-exhaustive list) assigned seating, issued blank paper, randomized questions, use of security software (such as Respondus LockDown Browser with webcam), and ensuring all electronics and other materials that might contain or be able to record information is stowed away from student's access.
  - **Recording:** Students' are not authorized to record and/or share any testing activities (quizzes, exams, skills checks, practical exams, or other testing scenarios). Further, graded assignments and activities will not be shared unless assignment directions specifically state the activity will be shared. "Recording" includes but is not limited to any method used to retain information for future use including but not limited to audio or video capture, screenshots, pictures, etc. The recording and/or sharing of graded materials is considered cheating regardless of how obtained, distributed, or used (or not used).
  - **Recording:** Student recording of classroom lectures, labs, or other activities is not authorized. If you feel recording of a specific non-graded activity is needed, students must attain instructor approval PRIOR TO recording. Further,



authorization by the student(s) being recorded must be attained. If approved, recordings are for local, UTEP student educational use only and will not be posted to unsecured, public social media sites. The acceptable site is Microsoft OneDrive (and share the file), or email through your UTEP email account.

**Course Content and Schedule:** (Note: Students will be notified of changes via Blackboard or email. Additional details may be available in supporting course documents provided by the course instructor).

**All classes are face-to-face in Campbell Rm 211 unless otherwise documented, and all Quizzes and Exams are on Respondus Lockdown Browser.**

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment (Readings may be added/or changed at the discretion of the instructor)
<u>Week 1</u> Jan 17 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quiz #1 (over wk 1)</b></p> Introduction to Physical Therapy Screening Interviewing as a Screening Tool  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Must have Goodman book available each class</b></p>	Ed 6 & 7: Chp 1 Chp 2
<u>Week 2</u> Jan 24 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Quiz #2 (over wk 1 &amp; 2)</b></p> Pain Types and Viscerogenic Pain Patterns	Ed 6 & 7: Chp 3
<u>Week 3</u> Jan 31 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUIZ #3 (over wk 2 &amp; 3)</b></p> Physical Assessment as a Screening Tool	Ed 6 & 7: Chp 4 Ed 7: Chp 5
<u>Week 4</u> Feb 7 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>QUIZ #4 (over wk 3 &amp; 4)</b></p> Screening for Hematologic Disease (will be on EXAM 1) & Screening for Cardiovascular Disease (will be on EXAM 2)	Ed 6: Chp 5 & 6 Ed 7: Chp 6 & 7

<u>Week 5</u> Feb 14 (Wed) 1:30-2:30	<b>EXAM 1 (ALL COURSE MATERIAL THROUGH Feb 8 (excluding Cardiovascular) Ed 6: Chp 1-5; Ed 7 1-4 and 6)</b>	
Feb 14 (Wed) 2:40- <b>4:00</b>	Screening for Pulmonary Disease  <b>Assignment Cardio-Pulm in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 7 Ed 7: Chp 8
<u>Week 6</u> Feb 21 (Wed) 1:30-2:30	<b>QUIZ #5 (over wk 4 (Cardio) 5 &amp; 6)</b> Screening for Gastrointestinal Disease <b>Assignment GI in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 8 Ed 7: Chp 9
<u>Week 7</u> Feb 28 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #6 (over wk 6 &amp; 7)</b> Screening for Hepatic and Biliary Disease Screening for Urogenital <b>Assignment GU in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 9 & 10 Ed 7: Chp 10 & 11
<u>Week 8</u> Mar 6 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #7 (over wk 7 &amp; 8)</b> Screening for Endocrine and Metabolic Disease <b>Assignment Endocrine/Metabolic in Class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 11 Ed 7: Chp 12
March 10-16	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<u>Week 9</u> Mar 20 (Wed) <b>4:00-6:00</b> <b>Mesa building</b>	<b>QUIZ #8 (over wk 8 &amp; 9)</b> Screening for Cancer <b>Case Bob Kart in class</b>  <b>(guest clinicians in class wear polo and khaki's)</b>	Ed 6: Chp 13 Ed 7: Chp 14
<u>Week 10</u> Mar 27 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #9 (over wk 9 &amp; 10)</b> Screening for Immunological Disease <b>Case Melanie Oskar in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 12 Ed 7: Chp 13
<u>Week 11</u> Apr 3 (Wed) 1:30-2:30	<b>EXAM 2 (ALL COURSE MATERIAL FROM Feb 15 THROUGH Mar 29 (Ed 6: Chp 6-13; Ed 7: Chp 7-14)</b>	
Apr 3	Screening Head, Neck, & Back	

(Wed) 2:40- <b>4:00</b>	<b>Case Mr. Ryan in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 14 Ed 7: Chp 15
<u>Week 12</u> Apr 10 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #10 (over wk 11 reading)</b> Screening of the Sacrum, SI & Pelvis <b>Case Mario Solis in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 15 Ed 7: Chp 16
<u>Week 13</u> Apr 17 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #11 (over wk 12 reading)</b> Screening of the Lower Quadrant <b>Case Ms. Hernandez in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 16 Ed 7: Chp 17
<u>Week 14</u> Apr 24 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #12 (over wk 13 reading)</b> Screening of the Shoulder and UE <b>Case Patty Robertson in class</b>	Ed 6: Chp 18 Ed 7: Chp 19
<u>Week 15</u> May 1 (Wed) 1:30-3:30	<b>QUIZ #13 (over wk 14 reading)</b> Screening Chest, Breast, & Ribs <b>Wrap up and Review</b>	Ed 6: Chp 17 Ed 7: Chp 18
<u>Finals Week</u> 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM Room TBD	<b>Final Cumulative Exam (Chp 1-19)</b>	