

**Western Kentucky University  
Department of Allied Health  
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program**

<b><u>Course Number:</u></b>	DPT 711
<b><u>Course Title:</u></b>	Principles of Physical Assessment I
<b><u>Credit Hours:</u></b>	1
<b><u>Lecture/Lab Hours:</u></b>	6-9 hours/week
<b><u>Weekly Schedule:</u></b>	See Summer I Daily Schedule
<b><u>Office Hours:</u></b>	TBA
<b><u>Location:</u></b>	MCHC 3347
<b><u>Instructor:</u></b>	Karen Furgal, PT, DPT, PCS

**Course Description:**

Introduction to basic patient assessment skills including surface palpation and vital signs.  
Prerequisite: Open only to DPT students in good standing.

**Course Objectives:**

**At the completion of the course content, the student will be able to:**

**Global Objectives:**

1. Develop a caring and holistic approach to the patient with consideration of the patient's physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural, and intellectual needs. (CC-5.18)
2. Develop good patient rapport through professional appearance, appropriate touch, and communication. (CC-5.17)
3. Identify major tests and measures available to the practicing physical therapist.
4. Critically evaluate the reliability and validity of major examination techniques frequently performed by PT's in the clinic. (CC-5.22)
5. Select appropriate examination instruments and techniques associated with patient problems commonly seen in a physical therapy practice and explain the rationale behind the examination method selected.
6. Interpret and synthesize findings of various examination instruments and techniques to direct evaluation.
7. Express thoughts and ideas clearly in both verbal and written expression (via lab practicals and written assignments).
8. Perform all examination procedures in a safe manner that minimizes risks to the patient, client, others, and themselves.

**Specific Skills:**

9. Perform examination procedures appropriate to identify a patient's problem which may include:
  - a. Palpation
    - i. Demonstrate accurate surface palpation of skin, bone, joint, muscle, pulses
  - b. Integumentary integrity (CC-5.30j)
10. Educate the patient in a culturally appropriate manner on examination procedures prior to patient examination. (CC-5.26)
11. Perform the appropriate examination procedures in an organized, efficient, and thorough manner.
  - a. Demonstrate the ability to perform self and peer evaluation. (CC-5.12)
12. Explain abnormal values and findings (as compared to normative values) when performing examination procedures.

**Course Structure and Learning Experience:**

This course combines lecture and laboratory teaching. The human body will be analyzed using a regional approach beginning with the shoulder, elbow, wrist, and hand, followed by the head, neck, trunk, hip, knee, and ankle. The integration of all course content will be assessed through final written and practical exams. The student will gain knowledge in this course from the combination of 1) self-study (i.e.: required reading assignments, documentation assignments and homework, and preparation of lab demonstrations), 2) lecture material, 3) laboratory sessions, and 4) group discussions. Emphasis will be placed on accuracy of examination techniques, the ability to interpret test results, and the organized manner in which an examination is performed.

**Evaluation Methods:****1. Attendance**

Attendance and promptness to class will be monitored. Students must sign in at the beginning of each lecture/presentation and document the time of arrival. One point will be deducted each time for tardiness and 2 points for each unexcused absence.

**2. Testing****a. Written Exams**

There will be 2 written exams for this course, an Upper Extremity exam worth 10% and a cumulative Final Written Exam worth 20% of the final course grade. If any student does not or cannot take the final due to an emergency, plans must be made at the discretion of the professor to complete all coursework within a specified time period. Each student must take the final exam.

**b. Practical Exams**

Practical exams will be performed and graded throughout the semester to assess student competency on specific skills (vital signs, palpation, etc.) as they apply to each region of the body. There will be 2 practical exams each worth 15% (total of 30%) of the final course grade. Practical Exam times and partners will typically be posted the day before the exam.

Students will be graded on each performance criterion based on the instructor's professional judgment in regard to the following areas: quality of care, supervision/guidance required (verbal cueing), accuracy/consistency of performance, and efficiency of performance. **The focus of grading will be competency, professional behavior, and safety of the "patient" and the student clinician.**

Consistent with course policy, if the student does not pass in 3 attempts, a failure in the course will result, regardless of the grade in the course prior to the third failed check off. No retakes will be given for the final practical exam, which will be worth 25% of the final course grade. Failure of the final practical exam will result in failure of the course, regardless of the current grade.

### **The Final Practical**

The Final Practical exam will be worth 25% of the final course grade. This exam will assess the student in performing appropriate physical assessment skills.

#### **c. Quizzes**

Two short quizzes (UE & LE) will be given during the 5 week course. These quizzes will assess general human anatomy knowledge and physical assessment skills covered throughout the course. These quizzes may be administered in class or online via Blackboard. Each quiz will be worth 5% (total of 10%) of the final course grade.

#### **d. Participation and Preparation**

Class Participation and Preparation will also be assessed a grade worth 5% of the final grade.

### **3. Grading**

#### **a. Course Grading**

The final course grade is a letter grade. The course grade will be based on the following:

Written Quizzes

(UE & LE @ 5% each)	10%
UE Written Exam	10%
Written Final	20%
Practical Exams (2 @ 15% each)	30%
Practical Final	25%
Participation	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

**Each student must receive a pass in practical examinations and professional abilities/safety to receive a passing grade in the course.**

#### **b. Numeric and Letter Grade Translation**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	<70

### **Instructional Practices:**

#### **1. Teaching Methods**

- a. Lecture
- b. Class sessions with examples and personal instruction
- c. Class discussion
- d. Student self-study
- e. Demonstration

**2. Teaching Aides**

- a. White board
- b. Video
- c. PowerPoint
- d. Anatomical models

**Course Policies****1. Refer to WKU DPT Student Manual for the following items:**

- a. Student Responsibilities
- b. Student Disability Services
- c. Copyright
- d. Academic Misconduct
- e. Religious Holidays Policy
- f. WKU Writing Center
- g. Missed Class(es)/Student

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course schedule as needed to accommodate guest lecturers or to alter course content.*

**Required Texts:**

1. Biel, A. (2014). *Trail Guide to the Body* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Books of Discovery. Boulder, CO. ISBN: 978-09829786-5-8.

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**Principles of Physical Assessment I**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	Introduction to Physical Assessment Upper Extremity Palpation: Scapula, Clavicle, Humerus Intro to Elbow & Forearm	Trail Guide: Intro and Chap. 1 Trail Guide: Chap 2 Shld-Arm Trail Guide: Chap 3 Forearm-Hand
2	UE Palpation: Elbow, Forearm, Wrist, & Hand <b>UE Palpation Exam Tuesday</b> Introduction to Lower Extremity Palpation <b>UE Written Exam Thursday</b>	Trail Guide: Chap 3  Trail Guide: Chap 6 Pelvis Thigh
3	Lower Extremity Palpation: Pelvis & Thigh LE Palpation: Leg & Foot <b>LE Palpation Exam Thursday</b>	Trail Guide: Chap 6 Pelvis Thigh Trail Guide: Chap 7 Leg-Foot
4	Trunk/Spine Palpation Pulses - Open Lab	Trail Guide: Chap 4 Spine-Thorax
5	<b>Final Written Exam Thursday</b> <b>Final Palpation Exam Spine Tuesday</b>	