

Neur 499 Syllabus

Special Topics in Neuroscience: Lived Experiences through the Health Care System and Beyond, Spring 2026

Instructor	Carolyn Da Silva, PT, DSc	Phone	[Type your phone number here]
Office Location	Visiting faculty office	Email	cdasilva@twu.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	Tues/Thurs 4-5:15pm	Student Drop-In Office Hours	MW 1:30-3:15; TTh 2:25-3:45
Course Mode	In person		

Course Information

Catalog Description:

This seminar course will explore people's lived experiences through the health care system including diagnosis, treatment, and living with chronic conditions. Promotion of personhood, health, and quality of life of people with disabilities and their significant others will be discussed through the lens of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) model. **Requisites:** None (3 credit hours)

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture: "This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) model and apply it to patient cases.
- Understand impacts of health literacy, health disparity, ableism, etc on ability of individuals living with chronic conditions to participate in life activities, have quality of life, and access to appropriate and adequate health care.
- Understand how exercise can assist with learning, managing selected mental health conditions, and aging.
- Explore the literature to begin to understand some of the qualitative lived experiences of persons with chronic health conditions, or of their significant others.

Required Materials:

- Nuila R. *The People's Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine*, 2023, ISBN: none, Scribner publisher
- Ratey JJ. *Spark: the Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*. 2008, ISBN: 978-0316028356

Recommended Resources:

- Netflix subscription

Methods of Instructions:

In person lectures and discussions

Withdrawal and Attendance policies

<https://www.evansville.edu/registrar/calendars.cfm>

Class attendance: The University expects regular class attendance by all students and places the responsibility to fulfil this expectation on the student. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility, and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. Attendance will be taken in each class session, and it is mandatory for this course. Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the course and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses. When an absence occurs due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the Office of the Dean of Students in notifying instructors. Assistance in notifying professors of an absence should not be mistaken for an excused absence.

Withdrawal from the University: A student who finds it necessary to withdraw from all credit courses must apply for formal withdrawal through the Office of the Dean of Students. This process requires the completion of a University withdrawal form, an exit interview and, for students under the age of 18, parental permission. Final approval is subject to clearance from the Office of Student Financial Services. If this procedure is not followed, grades of F will be assigned. After the official last date to withdraw (see the academic calendar), approval for withdrawal from the University without grade penalty will be considered for only one of three reasons: medical or psychological complications, documented by a letter from a doctor or psychologist, or an approved Title IX recommendation from the Title IX Coordinator. Once documentation has been received, the information will be reviewed and decisions issued on a case by case basis.

Grading Criteria:

- i. **Presentation:**
 - a. Small group (brief) power point presentations will be done on a standard or regulation of the ADA. The group grade will be worth 15%. Scoring rubric and instructions to be provided at start of classes.
 - b. Small group power point presentations will be done on a selected chronic condition that will include research on the qualitative lived experiences of persons with that condition (or people caring for people with the condition). The group grade will be worth 25%. Scoring rubric and instructions to be provided at start of classes.
- ii. **Quizzes:** Short asynchronous open book/notes quizzes will be due after each module has been presented/discussed. Each quiz will be worth 10% of your grade for total of 50%.
- iii. **Participation:** Attendance and participation in class are worth 10% of your overall grade.

There is no extra credit.

iv. Grade Distribution

A: 95 – 100	B: 83 – 86	C: 73 – 76	D: 66 – 60
A-: 90 – 94	B-: 80 – 82	C-: 70 – 72	F: 0 – 59
B+: 87 – 89	C+: 77 – 79	D+: 67 – 69	

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

Course AI Policy:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty unless otherwise specified. This means that the use of generative AI tools is prohibited, except for certain assignments for which you are given specific guidelines and examples of appropriate AI use. When permitted, you must clearly identify and cite the AI tools used. Submitting AI-generated work as your own constitutes a violation of academic integrity as an example of unauthorized aid.

Course Schedule (tentative):

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	1.15	Intro to course	Syllabus	
		Words with dignity	TBD	
2	1.20	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)		
			https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health	
	1.22	ICF (part 2) case studies		
3	1.27	Health literacy	TBD	Async quiz 1 (words, ICF, health literacy)
	1.29	Intro to qualitative research	TBD	
4	2.3	<i>Crip Camp: a Disability Revolution</i>	https://cripcamp.com/	Watch movie
	2.5	<i>Crip Camp</i> (part 2) ableism & language	TBD	
5	2.10	<i>Crip Camp</i> (part 3) disability & justice	TBD	
	2.12	<i>Crip Camp</i> (part 4) disability rights	TBD	
6	2.17	<i>Crip Camp</i> (part 5) strategic use of power	TBD	Async quiz 2 (<i>Crip Camp</i> topics)
	2.19	Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act	https://www.ada.gov/	
7	2.24	ADA (part 2)		
	2.26	ADA (part 3) presentations		ADA mini-presentation
Spring break				
8	3.10	Health disparities	TBD	Pick topic for end of semester presentation.
	3.12	<i>The People's Hospital</i>	Ch 1	
9	3.17	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 2)	Chs 2-4	
	3.19	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 3)	Chs 5-6	
10	3.24	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 4)	Chs 7-9	Async quiz 3 (chs 1-9)
	3.26	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 5)	Chs 10-11	
11	3.31	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 6)	Chs 12-14	
	4.2	<i>The People's Hospital</i> (part 7)	Chs 15 + faith	Async quiz 4 (chs 10-15)
12	4.7	<i>Spark</i>	Chs intro, 1, 2	
	4.9	<i>Spark</i> (part 2)	Chs 3-5	
13	4.14	<i>Spark</i> (part 3)	Chs 8-10	Async quiz 5
	4.16	National Wellness Institute	https://nationalwellness.org/resources/six-dimensions-of-wellness/	HWI Self eval
14	4.21	Presentations		
	4.23	Presentations		

Technology Policy:

Participation in this course requires regular access to a computer with an internet connection. While some class activities can be completed on a mobile device, many cannot, and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that access to a computer and the internet is maintained throughout the entirety of the course.

If a student cannot complete an assignment because of a technology difficulty, the student is expected to first contact the instructor via the preferred method of communication to ensure that the instructor is made aware of the situation. The student can then contact the Office of Technology Services (OTS), through the online [Help Desk](#) or by phone at (812) 488-2077, to submit an incident and work toward a resolution.

Communication Policy:

There will be regular and substantive interaction between the faculty member and the student, as well as among students. The instructor will frequently and regularly initiate communication with students and it is expected that students reciprocate this communication. Students are also expected to actively participate in course discussions and collaborate with other students according to course policies and assignment instructions to achieve course learning outcomes.

I will reply to your email within 24 hours during the Monday-Thursday school week. You can expect delays in replies for emails that you send at night and over the weekends, spring break, etc.

University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu

Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu

Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

Non-discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other

characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Student Resources

Access the links below to connect with departments and resources that are here to support all UE students.

Academic Services: Contact the Center for Academic Advising to connect with academic support services including supplemental instruction, tutoring, and time management and study skills help.

Blackboard Guides: Blackboard is the University of Evansville's course management system for online courses. Guides on using Blackboard can be found within [MyUE](#).

Writing Center : The Writing Center provides access to writing resources, appointments for one-on-one writing help, and assistance with any stage of the writing process.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides general, short-term counseling that assists students in identifying barriers and setting goals while improving coping strategies to achieve personal and academic goals.

University Libraries: Conduct research, access resources, and contact librarians for any research related help.