

**Bossier Parish Community College**  
**Master Syllabus**

**Course Prefix and Number:** PTAP 205

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Title:** Therapeutic Modalities

**Course Prerequisites:** Selective admission to the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

**Textbook:** Michlovitz, S.L. and T Nolan; Modalities for Therapeutic Intervention. Sixth Edition Edition. F.A. Davis

**Course Description:**

Lecture and laboratory activities on the principles of physics applied in physical therapy. Discussion includes indications, contraindications, clinical decision making and application of physical agents for the physical therapist assistant student.

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the student will:

- A. competently and safely apply physical therapy modalities in a clinical setting to promote therapeutic outcomes;
- B. utilize foundational knowledge of physical agents, applied physics and math strategies to implement modalities for a variety of pathophysiological conditions and goals of treatment based on a physical therapy plan of care;
- C. organize and demonstrate the skills of preparing and positioning the patient, managing equipment and setting up the physical environment for a variety of modality applications;
- D. monitor the patient's condition and response to the intervention, and justify modifications in modality or parameters as needed in response to interim assessments;
- E. communicate with patients using lay terminology and non-verbal strategies and with therapists and other interprofessional team members using medical terminology and good written documentation;
- F. apply skills or expand knowledge from this course (or concurrent courses) by participating in one or more community service or professional development opportunities.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the student will:

1. practice the application of superficial and deep thermal agents, cryotherapy, aquatic therapy, massage, ultrasound, diathermy, mechanical traction, compression, light, electrotherapeutic agents and biofeedback.(A, C)

2. provide explanations of physical agents that are age and understanding appropriate to patients regarding the modality's use, expected sensations and possible results of treatment as well as instructions for home use where indicated within the plan of care. (B,C,E)
3. Identify Indications, contraindications and efficacy for use of each modality based upon the current evidence (B)
4. discuss the principles of mechanical forces, light, sound, heat and electricity and how the changes in parameters can achieve specific physiological effects within biological tissues. (B,D)
5. differentiate between transmission of painful and non-painful sensory stimuli, types of pain and illustrate a basic understanding of how modalities and other factors can modify perception of pain. (A,B)
6. question patients and listen attentively to responses that might indicate precautions or contraindications to the use of this modality or changes in the patient's condition since the last treatment. (A,B,E)
7. make appropriate judgments to report to the PT when contraindications exist or are suspected, or any change or new information regarding the patient's condition. (A,B,D,E)
8. check and prepare equipment to ensure proper operation and intensity prior to patient use. (A,C)
9. position patient with regard to modesty, comfort and accessibility of the area to be treated. (C,E)
10. perform assessments as indicated before and after applying the intervention (sensation, pain, skin integrity, BP, girth, volumetric displacement, weight.) (A,C,D,E)
11. adjust positioning of patient and/or equipment during treatment as needed to ensure proper intensity and therapeutic effect. (A,B,D,E)
12. monitor patient response at appropriate intervals during application of all interventions. (A,D,E)
13. demonstrate understanding of the plan of care through discussions with the therapist about appropriate frequency, duration and intensity of modalities for a variety of patient conditions AND regularly report adjustments to these interventions made within the plan of care as the patient progresses with therapy. (B,D,E)
14. master safe use of each modality as demonstrated in lab on classmates and during competency checks and integrated laboratory practicals. (A-D)
15. Role-play and informally evaluate and critique the performance of classmates when experiencing each modality serving as model patients. (C,D)
16. familiarize self with different types of equipment in the clinical settings and prepare for use before delivery of treatment to patients. (C)
17. write daily SOAP notes with emphasis on organization of information into the correct category, accurate documentation of pain, appropriate interim assessments, patient positioning, modality parameters, and patient response to intervention. (E)
18. participate in one or more approved community service or professional

development activity during this semester (F)

**Course Requirements:** To earn a grade of “C” or higher the student must earn 70% of the total points for the course and meet all of the following course requirements.

- pass all lab competencies
- minimum 75% or higher on Ultrasound and Electrical Stimulation Math skills rubrics
- minimum 75% or higher on all written documentation exercises
- minimum 75% average on laboratory competency tests
- minimum 75% average on integrated lab practicals
- co-curricular community service or professional development (required for grade of A only)

**Course Grading Scale:**

- A- 90% or more of total possible points including the comprehensive final exam; passing grade on all lab competencies; and minimum of 75% average on all laboratory practical tests and participation in at least one approved community service or professional development activity
- B- 80% or more of total possible points including the comprehensive final exam; passing grade on all lab competencies and minimum of 75% average on all laboratory practical tests.
- C- 70% or more of total possible points including the comprehensive final exam; passing grade on all lab competencies; and minimum of 75% average on all laboratory practical tests.
- D- 60% or more of total possible points including the comprehensive final exam; passing grade on all lab competencies and minimum of 75% average on all laboratory practical tests.
- F- Less than 60% of total possible points including the comprehensive final exam; or failure to demonstrate competency on any lab skill; or less than 75% average on laboratory practical tests.

**Attendance Policy:** The college attendance policy, which is available at <http://www.bpcc.edu/catalog/current/academicpolicies.html>, allows that “more restrictive attendance requirements may apply to some specialized classes such as laboratory, activity, and clinical courses because of the nature of those courses.” The attendance policy of the Physical Therapy Assistant program is described in the Physical Therapy Assistant Clinical Handbook.

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, qualified disability, marital status, veteran's status, or sexual orientation in admission to its programs, services, or activities, in access to them, in treatment of individuals, or in any aspect of its operations. Bossier Parish Community College does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices.

### COORDINATOR FOR SECTION 504 AND ADA

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Equity/Compliance Coordinator

Teri Bashara, Director of Human Resources

Human Resources Office, A-105

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Bossier City, LA 71111

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Reviewed by L. Bryant 5/21