TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI
COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES
NURS 3342-001
PRINCIPLES OF PHARMACOLOGY SYLLABUS

FACULTY: Sherdeana Owens, DDS, MPA
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PHONE: 361-825-3618
CLASS TIME/PLACE: IH 162, Tuesday/Thursday 12-1:55 p.m.
SEMESTER: Jun 4 – August 9, 2012
OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday, 1-4 pm or by appointment
CREDITS: 3 Semester hours
PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focuses on the basic drug classification, concepts and principles of pharmacology with special consideration for the nursing role in developing a comprehensive approach to the clinical application of drug therapy through the use of the nursing process. Nursing implications relative to the utilization of drug therapy are examined. Dosage calculations are evaluated for competency.

Course Prerequisites: BIOL 2401 and 2420, and NURS 4322 or BIMS 3401

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Pharmacological Terminology - Define basic pharmacological terminology.

Understand Basic Pharmacologic Processes - Develop a practical understanding of various pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic processes.

Drug reactions and Interactions - Recognize significant adverse drug reactions and drug-drug and drug-nutrient interactions.

Classes of Drugs Used for Treatment of disease. - Describe major classifications of drugs used in modern treatment of disease.

Dosage Calculations - Demonstrate competency in performing clinical drug and dosage calculations.

Evaluate Drug Therapy - Develop an understanding of the processes of evaluation of drug therapy.

Patient Education - Develop the necessary skills to provide patient education regarding drug therapy.

Safety - Describe strategies employed for patient protection during the preparation and administration of medications.

Nursing Implications - Demonstrate an understanding of the nursing implications of drug therapy.
Required Textbooks:


Recommended Resources:


LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TEACHING METHODS
Discussion, independent reading and study are used to stimulate the development of an understanding of theory, process and principles of clinical application of drug therapy through the use of the nursing process. The student is responsible for identification of individual learning needs, self-direction, and demonstration that learning has occurred. Faculty will provide guidance to assist every student’s successful completion of this course.

Course objectives are met through individual study using assigned readings, suggested resources, active involvement in virtual classroom activities (discussions and chats), exchange of ideas with classmates and faculty, and utilizing critical thinking skills. Teaching methods includes power point lecture, small group discussion & case study analysis as assigned, independent study of texts and library resources, evolve student resources, and information provided on Blackboard. While the professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-directed learning, seeking additional resources, and communicating learning needs to faculty as needed to achieve course objectives.

Classes will focus on evaluation, application and utilization of drug groups or specific representative drugs used for different body systems and nursing application in administering these drugs. The material will be from the assigned reading and power point lectures. Class participation makes up a significant portion of your course grade and will be evidenced by individual and group assignments, discussions, attendance, and peer review.

Evaluation is ongoing to enhance experiential learning and provides the student with feedback regarding performance in meeting course objectives. Evaluation methods include discussion participation scoring, case study scoring, and scheduled examinations and quiz that provide the student opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course objectives.

Faculty Conferences provide an opportunity to discuss progress toward course objectives and are scheduled on an “as needed” basis. Students or faculty may initiate a faculty conference.
Grading is a process of measuring the outcome of learning against standards and assigning a symbol to the level of performance achieved. The final determination of the grade, therefore, rests with the professor.

“Extra credit”- As nursing is a profession with specific, non-negotiable standards and competencies, there will be no opportunity for “extra” credit. You must meet the criteria and standards of mastery in order to pass the exams and the course.

### Course Grade Components

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four Exams*</td>
<td>15% for each exam</td>
<td>60% of course grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Attendance (one “free” absence is allowed with no excuse required, students should communicate any excuses for absence via course email)</td>
<td>1. 5%</td>
<td>25% of course grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. In-class questions and case studies, group work, and weekly posting of work as assigned (see “Class Work assignment/ Criteria”)</td>
<td>2. 15%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Peer review- within group AND in grading group work produced (see “Peer Review criteria”)</td>
<td>3. 5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class preparation:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly online open-book Quizzes, completed outside of class and due one hour PRIOR to class (Late assignments will NOT be accepted- ONE (lowest) weekly quiz grade will be dropped at the end of course in grade calculation)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10% of course grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Module</td>
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<td>5% of course grade</td>
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*The student must maintain an average of 75% average or higher on the four exams. Grades for other components will not count unless the student has earned a 75% average on the exams. Students who have less than 75% on any one exam are required to make an appointment with faculty within two weeks to discuss plans for improvement and any barriers to achievement of the course objectives.
Grading Scale

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 67</td>
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**Negotiations**: No end of semester grade negotiations will be entertained. Grades will be posted for graded assignments (weekly quizzes, class participation, etc) and exams as soon as feasible and this will allow students to see where they stand. Grades are earned by performance in relation to set standards and are therefore not subject to negotiation.

There will also be NO negotiation of attendance records at the end of the term. It is the student’s responsibility to SIGN IN for each class and to make sure that s/he communicates with the instructor (preferably via course email for the record) about her/his extenuating circumstances if there is reason for a student’s absence. PLEASE do NOT attend if you are ill and infectious! Attendance will be as documented by signature on the sign in sheet. One unexcused absence will be allowed without any penalty for the semester.

**Classroom Civility**

The learning process involves an exchange of ideas and an exploration of concepts between faculty and students. You must be present to participate. A certain level of professional decorum facilitates this process for learners and teachers. Behaviors can also disrupt it. Use the following examples as guides to behaviors that support learning. Avoid those which disrupt the learning process.

Examples of disruptive behaviors to avoid include:
- Coming to class late or leaving early.
- Sleeping in class.
- Talking in class while others are presenting or “have the floor”.
- Viewing, sending or answering e-mail and text messaging while class is in session.
- Using your laptop computer for anything other than work for the class.
- Using cell phone or beepers while in class. Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off.
- Walking in and out of the classroom during instruction and discussion time (Breaks will be provided- leave if needed for bodily functions but try to minimize disruption of class time)
- Bringing children to class. No children are allowed in the class except in emergencies
An exception is made for quiet nursing lap babies, who are welcome.

- Use of humor which is malicious in intent, as a weapon, or as a “putdown” to others.

**Students who are disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the faculty of any special needs, such as a disability or medical condition which requires special consideration.**

Supportive actions include:
- Coming to class prepared. This includes reading the text as assigned and completing all Blackboard assignments or questions.
- Being attentive and responsive in class.
- Respecting fellow student’s opinions and ideas.
- Contributing to the class and your group by making topic specific comments.
- Offering critiques, alternative ideas, and elaborating on prior answers in a non-condescending manner.
- Providing a fair share of work to group learning activities.
- Supporting the rights of classmates to contribute, even when disagreeing with content.
- Challenging or questioning the instruction or exchange in a non-threatening/nondemanding manner.
- Finding out from your peers (class mates) what content or activities have been missed if a class is missed.
- Monitoring course Blackboard for additional material and announcements.
- Responding to surveys, evaluations, and other requests for input.
- Use of humor which is “fun for all” (not maliciously directed towards individuals or groups) and reinforces or illustrates course content.

*Note that there is NO eating nor drinking allowed in classroom.*

**Exams**
1. Students are required to take the exams when scheduled. There will not be a make-up exam except under the most unusual circumstances, and this would require prior arrangement at the discretion of the professor. Make-up exams will be short answer or case study.

2. Students must maintain a 75% cumulative average on the four exams to pass the course.
3. All exam dates are on the course schedule, however, these are subject to change.

4. Students with documented specialized test-taking needs should discuss this with the faculty within two weeks after the start of the semester and see the counselors in the office of Students with Disabilities. (See below.)

5. The time allotted will be announced at the beginning of the test and no additional time will be allowed to complete the exam. Students who are late for the exam will not be given extra time.

6. Due to test security concerns, there is limited opportunity to review test material. If
you have a conflict or disagreement about a test item submit your comments to the faculty in writing via Blackboard email along with SPECIFIC (page, column, page section, statement) supporting references within 24 hours of taking the exam and it will be reviewed. However, in general items are reviewed and adjusted solely on the basis of statistical performance of the item (question).

7. No exams, exam materials, or printed copies of exam materials are allowed to leave the room. If there is ANY breach of test security, the students(s) involved will receive a zero for that exam.

8. All books, bags, notes, purses, electronic equipment, etc are to be left at the front or along the side of the room during the test. If a student needs his/her dependents to have phone access for emergencies, the faculty or test proctor will keep the student’s phone during exams and handle emergency calls. Otherwise, all cell phones and pagers are to be turned off and the student may not have access to ANY electronic device during the exam.

**Tardiness**- Timeliness is essential in nursing and in professional life. Anyone who is more than ten minutes late may be counted as absent for the day. You are certainly welcome to join the class if you are running late but please do not make this a habit as it is not good classroom civility AND it will affect your grade. (See above under “Classroom civility” and “Course Grade components”.)

**Syllabus Disclaimer:** While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, the faculty reserves the right to change non-critical aspects of the course to accommodate emergencies, unexpected class cancelations, or any unforeseen circumstances that require adjustments for the student’s benefit or unforeseen circumstance. Such changes will be announced as soon as feasible and will be communicated by course email or announcements via Blackboard. It is the STUDENT’S responsibility to keep abreast of course announcements. Questions regarding course requirements should be addressed when the syllabus is received, within the first week of the course.

**Dropping a Class**
Hopefully, you would never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or prudent. Please consult with BOTH your academic advisor and faculty before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Dropping a course can affect scholarships, financial aid eligibility, your GPA, your sequencing, progress, and standing in the program. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Review the academic calendar to identify the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Plagiarism**- (Also see “Academic Dishonesty” below)
**NOTE** the highest standards of academic honesty are expected of students. Faculty adhere to the University policy regarding academic honesty as published in the current University Catalog. Plagiarism or misrepresentation of references will result in failure of the work in question without the opportunity to redo the work. Any amount of plagiarism will result in an automatic “F” for the assignment. There should also be no use of references during the examination. Any student determined by faculty to have cheated on an exam will receive a zero for that exam. Further consequences will be determined on an individual basis, but may include automatic course failure and/or dismissal from the nursing program. ALL acts of student misconduct will also be reported to the Department of Student Affairs.

Plagiarism means to steal and pass off the work of another as one’s own. It usually results from bad paraphrasing that merely substitutes a few word changes for those of the original author and forgetting to use quotation marks and a reference citation. However, these are technically considered plagiarism. The only sage way to paraphrase is to read the original over several times and write your own conception of what you’ve read without looking at the original. In other words, when paraphrasing, keep the source book closed. (Wilson, p. 523)


**Academic Advising:** The College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located on the 3rd floor of Island Hall., (361-825-2461) and (351- 825-3748).

**Students with Disabilities**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services offices for assistance at (361) 825-5816

**Academic Honesty**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) All exams will be conducted in a secure environment. Each student is expected to do their own work without access to any references during the exam. Cheating on exams includes the unauthorized use of any assistance during exams, and/or sharing of exam materials with other students before, during, or after exams.
Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes they have an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go through the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process.

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.