Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Graduate Programs

NURS 5351. ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGICAL CONCEPTS FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR

Course Syllabus

Credits: Three semester hours (3:0)

Prerequisite: NURS 5326

Faculty: David A. Miller, MD, FCCP  
Associate Professor  
Island Hall 338  
Office Phone: 361/ 825-3616  
Cell Phone: 361/ 232-9351 (preferred)  
Office Hours: By appointment; please request via course email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of pharmacotherapeutics across the life span for the nurse educator. Discussions are based upon current literature, research findings, and case studies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Synthesize the physiological changes across the lifespan that occur in the presence of altered health states that define appropriate pharmacotherapeutics.
2. Apply the theoretical and clinical concepts of pharmacotherapy.
3. Evaluate current literature, both in print and electronically delivered, that define standards of pharmacotherapy.
5. Design appropriate content and resources for individualized patient medication education.
6. Develop strategies to integrate pharmacotherapeutic competencies within and across the nursing curriculum.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY

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<th>EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Students will have and maintain an operational computer (desktop or laptop) throughout the course. IPADs, other tablets, and “smart” phones are not</td>
<td>1. The instructor will maintain the Blackboard course shell at all times unless a system dysfunction prevents this activity, during which the University’s policy on Continuity of Learning will be operational (see, <a href="https://iol.tamucc.edu/studentcampusclosure.html">https://iol.tamucc.edu/studentcampusclosure.html</a>). The instructor will inform students of scheduled periods of Blackboard unavailability when announced</td>
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considered appropriate computer devices for this course.

2. Students will check into the course on a daily basis, to read course emails, review new postings, post discussion postings as required individually, and review any newly posted course announcements.

2. The instructor will provide all documents for each unit will be available by 8am on the first day of that unit. The instructor will monitor Blackboard email and discussion comments regularly and will communicate in a respectful and professional manner. Changes in the course presentation will be communicated using the Blackboard announcements.

3. Students will address one another and the instructor with respect at all times. Proper communication etiquette will be used in all communication in the course.

3. The instructor will treat all students fairly and equitably at all times. The instructor will constructively criticize student postings, encourage ways to improve, and validate student contributions throughout the length of the course. The instructor will notify, in writing, any student whose course behavior or compliance with course policies and schedule needs improvement. Correction of problem areas will be suggested.

4. Each student is responsible for notifying the instructor if he/she needs help or is considering withdrawal from the course or university.

4. The instructor is available for meetings with individual students through email, telephone, WebEx, or face-to-face encounters. Evening and weekend appointments are feasible.

5. Adherence to university policies that pertain to student integrity and honesty are expected at all times.

5. Policies commonly needed for use, or review, by students are described with links to additional resources at the end of the course syllabus.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Required Course Texts**


**Other Required Reading Assignments** will be posted within the individual units in the course (see menu, UNITS/LESSONS link to the left on any course page). These will include PowerPoint presentations based
upon text chapters and WORD documents that will focus on topics within each unit, including theoretical bases for various advanced pharmacological concepts.

**The Course Schedule and Organization of Units**

The course schedule (see SYLLABUS and SCHEDULE menu link) presents the precise dates for each of the ten UNITS, the general topic area for each unit, and the assigned course text chapters. In addition, commentary for each unit is provided.

**Learning Experiences and Teaching Methods**

Advanced knowledge of pharmacology is considered essential for all masters-prepared nursing graduates, irrespective of their role (AACN, Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing, Mach 21, 2011). With this requirement in mind, an outline of topics has been created that directs the learning expectations for students in this course. It is not a comprehensive listing of diseases and disorders, but rather a reasonable listing that includes topics that are commonly encountered in advanced practice nursing. Therefore,

- Reading assignments for each unit in the course are based upon the contents listed for each unit on the outline of topics for the course.
- PowerPoint presentations for each unit, assigned by chapter from the course text, are available for use as needed by the student to organize study efforts and to enhance the learning experience. These are produced by the publisher of the Edmunds & Mayhew text. They serve as guides to chapter content.
- Study questions assigned for each unit, written by the instructor, will emphasize demonstration of knowledge, comprehension, and application of the terms, concepts, and theoretical bases for utilizing this information in various advanced nursing practice roles. The study questions form the basis for the unit discussion postings (see Assessment Strategies below). Discussion postings will be graded according to a grading rubric, available under the GRADING RUBRICS menu link.
- Two (2) graded group case studies will assess the students’ ability to use advanced pharmacological knowledge and concepts as it might apply to the care of individuals and populations within the advanced practice nurse’s role in the profession. Case studies will be graded according to a grading rubric, available under the GRADING RUBRICS menu link.
- An ongoing personal reflection by all students concerning their own experiences with pharmacology in the past as a student nurse and as a practicing registered nurse. The topics for the reflections will be made with each of the course’s units and posted under the UNITS/LESSONS course menu link according to the course schedule.

Despite the fact that this is an online course designed for asynchronous learning, up to **three (3)** synchronous chat sessions will be held during the course. The exact date and times for the synchronous chats will be determined by a survey to determine the optimal schedule for these sessions. During the chats, students will interact, collaborate, and decide answers to questions posed by the instructor that cover current topics in the course. Free and open dialogue is encouraged by all. The chats will not be graded, nor will they be required. The chat sessions are intended to provide students with scheduled, direct periods of time during which they are encouraged to ask questions on current course content, specifically from the point of view of the pharmacological concepts being considered. For those students who are unable to attend one or more of these synchronous sessions, a complete transcript of each session will be made available within 24 hours of the end of each session.
Essential Unit Advanced Pharmacology Content and Theoretical Information

Each unit begins with specific objectives for that unit, and a listing of essential content. The unit objectives are based upon course objectives. Important pharmacological theories and concepts are presented throughout the course. Some will have handouts linked to the instructional resources found within the documentation for each individual unit.

Assessment Strategies to Be Used During the Course

Student learning will be assessed using several different strategies.

**Quizzes (Total: 8)** *(see Quizzes link on the course menu)* will be available for two weeks, beginning at 8am on the Friday of an assigned unit. Each quiz will consist of varying numbers of multiple choice questions based upon the reading assignments and study material for that unit. These will evaluate student comprehension of the advanced pharmacological content as noted on the outline of contents for each unit. The course text does include some review information on pharmacology, and students should review this material according to their own personal needs. In general, each unit quiz will have five (5) questions for each chapter covered. Each quiz question will be worth one (1) point. The quiz portion of the course grade will be based upon the percentage of all questions answered correctly. Students will have 90 seconds to answer each question; the total time available for each quiz will be determined from the number of questions on each quiz. **Students are expected to take each quiz without using course texts or other study materials, and to take each quiz without assistance from other students. This is, of course, a matter of student academic integrity and honesty.**

**Comprehensive Mid-Term and Comprehensive End-of-Course Test:** Replacing the quiz during the fifth and during the final (tenth) week of the course are tests covering the drug classes and modular learning assigned on prior weeks. The final is **not** comprehensive. These tests will be general in scope, and will assess overall understanding of the indications, routes, mechanisms of action, common side effects, special problems with drug-drug, drug-food, and drug-disease interactions, and pathophysiologically-directed reasons for using a specific drug class. Drug safety issues, adherence, and the importance of reconciliation will be included. Each test will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions delivered in the same way that course quizzes are given. A review topic listing that covers material on this test will be provided at least 10 days prior to the end of the course. **The tests will be administered using the Secure Testing Policy for all Graduate Nursing Course tests,** which will be available under the course INFORMATION link and the course TESTS/QUIZZES link on the home page in Blackboard.

**Discussion postings** *(see Discussions link on the course menu)* answering study questions for each unit posted by the instructor will be evaluated for completeness, accuracy, and citation of evidence-based sources other than required course texts. Each student is expected to post a minimum number of postings, including one (1) original, and one (1) responses, during each unit. The discussion postings portion of the course grade will be based upon the percentage of all combined unit posting points earned and the number of meaningful postings expected during all units. For this course, all unit
postings must be completed during the period of time each unit is open (see calendar).

Reflections Journals will utilize various topics in that are taught during introductory pharmacology course and subsequent clinical coursework. Information on this project can be found both in the Introductory Unit and under the Reflections on Pharmacology menu link (Collaboration Tools). Each student will update the personal Reflections posting weekly. The use of the Blackboard Journal capability is expected.

Group Case Studies (see Case Studies link to left of course home page) will be done by students in small group settings. The topics, questions to be answered for each case study, and the grading rubric will be available according to the course calendar/schedule and summarized on the Case Study Grading Rubric for the course. The information about the written assignments/case studies will be available under the ASSIGNMENTS link on the course menu. Collaboration on these written assignments is expected from all students. APA format is required for the case studies. The Manual of Style of the APA is currently in its 6th edition; students who do not have this edition may wish to consult the Purdue University Online Writing Lab’s resource material on APA style: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation methods:

Unit Quizzes (8): 20%
Course Tests (2): 30% (each, 15% of the final course grade)
Case Studies (2): 30% (grading rubric available; see INFORMATION: Case Study)
Class participation: 10% general discussion postings (grading rubric available; see INFORMATION menu link)
10% on the student’s personal reflections

Make-up quizzes and extra-credit work are not permitted in this course.

Grading Scale (College of Nursing and Health Sciences):
A: 90 – 100  
B: 83 – 89  
C: 82 – 75  
D: 67 – 74  
F: ≤ 66

OTHER UNIVERSITY AND COURSE SERVICES AND POLICIES

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 Corpus Christi Hall Suite 116. The email address is disability.services@tamucc.edu. Please do this well in advance of the first course quiz or written assignment.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences requires that students consult with an Academic Advisor regarding their degree plan and/or changes to their degree plan. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan and indicate plan is active by signing the plan. Once the plan is completed it will be filed in the student’s record. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Island Hall. Please call 361.825.2648 for assistance. The graduate nursing advisor for students in the Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Educator track, is Crystal Ramirez, who can be reached at crystal.ramirez@tamucc.edu, 361.825.3617.

**Academic Integrity/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.) Students are directed to the following site for additional information at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/PDF/130299C301.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/PDF/130299C301.pdf). Students who seek help in writing and avoiding plagiarism are directed to the University Writing Center, at 361.825.6049. Services are available for students enrolled in distance education.

**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 he or she has 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.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedure ([http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/)), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outline in the course 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.C2.01. For additional assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Engagement and Success.
### Important Dates (2015)

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<tr>
<td>June 1, Monday</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2, Tuesday</td>
<td>Last day to register or add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24, Friday</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 6, Thursday</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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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 technical problems, or any unforeseen circumstances. Such changes will be announced as soon as feasible and will be communicated by course email or announcements via Blackboard, or both.