Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  

NURS 3342.W04 - Use of Pharmacology Principles  
Syllabus  
Fall 2015

FACULTY: Vickie Brown  

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CREDITS: Three semester hours (3:0)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
Focuses on the basic drug classifications, 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. (Is a pre-requisite for admission into the nursing program.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Patient Education- Develop skills to provide patient education regarding drug therapy.
   a. Demonstrate ability to use sound, evidence-based resources for consumer drug information.

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

3. Nursing Implications - Demonstrate an understanding of the nursing implications of drug therapy.

4. Pharmacological Terminology- Define basic pharmacological terminology.

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


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

8. Dosage Calculations - Demonstrate competency in performing clinical drug and dosage calculations.
9. Evaluate Drug Therapy- Develop an understanding of the processes of evaluation of drug therapy.

**REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:**

**Required Textbooks:**


**Recommended Resources:**


**Learning Experiences**

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. 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 student is responsible for identification of individual learning needs, self-direction, and demonstration that learning has occurred. Faculty will provide guidance to assist the student’s successful completion of this course. This course values independent thinking and the challenging of ideas.

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 presentations, small group discussion, case study analysis, independent study of texts and additional resources. Class participation makes up a significant portion of your course grade and will be evidenced by individual and group assignments. While the faculty 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.

The on-line format of this course has the same rigor and expectations for learning as the face to face Pharmacology course. This course follows a set on-line schedule for weekly participation. The schedule is available in the Blackboard course and calendar.

**Class Time:** This section of NURS 3342 is web-based and the principles of asynchronous distance learning apply for all students. The online weekly schedule begins on Tuesday at 0800 and ends on Monday at 2400.
Web Class Specifics:

1. Students must have basic computer skills to navigate the course.

2. Students must have access to the Internet to successfully communicate with the faculty and students enrolled in this course.

3. Web-based courses do not reduce the amount of time you are likely to spend completing course requirements. Rather, the time spent in the course is set by your personal learning style, not a lecture schedule.

4. After completion of Unit 1 during week one, those of you who experience problems with navigation of the Web-based learning course should inform the instructor immediately. Computer or Internet problems are not an excuse for late work or lack of participation. Students should have a back-up plan for internet access in case of emergencies.

5. Logging into this Blackboard course to read announcements, discussions, and email is essential to success in the course and consistent, DAILY log-in during the student’s work week is recommended.

6. Upon receipt of communication via email from your faculty, the student is expected to acknowledge the message by replying to the message within 24 hours of receipt.

   **Student Evaluation** is ongoing to enhance experiential learning and provides the student with feedback regarding performance in meeting course objectives. Evaluation methods include weekly participation scoring, case study scoring, and scheduled examinations that provide the student opportunity to demonstrate mastery of course objectives. Faculty and Course Evaluation are a required part of this course.

   **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. Conferences are conducted in person and by telephone.

   **Classroom Civility**

The learning process involves an exchange of ideas and an exploration of concepts between faculty and students. Students must log in to the Bb course to participate in classroom activities. A certain level of decorum facilitates the on-line learning process for learners and teachers. The on-line learning environment communication and behavior guidelines should be reviewed in "Netiquette" found in the Course Orientation Module.

**Grading**

Grading is a process of measuring the outcomes 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.
### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67 – 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 67</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade Components</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 Exams</td>
<td>60% of course grade*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>25% of course grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study (2 assignments)</td>
<td>10% of course grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>This module is mandatory and non-completion may result in an “Incomplete” grade for the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Module Pre-Test</td>
<td>5% of course grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math Module Quiz</td>
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<td>Grades averaged</td>
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*Very Important to Understand* - *Students must achieve an average of 75% or higher exam average for the four Exams. Grades for other components will not count unless the student has attained a 75% cumulative average on the four exams. If the student fails to attain the 75% exam average, the student’s grade is SAIL is the exam average - without any other assignments calculated into the grade.*

Students with less than 75% exam average should make an appointment for a faculty conference as soon as possible.

*“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.

EXAMS

Students may choose to come to campus and test in Island Hall on the testing dates listed above at a specific time - TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED. OR students can secure a proctored testing site between the hours of 10am and 5pm on the dates listed above.

1. Students are required to take the exams when scheduled.

2. If the student has a severe illness or tragedy which causes the student to be absent from a scheduled exam, the faculty must be notified of the absence prior to the start of the exam.

3. If the student does not notify the course faculty about an absence prior to the start of the exam a grade of 0 (zero) for the exam may be averaged into the student’s final grade.

4. If the student is allowed to take the missed exam at a later time, the exam will be administered in a proctored testing site within days of the original scheduled exam date. Proctored exams may result in added expense to the student.

5. If a second or third exam is missed, a grade of 0 (zero) for each exam will be averaged into the student’s final grade.

6. Students are required to take all Exams in a proctored setting on testing dates listed in the syllabus. Proctored exams at off-campus secure testing sites may result in added expense to the student. Details for secure testing sites are available within the Blackboard course shell.

7. Students must attain a 75% cumulative average on course exams.

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

9. Calculators may be utilized for math questions.

10. Due to test security concerns, there is limited opportunity to review testing materials.

11. There should be no use of references (textbooks or electronic resources) during the examination.

18. Being in possession of ANY testing materials is defined as cheating. Refer to University Academic Misconduct Policy.

WEEKLY CLASS PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Weekly participation in the course is required. The majority of the weeks, students will participate in discussion of specific questions aimed at meeting unit and course learning objectives. Refer to the
course Units/Lessons and Schedule for specific weekly participation assignments. Discussion assignments begin Tuesday and end on Monday unless otherwise specified in the schedule All graded written assignments are subject to anti-plagiarism software scanning.

**Discussion Grading** - Weekly participation grading criteria is available within the course.

**POLICIES:**

**Evaluation Input From Students**

The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty**

It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. 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 intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

- University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~students](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)
- University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/)

**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

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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 CCH 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Title IX

As part of the Texas A&M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy, delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Active Military Duty

Active duty military personnel, military spouses, and veterans with special circumstances (e.g.: deployment, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to the course and clinical instructor.

Grade Appeals Process

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/ for the University procedure and see http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/ for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.

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 acceptance into or standing in the nursing 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. There is a deadline for the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Academic Advising: The College of Nursing and Health Sciences require that students meet with an Academic Adviser 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 in Island Hall 3rd floor. Appointments can be made by calling 361-825-2648. Advisors are as follows: