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

NURS 5351: Advanced Pharmacological Concepts for the Nurse Educator

Syllabus

Spring 2016

FACULTY: Eva M. Bell, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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FAX: (361) 825-2484

CREDITS: 3 semester hours (3:0)

PREREQUISITE: NURS 5326

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 pharmacotherapeutics competencies within and across the nursing curriculum.
REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:


Other Required Reading Assignments:

Other required reading assignments, such as PowerPoint presentations, will be posted within the course.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Familiarize yourself with the course and requirements early. Review the course syllabus, assignments, and grading criteria fully upon receipt. Superior performance on assignments is dependent on independent efforts. Considerations for time and effort to achieve maximal learning outcomes are instrumental to success. Faculty recommend scheduling time for reading, reflection, and completion of assignments. Students are encouraged to utilize additional literature as needed for discussion and assignments. Student learning will be assessed using several different strategies.

Be prepared to spend a minimum of nine hours per week for a three-hour graduate course. Questions regarding course requirements may begin within the first week and continue throughout the course.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Internet access to Islander email (IOL) and the BlackBoard learning environment is required through https://iol.tamucc.edu/ Assignments and submissions must conform to guidelines for each project using the word processor, WORD in doc or docx format. Other formats are not accepted.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

The nature and content of this course often promotes extensive debate during class discussion. Professional, courteous tone and content of all postings is expected. There is a zero-tolerance policy within the course for disrespect of faculty or classmates (see Discussion Guidelines).

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). With this requirement in mind, an outline of commonly encountered topics.
Each module begins with specific objectives, to include a listing of essential content. Module objectives are based upon the course objectives. Important pharmacological theories and concepts are presented throughout the course.

Reading assignments will be found within the respective module. Students are expected to utilize and appropriately cite additional scholarly literature for discussion and assignments.

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 course textbook.

Study questions are available through the course textbook as an on-line student resource from the text publisher, and form the basis for the graded unit discussions.

Students will follow instruction guidelines associated with the assignments for this course. Students who have questions about an assignment should contact the instructor in a timely manner to insure satisfactory completion of the assignment by the due date.

All unit postings and assignments must be completed as on or before the posted due date. Late assignments will be accepted, but with the expectation of a lower grade. Students will receive a grade of zero for submissions after five days past the due date unless faculty approves a later submission. There are no extensions for discussion posts. There is no extra credit option in this course.

**Appropriate Resources and Referencing**

All citations and referencing in the course and assignments must fully conform to APA format (6th ed.). References should be derived from peer reviewed professional journals and be no older than 5 years, unless they are seminal works.

Discussion posts require appropriate citations, resources, referencing, and formatting (see above) except that you do not need to indent, nor double-space the references. The critical point in referencing discussions is to ensure that the reader has enough information to locate the source for personal review.

**Submission of Assignments**

Submission of assignments will be through the Assignment Tool using WORD in doc or docx format unless otherwise stated. Please see submission instructions for each assignment. Assignments in other formats, such as pdfs, are not accepted. Student assignments and discussions are subject to anti-plagiarism screening.

**ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES & ASSIGNMENTS**
Team Agreement: Establishes parameters for working as a group to accomplish group course work and objectives. This is an important first step in any group effort or task force. Each group will complete a Team Agreement which will be submitted in the assignments link. The team agreement is required, but will not be graded. It is merely forming an group understanding of the team and its functions. The team is responsible to update the agreement if there are any changes to the agreement and notify faculty through the course email.

Reflective Learning Journals: Utilizes topics that are regularly introduced or used in undergraduate pharmacology courses and subsequent clinical course work. This is an ongoing, weekly posting of personal reflections by students concerning their own pharmacological experiences as a student nurse and as a practicing registered nurse. The use of the Blackboard Journal capability is expected.

Discussions: The Discussion Board is equivalent to on-campus class time where face-to-face communication occurs. It is the place where teaching-learning dynamic occurs. Discussion of study questions and Drug Class Tables, as assigned for each module, will be evaluated for completeness, accuracy, and appropriate APA formatted citation of evidence-based sources and texts. Study questions assigned for each module emphasize demonstration of knowledge, comprehension, and application of the material.

Group Case Studies: 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. Case studies will be completed in small groups. Collaboration is required for the case studies. Participation and contributions to the group project must occur within the BlackBoard group discussion area for the individual projects. Participation by other means such as communication by meetings, phone, TAMUCC or BB email, and texting is not accessible by faculty and will not be including in grading. Therefore, it is important that all course communication occur within BlackBoard class and group discussions areas as directed.

Examinations: There are two (2) major examinations covering the drug classes and modular learning related to the modules preceding it. Each examination will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions. The tests will assess an overall understanding of the following:
- Indications and pathophysiological rationale for using a specific drug class
- Routes of delivery and mechanism of action
- Common side effects, drug-drug, drug-food, and drug-disease interactions
- Drug safety, reconciliation, and adherence considerations
The tests will be administered using the Secure Testing Policy for all Graduate Nursing Course Tests. Students are encouraged to begin setting up their chosen testing site in collaboration with the Graduate Department Secretary. This policy is available for review within the BB course.
EARNED GRADES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Agreement</td>
<td>Required, but not Graded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations (2)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies (2)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Learning Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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COURSE LETTER GRADE CONVERSION (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)

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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 67</td>
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IMPORTANT DATES

See University Calendar for important dates such as first and last class dates, last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university, recognized holidays and fall commencements.

SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

While the provisions of this syllabus and other course components are as accurate and complete as possible, faculty reserves the right to adjust the course to accommodate emergencies, unexpected technical problems, or other unforeseen circumstances. Faculty will announce any necessary changes through the BlackBoard course discussion, announcements, or course emails. It is the student’s responsibility to keep abreast of course announcements.
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

University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty:  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 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 (eg: 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.