Clinical Decision Making
NUR 807: Sections 742 and 743
1 credit Didactic; 2 credits clinical component
Hybrid class
Spring 2011

Catalog Course Description: Clinical decision making in advanced practice nursing. Decision theory and related concepts. Application of critical thinking and clinical judgment to differential diagnoses of common primary care conditions.

University Course Description:
• Semester: Spring of every year
• Credits: 1 credit online seminar; 2 credits clinical component
• Restrictions: Open only to master’s students in the College of Nursing
• Description: Clinical decision-making in advanced practice nursing. Decision theory and related concepts. Application of critical thinking and clinical judgment to differential diagnoses of common acute care conditions. NUR 807 is an online course.

Course Overview: NUR 807 is a “bridge” course between the MSN core courses and health assessment taken thus far and the clinical management courses that will be taken following NUR 807. The learning experiences in NUR 807 are intended to foster movement from a focus on gaining theoretical knowledge to the next steps in developing the advanced clinical practice role. To achieve this aim, NUR 807 is offered in an online format. The theoretical portion of the course is offered primarily online and focuses on the concepts of evidence based practice and clinical decision-making that are needed for making sound clinical decisions. The clinical portion of the course has clinical precepted hours. The clinical hours for this course will provide practice experience in clinical data gathering skills, differential diagnosis, diagnostic reasoning and evidence based practice issues related to acute care issues.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, students will:
1. Apply decision theory to formulate differential diagnoses.
2. Analyze the concept of clinical diagnoses in acute care.
3. Analyze the implications of diagnostic decision relative to cost and efficacy within the contemporary health care delivery system.
4. Document a history of present illness (HPI) by using the problem oriented record (POR).

Additional Course Objectives:
1. Formulate differential diagnosis based on evidence related to nursing and medicine.
2. Critically appraise guidelines based on AGREE criteria
3. Apply the concepts related to evidence based practice to clinical situations.
4. Compose, research question and analyze data related to an identified concern in the Problem/Intervention/Comparison/Outcome (PICO) format.

Prerequisites: NUR 805 and (NUR 820 or NUR 850)

Co-requisites: None
**Professional Standards & Guidelines:** The curriculum is guided by the following documents:


**Faculty:** Costellia Talley, PhD, ACNS-BC  
Assistant Professor  
MSU College of Nursing, 424 West Fee, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317  
Office: 517-353-4737  
E-mail: costellia.talley@hc.msu.edu  
**Note:** Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

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Instructor, Clinical Faculty  
MSU College of Nursing, W114 Owen Graduate Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317  
313-570-1450  
E-mail: kathleen.vollman@hc.msu.edu  
**Note:** Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

**Instruction:**

a. **Required Texts:**


b. Optional Texts: The texts below are suggestions for references you need to have a recent nursing diagnosis book, a clinical epidemiology book and a laboratory tests book. If you already have one that can be used that is fine.


c. Required Resources, References, Supplies:

ANGEL Help Line
1.800.500.1554 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
517.355.2345 (24 hrs, 7 days/week)
www.angel.msu.edu (ANGEL Help link in upper right corner)
Always check with the ANGEL Help Line first!

**Evaluation and Grading Scale:**

a. **Evaluation of Academic Performance:**

* EBP Scholarly Paper – 25 points (question from clinical, develop a PICO question)

* Exams/Activities– 30 points

* Agree Papers– 20 points

* Final Exam – 25 points

* Precepted clinical practice hours – graded on a pass-fail basis. Ninety (90) precepted clinical hours in a selected practice setting are to be arranged with the clinical faculty. A maximum of 12 precepted clinical hours may be completed within a one-week time periods. The expectation is that this time will be spread out over the time period of February through April. Clinical hours may be arranged for either 4-hour or 8-hour time blocks. All precepted clinical hours must be completed by April 30, 2009 in order to receive a course grade for NUR 807. See the Course Documents folder in the ANGEL course web site for additional information. You must complete and pass clinical to be successful in the course.

b. **Course Grading Scale:**

Grades will be determined by adding all of the course activities together and arriving at a specific number (point total). The MSU 4.0 grading system will be utilized to report final course grades.

Points will be rounded to whole numbers using the 0.5 rules. Points at ≥ 0.5 will be rounded up while those < 0.5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.
There is no opportunity for “extra credit” in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 – 100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>93 - 87</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>86 – 80</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Minimum passing grade)</td>
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<td>79 – 75</td>
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<td>74 – 70</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>69 – 65</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 – 604</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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Grading:

Exams 30
PICO Paper 25
AGREE paper 20
Final Exam 25
Clinical evaluation P/F

Total points 100 points

Clinical experience is pass fail you will need to schedule 90 hours with clinical preceptor approval of personalized clinical objectives from MSU Faculty and April 30th.

Grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam/Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of total grade</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Exam I          | 100 points  | 15%              | 150 minutes (2.5 hours) | 100 questions
|                 |             |                  |                         | Multiple choice, true/false and/or matching                            |
| Exam II         | 100 points  | 15%              | 150 minutes (2.5 hours) | 100 questions
|                 |             |                  |                         | Multiple choice, true/false and/or matching                            |
| Final Exam      | 100 points  | 25%              | 150 minutes (2.5 hours) | 100 questions
|                 |             |                  |                         | Multiple choice, true/false and/or matching                            |
| Pico Paper      | 100 points  | 25%              |                         | Please refer to the “PICO PAPER GUIDELINE” and “GRADING CRITERIA” in this syllabus. |
| AGREE Paper     | 100 Points  | 20%              |                         | Please refer to the “CASE MANAGEMENT PAPER GUIDELINE” and “GRADING CRITERIA” in this syllabus. |
| Total points    | 500 points  | 100%             |                         |                                                                       |
Examination. All students are expected to take examinations at the designated date and time. A score of zero (0.0) point will be given for that exam if students do not take the exam at the designated date and time. If there is an unexpected personal or family emergency, such as medical emergency or death of immediate family member, all course faculty members must be contacted immediately via email or phone. Make-up examinations must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam week.

If you have questions about ANGEL or experience any ANGEL-related problems including technology problems during a quiz call the ANGEL Help Line immediately: 1.800.500.1544 or 517.355.2345 (24/7). You can also access ANGEL Help online from www.angel.msu.edu (ANGEL Help link in upper right corner). If you have technical problems during an exam, please contact the ANGEL Help Line immediately. They will notify faculty of unusual circumstances.

Content Discussion Boards: For students to discuss difficult concepts. Students are strongly encouraged to log on content discussion boards on regular basis and actively participate in discussion. Faculty will check accuracy of response on a regular basis and correct misunderstanding as needed. Please avoid posting the same or similar questions. Students are expected to 1) read the course textbook, read PPP/script and/or listen to audio carefully before posting.

PICO Paper Discussion Board: For students to exchange or discuss ideas about the EBP Scholarly Paper (PICO paper). Students must read and follow the “EBP Scholarly Paper guideline” and “grading criteria” in this syllabus carefully before posting or questions will not be answered. This is a graduate course, students are expected to be critical thinkers and responsible for reading syllabus. Students are expected to plan their schedule in advance to accomplish this assignment.

When to Look for Course Materials:

Tuesday is considered the “beginning” day of each week of the course (please refer to the Course Calendar). The materials for Week #1 will be accessible to you starting on Tuesday, January 12 (the first day of Week #1). During each subsequent week of the course, you will be able to review the material for all past weeks. For example, on Tuesday, January 19 (Week #2), you will be able to see materials for the prior Week #1.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to log into and actively participate in any discussions on the unit message boards as required. Scholarly interchange is vital to everyone’s understanding of the material.

Goals of the Clinical Experience

The goal of this clinical experience is to prepare students for advanced practice as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. The clinical experience will allow students to:

- Work with and learn from experienced clinicians (preceptors).
- Begin to develop the core competencies to function as a clinical nurse specialist.
- Expand exposure to clinical situations, strategies, and treatment modalities.
- Apply theory to clinical practice.
- Develop and expand their clinical expertise.
- Increase their knowledge of health care systems.
- Develop an interdisciplinary approach to the provisions of health care services.
Clinical Experience

The clinical experience is preceptor supervised and faculty guided for 90 hours over the semester. Please see angel document for a detailed description of the expectations related to the clinical experience. This includes CNS Clinical Competencies and Expectations, Students Responsibilities and Preceptor Guidelines/Responsibilities. The clinical experience is a key component of the CNS option. During the clinical component of this course, student will apply theory to practice.

Organizational Confidentiality

Protection of the privacy of the organization by confidential reporting is an expected ethical responsibility of students in this course. Like patient confidentiality, we do not disclose information about employees or the organization, except on a “need-to-know” basis. In oral or written discussions of the clinical experience complete anonymity is required.

Clinical Site Dress Code/Professionalism:
Make sure to dress and conduct yourself in accordance with agency policy and your prospective role of a Clinical Nurse Specialist. Ask your preceptor about the appropriate dress for the different course activities that is in accordance with the College of Nursing professional dress policy. While in the clinical area students will wear Lab Jackets and they must wear their MSU nametag at all times.

LAST RULES

MUTUAL RESPECT should be demonstrated by all faculty and students.

University & College Policies:

The College of Nursing expects that students will demonstrate professional behavior in all situations. Specific expectations for clinical and other professional venues can be found in the appropriate handbook. You are responsible for reviewing and acting in accordance with the policies and procedures found in the following sources, including the following topics: Professionalism, Academic Integrity, Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, Disruptive Behavior, Attendance, Compliance, and Progression.

- CON Student handbook  [http://nursing.msu.edu/handbooks.asp](http://nursing.msu.edu/handbooks.asp)
- Information for Current Students—including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Students [http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html)
- Academic Programs [http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/AcademicPrograms.asp](http://www.reg.msu.edu/UCC/AcademicPrograms.asp)

Academic Integrity:

**Academic Honesty:** Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states: “The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards.” In addition, the College of Nursing adheres to the policies on academic honesty specified in General Student Regulation 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site [www.msu.edu](http://www.msu.edu).)

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.
Please read each part of the following site to fully understand your responsibilities and the position of the University regarding:

- cheating,
- plagiarism,
- MSU regulations, ordinances and policies regarding academic honesty and integrity
- Academic integrity links
  [http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html)

*Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in the College of Nursing.* Any student involved in academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Services in the College of Nursing and a grade of 0.0 may be issued for the course.

Lectures, quizzes and examinations must remain the property of the College of Nursing and must not be copied from the Internet for use with others. **Any quiz or exam should not be printed. Printing an exam or quiz will be considered academic dishonesty.** According to university policy, consequences for academic dishonesty may include failure of the course, expulsion from the major, or expulsion from the university. You are advised to complete and submit your own work. The exams are NOT group projects and must not be shared with other students in any way.

Online discussions and other course activities are confidential and should not be shared or discussed with others who are not enrolled in the class. The course provides an opportunity for each course participant to express his/her ideas and all are expected to do so. All ideas need to be respected in discussions and exercises. Any “group projects” (that are required) still require individual work as a minimal expectation, and individual work will be graded.

For further information you can access any of the following sites:

- International Studies and Programs
  [http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html](http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html)

**Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html) (AFR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.3.10 of the AFR states that "The student has a right to scholarly relationships with faculty based on mutual trust and civility." [General Student Regulation 5.02](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html) states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action through the Student Faculty Judiciary process.

**Attendance:** Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course. See the Ombudsman’s web site for a discussion of student observance of major religious holidays, student-athlete participation in athletic competition, student participation in university-approved field trips, medical excuses and a dean's drop for students who fail to attend class sessions at the beginning of the semester.

**College of Nursing Policies:** Professional Development Guidelines are found in the CON MSN Student Handbook at the CON website. Students are responsible for the information found in the CON MSN Student Handbook.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Clinical/Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week # 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;January 11, 2011</td>
<td><strong>CNS Role &amp; Evidence Based Practice</strong>&lt;br&gt;Three Spheres of Influence &amp; Seven Role Competencies/Evaluation Introduction to course</td>
<td>Learning to write detailed objective for clinical experience</td>
<td>Prior to meeting with preceptor you must receive approval of personalized clinical objectives from MSU Faculty via phone or Skype conference.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week # 2 and # 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;January 18, 2011</td>
<td><strong>Evidence Based Practice &amp; Informatics.</strong>&lt;br&gt;PICO process, Nursing &amp; Medical Differential Dx, Decision Theory, Electronic Medical Record (EMR) &amp; Simulation technology</td>
<td>PICO Assignment #1 due February 3rd Quiz 1 due on February 3rd</td>
<td>Reflective Log Perform H&amp; P</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week # 4 and #5</strong>&lt;br&gt;February 3, 2011</td>
<td><strong>Test characteristics &amp; Risk assessment.</strong> Specificity/Sensitivity, validity &amp; reliability, Positive Predictive value &amp; Negative Predictive value, Likelihood ratio, NNT</td>
<td>PICO Assignment #2 due by February 16th</td>
<td>Wk# 5 turn in write up of H&amp;P Reflective Log</td>
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<td><strong>Week #6</strong>&lt;br&gt;February 22, 2010</td>
<td><strong>Critical Appraisal of Evidence - Guidelines</strong></td>
<td>Quiz 2 due on March 2nd</td>
<td>Reflective Log</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week #7</strong>&lt;br&gt;March 8-13th</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week #8-#12</strong>&lt;br&gt;March 15, 2010</td>
<td><strong>Clinical Integration of EBP: Acute Care Clinical Issues</strong></td>
<td>Agree Guideline assignment due by April 5th</td>
<td>Reflective Log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week #13-#14</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 12, 2010</td>
<td>Genetics Issues; Screening &amp; use of diagnostics (Laboratory &amp; radiology) for inpatients; Vulnerable populations</td>
<td>PICO Paper due by April 19th</td>
<td>Wk#13 turn in write up of H&amp;P Reflective Log</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week #15</strong>&lt;br&gt;April 26th</td>
<td>Ethical, Political and Professional issues for EBP</td>
<td>Preceptor Evaluation by the end of wk 15 Reflective Log</td>
<td>Reflective Log</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week #16</strong>&lt;br&gt;May 4</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final exam on-line –May 6th 9am -12:00 noon</td>
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