Clinical Decision Making  
Sections 741  
NUR 807: 1 credit Didactic; 2 credits clinical component  
Hybrid class  
Spring 2014

Catalog Course Description: Clinical decision making in advanced practice nursing. Decision theory and related concepts will be addressed. Application of critical thinking and clinical judgment to differential diagnoses of common primary care conditions within the clinical setting will be a focus of the 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 a hybrid (blended) format that includes online and in-person instructional components. The theoretical portion of the course is offered primarily online and focuses on the concepts of evidence based practice and clinical decision-making which are needed for making sound clinical decisions. The clinical portion of the course has both in-person instructional experiences and 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 primary care issues.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course, students will:
1. Apply decision theory to formulate differential diagnoses.
2. Formulate differential diagnosis based on evidence for nursing and medical diagnoses of common problems seen in primary care settings.
3. Develop mutually agreed upon diagnostic strategies for working diagnosis based on evidence, knowledge of the individuals age, gender and cultural values.
4. Analyze the implications of diagnostic decisions relative to cost and efficacy within the health care system.
5. Compose a problem statement and analyze data related to an identified concern in primary care based on program population

Prerequisites: NUR 805 and NUR 820, NUR 850 or 835

Professional Standards & Guidelines: The curriculum is guided by the following documents:


http://www.nonpf.org
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Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

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Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

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Contact Information:
Office Hours: arranged

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Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules

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Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Instruction:

- Methodology: this course is taught in a hybrid version. The course content will be found on D2L, Course Management system. In addition there will be several on-campus days which will be seminar format with hands on activities and case studies.

- Writing Requirements: This course will be the first course in your process of developing your scholarly project material will be provided to assist you in developing your writing skills. All professional writing will use the APA manual for guidance.
a. Required Text


b. Recommended Texts

c. Required Resources, References, Supplies:

MSU Distance Learning Services:
- Local: **(517) 355-2345**
- Toll Free: **(800) 500-1554**
  (North America and Hawaii)
- MSU D2L Contact form: [https://contact.cl.msu.edu/contact.php?service=DLSD2L](https://contact.cl.msu.edu/contact.php?service=DLSD2L)

Always check with the MSU Distance Learning Services first for help with D2L

Library e-resources:


*American Nurses Association (2010). Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice*[http://catalog.lib.msu.edu/record=b8270966%7ES39a%20](http://catalog.lib.msu.edu/record=b8270966%7ES39a%20) (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD


(*Note to Students: Access these e-books through the MSU Libraries Catalog or the Nursing E-book page: [http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/nursingebooks](http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/nursingebooks). These e-books allow unlimited concurrent users.*)
a. Evaluation of Academic Performance:

* Scholarly project – P/F – Students will begin work on their scholarly project which will continue over four semesters with the final product being in the final semester of the program. Additional information about expectations of this project will be in the D2L Course. Expectations for this project must be met in order to proceed to the next clinical course (NUR 821 or NUR 836).

* Assignments and Discussion forum participation = 40 percent
Throughout the semester there will be assignments for several of the modules. These assignments will include working with test characteristics, accessing the student Electronic Health Record, and a Risk assessment. Each assignment will have specific directions and rubric in the D2L course management system.

* LAC experiences = 20 percent
There will be two LAC experiences. One will be early in the semester and will be ungraded for the student to practice the skills needed related to differential diagnosis and assessment. The second will be at the end of the semester and will be a graded experience. Additional information can be found on the D2L Course Management system.

* Final Examination = 40 percent
The final exam will reflect evidence-based questions that require application of previously learned material. The Final exam will be in person on campus or, for long distance students (more than 100 miles), a proctored exam. The distance student can elect to come to campus for the exam or have proctored at a site near their home. **All proctor agreements will need to be into the faculty no later than midterm, February 28, 2014.** Any agreements received after midterm will not be honored and the student will need to come to campus to take the exam. Proctor agreement form can be found in course D2L site

* Precepted clinical practice hours – P/F—Precepted clinical practice is graded on a pass-fail basis. **Sixty four (64) precepted clinical hours in a selected practice setting are to be arranged with the clinical faculty. A maximum of 8 precepted clinical hours may be completed within a one-week time periods.** The expectation is that this time will be spread out over the semester. Please make sure your clinical hours continue into mid April. Clinical hours may be arranged in 4, 6 or 8-hour time blocks. All precepted clinical hours must be completed by May 2, 2014 in order to receive a course grade for NUR 807. See the Course Documents folder in the D2L 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.

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<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
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<tr>
<td>94 – 100</td>
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<td>93 - 87</td>
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<td>74 – 70</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<td>69 – 65</td>
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<td>64 – 61</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<td>Below 60</td>
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Grading:
Scholarly Project                  P/F
Discussion forum /assignments       40%
LAC                                 20%
Final Exam                          40%
Clinical evaluation and on-campus activities    P/F

The Scholarly Project has a graded pass/fail component in this class and the completion of this component at 80% is required in order to pass NUR807 and move on to the next clinical course work. Additional information on this can be found on the D2L Course Management System.
Clinical experience is pass fail you will need to schedule 64 hours with clinical preceptor between January 20th – May 2nd. In addition to the precepted clinical experience there will be several activities on campus that are included in this clinical grade. These will include experiences with the Electronic Health Record, microscopy and EKG readings. **A successful passing grade in the clinical component must be obtained to pass the course. A formal grading tool is available in the D2L Course Management System.**

University & College Policies:

**Professionalism:**
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.
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.)

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

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]

**Turnitin Statement:** Consistent with MSU’s efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student’s work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student’s work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a “similarity score.” The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student’s work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers to Turnitin Dropboxes without identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

Specific directions for a use of the Turnitin product in the course are provided in assignment directions.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the [Academic Freedom Report](http://www.msu.edu/academicfreedom) (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/gsr) 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>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>On-campus clinical activities</th>
<th>Graded Activities</th>
<th>Clinical Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice and Differential Diagnosis</td>
<td>• Primary care quality and safety; Meaningful Use</td>
<td>January 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Begin scholarly project problem statement</td>
<td>Clinical groups meet with clinical faculty during on-campus day</td>
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<td>January 6 – 19</td>
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<td>• Evidence based practice, levels of evidence and utilization to answer practice questions.</td>
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<td>Complete <strong>EBP Discussion Forum</strong> post by January 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; before 11:55pm</td>
<td><strong>Expectations of clinical groups</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Differential Diagnosis and decision theory</td>
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<td>Clinical faculty expectations</td>
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<td>Differential Diagnosis</td>
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<td>Scholarly Project plans and discussion of topics</td>
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<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Critical Appraisal of Evidence: Test Characteristics</td>
<td>• Sensitivity</td>
<td>No on-campus time</td>
<td><strong>EHR scavenger hunt</strong> due January 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; before 11:55pm</td>
<td>May start clinical practice hours the week of January 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;.</td>
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<td>January 20 –</td>
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<td>• Specificity</td>
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<td><strong>Draft Problem Statement</strong> in to clinical faculty by January 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; before 11:55pm</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Prevalence</td>
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<td>• PPV &amp; NPP</td>
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<td>• Relative risk</td>
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<td>• Decision rules</td>
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| Module 3  | February 3 – 16 | Diagnostics: Apply test characteristics to Labs | CBC
• Wet Prep
• Urinalysis
• Strep screen | February 6
• Microscopy
• Case Stations | Lab Assignment due February 15th before 11:55pm | Clinical Documentation #1 – February 8th – discuss with clinical faculty if timeline is a problem.
Meet with Clinical group
• Presentation of clinical cases
• Discussion of scholarly project
• Discussion of test characteristics implication for clinical practice |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Module 4  | February 17 – March 2 | Diagnostics – Radiology – apply evidence to radiology | X-ray
• CT
• Ultrasound
• MRI
• Mammography | February 20
• LAC
• Interpretation of chest x-ray | Radiology Assignment due March 1st before 11:55pm | Clinical groups meet 2:00-4:00pm
Midterm Evaluation as arranged with clinical faculty |
| Midterm Break | March 3–8 | You may not be in clinical practice during Spring Break. | | | | |
| Module 5  | March 9th – 23rd | Interpretation of tests/Risk assessment | Modifiable versus non modifiable risk
• Differential of chest pain
• Stress testing
• SOB differential | On campus on the March 20th EKG review – 8:30-noon | First Draft of Literature Table due March 10th before 11:55pm | Clinical documentation #2 due in academic EHR (Neehr Perfect) due March 15th before 11:55pm
Clinical groups meet in the afternoon |
| Module 6 | Guidelines | • Guideline development  
• Guideline search techniques  
• Rationale for guidelines  
• Support within the EHR for use of guidelines | Guideline assignment due March 29th before 11:55pm  
Final Draft of Background and Significance and Revised Literature Table due April 6th before 11:55pm |
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<td>March 24th – April 6th</td>
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| Module 7 | Health Screening (Note this is a three week module) | • Screening guidelines  
• USPSTF  
• Developmental screening  
• Genetic screening | Screening Quiz due April 26th before 11:55pm  
Clinical documentation #3 due April 19th before 11:55pm |
| April 7th – 27th | | LAC April 10th 8-noon Clinical Conference 1-3 | |
| Finals Week | Finals Week | | Final Exam – Thursday May 1st 9 am to 12:00 noon  
Clinical evaluation with clinical faculty—deadline as assigned by clinical faculty |
| April 27th – May 2nd | | | |