Clinical Decision Making
Sections 741
NUR 807: 1 credit Didactic; 2 credits clinical component
Hybrid class
Spring 2012

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.

Additional Course Description: Open only to master's students in the College of Nursing. NUR 807 is a hybrid course that blends regularly scheduled online instruction with regularly scheduled classroom clinical time.

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, research question and analyze data related to an identified concern in the Problem/Intervention/Comparison/Outcome (PICO) format.

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
Faculty: Katherine Don’tje, PhD, FNP- BC
Assistant Professor (HP), Course Chairpersons, and Clinical Faculty MSU College of Nursing, A207 Life Sciences, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: dontje@msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Patty Peek, MS, PNP - BC
Associate Professor, Clinical Chairperson, MSU College of Nursing, A-224 Life Sciences Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: patty.peek@hc.msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Amber Vermeesch, PhD, FNP-C
Assistant Professor, Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, 424 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: amer.vermeesch@msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Christy Duffield, MSN, ANP-BC
Instructor, Clinical Faculty, MSU College of Nursing, W114 Owen Graduate Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: christy.duffield@hc.msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Mary Smania, MSN, FNP- BC
Instructor, Clinical Faculty, MSU College of Nursing, 108 Life Sciences, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: smaniam@msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Daniel Wesolowski, MSN, FNP-BC
Instructor, Clinical Faculty, MSU College of Nursing, W114 Owen Graduate Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: daniel.wesolowski@hc.msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Joanne Adrian, MSN, FNP-BC
Instructor, Clinical Faculty, MSU College of Nursing, W114 Owen Graduate Center, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: joanne.adrian@msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.

Kara Schrader, MSN, FNP-BC
Assistant Professor (HP), Clinical Faculty, MSU College of Nursing, A-129 Life Sciences Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
E-mail: kara.schrader@hc.msu.edu
Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.
Instruction:

a. Required Texts:


Optional Texts


b. 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](http://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:

   * 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 Angel Course. Expectations for this project must be met in order to proceed to the next clinical course (NUR 821 or NUR836).

   * Assignments and Discussion forum participation = 50 points
   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 Angel course management system.

   * LAC experiences – 20 points
   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 Angel Course Management system.

**Final Exam – 50 points**
The final exam will be cumulative of the knowledge gained form this course it will have 50 questions either multiple choice or matching. The exam will be proctored either here on campus or in the students community. Specific expectations of the exam proctor and location are available on the Angel Course Management system. The exam time cannot be changed so please look ahead and make sure you have blocked that time in your schedule.

**Precepted clinical practice hours** – 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 4th, 2012 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.

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<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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<td>86 – 80</td>
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<td>79 – 75</td>
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<td>74 – 70</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:
Scholarly Project P/F
Discussion forum /assignments 50
LAC 20
Final Exam 50
Clinical evaluation and on-campus activities P/F
Total points 120 points
The Scholarly Project has a graded component in this class and the completion of this component of the scholarly project 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 Angel Course Management System. Clinical experience is pass/fail, you will need to schedule 64 hours with a clinical preceptor between January 20th – May 4th. 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 Angel Course Management System.

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.)

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

**Disruptive Behavior:** Article 2.3.5 of the Academic Freedom Report (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** 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.
## Schedule NUR 807

<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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</table>
| **Module 1**           | Evidence Based Practice and Differential Diagnosis | • Differential Diagnosis  
• Diagnostic Decision Making Theory  
• EBP  
• Use of EHR to support practice decisions | January 19<sup>th</sup>  
• Library search by Health Science Librarian  
• Evidence Based Practice Overview  
• Scholarly project overview | Begin scholarly project problem statement | Clinical groups meet 1pm-3:30pm  
• Expectations of clinical  
• Scholarly Project plans  
• Differential diagnosis cases for discussion |
| January 9<sup>th</sup> – 22nd | **Module 2** | Critical Appraisal of Evidence - Test Characteristics | No on campus | Test Characteristics assignment | Clinical Write up – January 30<sup>th</sup> |
| January 23rd – February 5<sup>th</sup> | **Module 3** | Diagnostics: Apply test characteristics to Labs | February 9th  
• EHR Access  
(bring laptop- 8:30-9:30)  
• Microscopy  
9:30-noon | Clinical groups 1:30:30  
Clinical write up – February 13th |
| February 6<sup>th</sup> – 19th | **Module 4** | Diagnostics – Radiology – apply evidence to radiology | February 23rd  
8-noon  
• Interpretation of chest x-ray  
1-2pm | Diagnostics assignment | Clinical groups meet 2:00-4:00pm |
| Midterm Break | March 5- | | | | |
| 9th | Module 5  
March 12th – 25th | Interpretation of tests/Risk assessment  
• Modifiable versus non modifiable risk  
• Differential of chest pain  
• Stress testing  
• SOB differential | On campus on the March 15th  
EKG review – 8:30-noon | Clinical groups meet  
1:00 – 3:30pm  
Clinical write up due  
March 27th – Risk Assessment focus |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Module 6  
March 28th– April 10 | Guidelines  
• Guideline development  
• Guideline search techniques  
• Rationale for guidelines  
• Support within the EHR for use of guidelines | Scholarly project statement and evidence table due | |
| Module 7  
April 11th – 24th | Screening issues  
• Screening guidelines  
• USPTSF  
• Developmental screening  
• Genetic screening | Clinical Conference 1-3 | LAC April 12th 8-noon  
Clinical write up due April 17th |
| April 29th – May 4th | Finals Week | Final Exam – proctored Thursday May 3rd 9 am to 12:00 noon | Clinical evaluation with clinical faculty |

10/13/11