Michigan State University
Clinical Decision Making
NUR 807: 2 credits online seminar; 1 credit laboratory (clinical) component
Hybrid class
Spring 2008

University Course Description:
• Semester: Spring of every year
• Credits: 2 credit online seminar; 1 credit laboratory (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 primary care conditions. NUR 807 is a hybrid course that blends regularly scheduled online instruction with regularly scheduled classroom 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 clinical judgment and decision-making which are needed by advanced practice nurses (APNs) as a basic for making sound clinical decisions. The clinical portion of the course has both online and in-person instructional experiences and will involve application of the key course concepts to often-encountered situations in APN clinical practice. There will be clinical hours for this course which provide practice in clinical data gathering skills, diagnostic reasoning, and clinical problem solving.

Course Objectives:
• Apply decision theory to formulate differential diagnoses.
• Analyze the concept of clinical diagnoses in primary care.
• Analyze relevant clinical subjective and objective cues to explain clinical diagnoses.
• Develop appropriate differential diagnoses for the common primary care conditions.
• Document a HPI by using the problem-oriented record (POR).

Course Faculty:
Katherine Dontje, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP
Assistant Professor (HP); Course Chairperson, Clinical Chairperson and Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, A207 Life Sciences, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
Email: dontje@msu.edu

Lorraine Robbins, DNSc, MN, RN, CFNP
Assistant Professor; Course Co-Chairperson and Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, B422A West Fee Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
Email: robbinlo@hc.msu.edu

Mary Jane Cook, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP
Instructor; Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, A209 Life Sciences, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
Email: cookma@msu.edu

Karen Forum Lake, MSN, APRN, BC, WHNP
Instructor, Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, W-124 Owen Hall
e-mail: Karen.lake@hc.msu.edu

Brigid Warren, RN, MSN, CS
Associate Professor; Clinical Faculty
MSU College of Nursing, A106 Life Sciences, East Lansing, MI 48824-1317
brigid.warren@hc.msu.edu

Required Text:


Optional Text: The text 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.


Evaluation of Academic Performance: To be rewritten

- Midterm exam
- Final Exam
- Screening test analysis paper
- On-line and on-campus clinical activities
- LAC experiences

Precepted clinical practice hours- graded on a pass-fail basis. 32 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 period. The expectation is that this time will be spread out over the time period of March 10th through April 25th. Clinical hours may be arranged for either 4-hour or 8-hour time blocks. All precepted clinical hours must be completed by April 25th, 2007 in order to receive a course grade for NUR 807. See the Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for additional information.
Grading

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 rule. Points at ≥ 0.5 will be rounded up while those < 0.5 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number.

The following point scale will be used for final grade determination:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 – 100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 – 93</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 86</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(passing = 80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 79</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Point Determination Will Be As Follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-campus Activities</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-line activities</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination/LAC Experience</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precepted Experience</td>
<td>Pass/Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance/Participation Policy

Unless otherwise negotiated with the course faculty member, weekly online discussion contributions and other course assignments are expected to be posted/turned in by the pre-established due dates/times. Exceptions for the course exams, clinical practice hours, and other assignments due dates/times are typically made only for emergency situations. Assignments submitted late without prior approval of the faculty will receive zero credit.

Academic Integrity Policy

Assignments submitted for a grade are expected to be fully the work of individual students. Breaches of academic integrity standards (such as unauthorized collaboration with others on course assignments or an exam) will result in zero credit for the affected assignments, may result in a failing course grade, and may require official administrative action up to and including dismissal from the MSN program. Refer also to College of Nursing policies included in the MSN Student Handbook.
Safety in Clinical Professional Development Guidelines

Preparation for the professional practice of nursing requires more than the acquisition and application of knowledge. Therefore, in addition to the academic standards listed, the student must demonstrate:

1) appropriate interpersonal relations and communications with clients, peers, faculty and other health care personnel;

2) responsible fulfillment of class and practicum obligations, including provision of safe nursing care in the practicum setting; and,

3) honesty and integrity in all academic and professional matters.

These expectations are reflected in the Graduate (MSN) Clinical Performance Criteria for each clinical nursing course. Failure to meet each Professional Development Objective will result in the student earning a grade of 0.0 for the course.

Faculty reserve the right to dismiss a student from clinical areas if the student is too ill, unprepared, or deemed to be a risk to patient safety. Dismissal from clinical for any reason, excluding student illness, is deemed unexcused, thus carrying the requisite grade consequence as described in the course syllabus.


Where to Look for Course Materials

The NUR 807 course web site is located on the MSU Angel platform. To access the course web site, go to the MSU Angel home page and type in your MSU NetID (part that appears before the “@msu.edu” portion of your email address) and your password. If you are registered for the course, you will see a link for the course web site on your personal home page that opens after you’ve entered your MSU address and password. If you experience any difficulties viewing the link to the NUR 807 web site on your personal home page in Angel, contact Jennifer Dunham, Administrative Staff Assistant for Academic Affairs, at 517.432.1172. **All other technical problems with use of Angel should be referred to the Angel Help Desk.** The toll free Angel Help Line number is 1.800.500.1554 (North American and Hawaii), and the local campus area number is 517.355.2345.