Applied Pharmacology for Primary Care
NUR 809 3 credits
On line Course
Summer 2008

Course Description

This graduate course offered totally on the world wide web will focus on the clinical application of advanced pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics across the age span for common disease conditions encountered in primary care settings. The principles of altered pharmacodynamics relative to age, race, and ethnic groups will be included. In addition, the cost/benefit aspects of pharmacological interventions will be examined.

This is not an introductory pharmacology course. It is expected that students already have an understanding of pathophysiology, physical assessment, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics. NUR 805 is prerequisite (for non-MSU distance education students, a graduate level pathophysiology course may be substituted for NUR 805)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Apply the principles of pharmacology relative to pharmacotherapeutics across age levels including the effect of race, ethnic group, and special populations on drug dosing and drug selection regimens.
2. Discuss the indications, rationale, efficacy, and risks for pharmacotherapeutic agents commonly prescribed in primary care settings.
3. Analyze the rationale for selection of medications used to treat individuals with frequently encountered primary care conditions based on factors such as pharmacokinetics, cost, efficacy, genetic characteristics, adherence, and quality of life issues.
4. Describe strategies for monitoring expected effects and potential adverse effects of medications including legal and ethical ramifications

Course Faculty

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Required Textbooks & Electronic References


AND

The Prescriber’s Letter: a monthly update of pharmacology news as well as a password protected electronic resource for extensive pharmacology information. You will have weekly required readings from the website.

Students enrolled at any University are able to receive a reduced rate. The link to the student rate application is https://www.therapeuticresearch.com/(S(kx3g0ujdy0qax45gtgapj45))/ecommerce/order.aspx?s=PRL&cs=students You will be eligible to start receiving the Prescriber’s Letter as soon as your payment is received and validated.

For those who are not enrolled master’s students (ie, in practice NP or CNS) a reduced rate is not available. The link for you to subscribe is https://www.therapeuticresearch.com/(S(zn45x3qfbnstd3f0r1lqly5))/ecommerce/order.aspx?cs=&s=PRL (You may want to check to see if your employer has a group subscription)

Electronic references will be used throughout the course to supplement text readings and course content.

Textbooks may be purchased online at: http://www.spartanbook.com/ Enter the semester, year, course number and section number for a list of textbooks for your course.

Technology Requirements

In order to fully participate in the online course experience, it is important that you have the appropriate technology available. Please go check the current requirements at http://nursing.msu.edu/downloads/Hardwareandsoftwarereq2006_000.pdf

Calendar

The calendar for assignments and content is available within the course. Classes begin the week of May 12, 2008. You will be able to access the course at http://angel.msu.edu anytime from 12:01a on May 12.

Prior to the start of the course, the faculty will email you with the required reading list for week one so that you may prepare for the introductory week content

The MSU academic calendar with important dates is located at: http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Calendar/Academic.asp
Learning Methodologies

NUR 809 uses an online format which serves as a web-based classroom. The course has no “real time” requirement so students are able to access the course at times generally convenient to their individual schedules.

The format of the classroom is the same each week. Click onto the LESSON for the week and you will see an overview page which will introduce you to the content to be covered. One case will be briefly introduced and you will also be able to look at some of the most recent news in the world of clinical pharmacology.

As you scroll down the page, you will see links to background readings, lecture content, cases and discussion areas. New content for each week will be posted on the Friday prior to the class date on the calendar. It is wise to check in on the class frequently since it is also a place where the instructors will be able to post announcements and other news.

You can access the class by going to http://angel.msu.edu. Once you are enrolled in the course and have activated your MSU email account, you will be able to log on and find the 809 course. Click on the class and you will be taken to the course spot! Make sure to spend some time to orient yourself to the site. Again, check in frequently (at least twice per week). If you would like to have your MSU email forwarded to your preferred email account, you can do this by going to http://mail.msu.edu

In order for the discussion room to work effectively, a few “rules” have been developed (these will be discussed in more depth online):

--try to keep your discussion in the “right room”. In other words, it helps everyone if the discussion fits the conversation. For example, it is best to keep discussion of hypertension management in cardiovascular rather than in the discussion ethics of prescribing.

--if you find you want a new conversation added, please let your instructor know. This is best done via a message in the discussion room

--check in frequently since we will use it to make announcements about readings, new web sites, changes in schedule etc.

--remember that the discussion is OPEN to many people in the course so your more private conversations with either faculty or other students may be best done via email.

--If you find some new websites or articles that you think others would like to see, please post them. To do this in ANGEL simply type the URL in (including the http://) .

The online course will have more in depth discussion of the web based classroom and how to use it!!!
Academic Integrity

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 Affairs 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. According to university policy, consequences for academic dishonesty may include failure of the course, expulsion from the major, or expulsion from the university.

Online discussions and exercises are confidential and should not be discussed with others who are not enrolled in the class. It is important for each course participant to express his/her ideas. All ideas need to be respected in discussions and exercises. Any “group projects” that are required, still require individual work as a minimal expectation.

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

- MSU Spartan Life Student Handbook and Resource Guide
  http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm
- Information for Current Students – including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Graduate Students
  http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html
- International Studies and Programs
  http://www.msu.edu/international/index.html

Consultant

The course may include some content areas developed by faculty other than those formally assigned to the course. Faculty contributors will be acknowledged in the appropriate content area.

Course Structure

This online course uses a system called A New Global Environment for Learning or ANGEL. To learn the ANGEL online system, in addition to tips for being a successful online student, please complete the course demonstration by:

- Clicking on http://angel.msu.edu,
- click on the ANGEL HELP link prior to logging into angel,
- and click on the Student tab
- complete all sections defined in the student tab
Course Content, Textbook Readings & Course Activities

All content, readings and course activities will be outlined weekly.

Grading
There are 10 quizzes throughout the semester. 9 of the quizzes are UNTIMED. Each untimed quiz covers one to two weeks of content. Quizzes are posted at 8a on Fridays and MUST be submitted by 23:59p on the following Wednesday. (please see "quiz tips" in the introduction week content for more information on the specifics of taking the quizzes). One quiz is a timed quiz which must be taken at the time it is opened up (ie., you cannot download it, print it and take five days to complete)

There is a timed, comprehensive final exam. You will be allowed one hour to complete the final exam. The exam will be open on Friday, August 8th at 12:01 am, and will close on Monday, August 11th at 11:59:00 pm. Times posted are EASTERN time. Please schedule your exam time into your personal calendar NOW. The days for the exam cannot be altered so it is important that you have time set aside sometime during those dates. Once you log onto the exam, you must complete it.

Unless there is an unexpected emergency EVERYONE is expected to take the exam during the scheduled days (a family vacation, etc., does not constitute an unexpected emergency). You are highly encouraged to plan far in advance to be free from other work responsibilities for that time.

Each quiz is worth 7.5% (10 quizzes = 75% of grade).

Final exam is worth 25% of grade. It is comprehensive and will include content from the entire semester.

The discussion forums are an important component of the course. Active, relevant, professional and ethical participation is expected. Although you are not graded on your discussion participation, it is a valuable learning tool and all students are highly encouraged to be active discussants.

The grading scale used is based on the MSU 4.0 system. Grades will be rounded off to the nearest whole number using the “O.5” rule. Grade percents will be rounded up or down. For example, if the grade is 86.50%, it will be rounded to 87. If it is 89.45%, it will be rounded to 89%.

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<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>87-93</td>
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<td>70-74</td>
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End of semester grades and transcripts

MSU no longer sends grades to individuals. As soon as the final grades are submitted (usually the week following final's week), you will be able to access your grade report by going to the Student info site. 
https://ntweb1.ais.msu.edu/StuInfo/

If you require a transcript of the grade sent to another University, you may also do that online by going to http://www.reg.msu.edu/StuForms/TranscriptRequest/Transcript.asp . Again, this can only be done after the final grades have been submitted to the registrar and grades recorded by the University (generally completed on the Wednesday following final's week).

Faculty availability

The most efficient way to contact faculty is via email. It is expected that faculty should respond to your email within 48 hours (during the work week). Phone call contact is appropriate from 8-5p (eastern time) from Monday-Friday. The faculty is available to meet with students either during office hours (to be announced the first day of class) or by appointment. Technology-assisted meetings (ie., webcam, instant messaging, live chat) can also be arranged as necessary.

ANGEL Communication Guidelines & Rules of Conduct

Please go to http://angel.msu.edu, login, and click on the Online Teaching/Learning-ANGEL group for examples of netiquette and ANGEL communication guidelines. The course will also provide you with some online discussion guidelines.

Library Resources

1. Library Services: http://www.lib.msu.edu/services/
2. MSU Library: http://www.lib.msu.edu/
3. Proxy server: To access MSU library resources from an off-campus site you must set up a proxy server. Directions to set up a proxy server are at: http://techbase.msu.edu/viewpathfinder.asp?id=2507

Disability Resources and Services

The full range of disability resources and services for students is located at: http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html