Clinic Decision Making  
NUR 807-732,736  
1 credit Didactic; 2 credits clinical component  
On-line course  
Summer 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 CNS master’s students in the College of Nursing. NUR 807 is an online instruction 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 Clinical Nurse Specialist role in the direct care sphere of influence. 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 using high-level assessment skills, evidence based practices and clinical decision-making to ensure sound clinical decisions. The clinical portion of the course has clinical precepted hours. The clinical hours for this course will provide practice experience in the direct care role by developing clinical data gathering skills, medical and nursing differential diagnosis, diagnostic reasoning and evidence based practice 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 with young adults to the frail elderly.
2. 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, 860 (or permission)

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


Faculty:  
Jackeline I. Iseler MSN, RN, ACNS-BC  
Instructor: Theory course faculty  
616-482-7507 or Toll Free #: 1/800/605-6424  
E-mail: Jackeline.iseler@hc.msu.edu  
*Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.*

Kathleen Vollman, MSN, CCNS, FCCM, FAAN  
Instructor, Clinical Coordinator and 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.*

Stephanie Schuldt MN, RN, CCRN, CCNS, ACNS-BC  
Instructor, Clinical  
MSU College of Nursing  
E-mail: stephanie.schuldt@hc.msu.edu  
*Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.*

Kathleen Poindexter, PhD, RN, CNE  
Asst. Professor, coordinator  
A109 Life Sciences  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1317  
E-mail: poindex9@msu.edu  
*Note: Times can be arranged to accommodate student schedules.*

Faculty responsibilities:

• Prof. Jackie Iseler will be responsible for the overall course and respond to course questions and concerns.  
• Prof. Kathleen Vollman is the clinical coordinator for the CNS courses and clinical faculty. She is responsible for overall student placements, clinical assignments, and as clinical faculty for her assigned students. Responsibilities include communication with faculty, preceptors, and students on a regular basis. Additional responsibility includes evaluation of student clinical performance and clinical written assignments.  
• Prof. Schuldt is a clinical faculty responsible for providing oversight to an assigned group of students in the clinical settings. Responsibilities include communication with faculty, preceptors, and students on a regular basis. Additional responsibility includes evaluation of student clinical performance and clinical written assignments.

Students are to contact their assigned clinical faculty for clinical related concerns and theory faculty for theory course issues.

Faculty Contact:

Faculty are available via email or by phone throughout the week. Please use the email located within the course ANGEL program to contact the appropriate faculty member. Email ought to be addressed to the specified faculty only and **not to the entire class** in an effort to reduce overall course emails and inappropriate messaging. Every effort will be made to return your email or call as soon as possible generally
within 48 hours during regular week days. **Note:** During the weekends and Holidays faculty members may not be available.

**Instruction:**

**a. Methodology:**

NUR 807 is a combination of theory and clinical components. It is an asynchronous online course that requires students to log into the class several times per week to read email, announcements, discussions, and to complete the weekly lesson assignments. The course will incorporate weekly lessons that utilize a variety of teaching and learning strategies such as weekly presentations; webcasts; reading assignments; weekly group/individual activities; group projects; and discussion forums. Students are expected to review all assignment materials and actively engage with their peers as informed participants.

**b. Weekly Lessons:** Individual lessons will be available to the class at 8:00 am on Tuesday morning of each week and remain accessible for the duration of the course. Assignment due dates will be listed on the course calendar and on the appropriate discussion forums or drop boxes. All assignments must be posted or submitted in the appropriate discussion board or drop box no later than **Midnight** on the assigned due date. Late assignments or postings may not be accepted or evaluated for grading purposes unless prior arrangements have been established with the student’s assigned course faculty.

**c. Precepted clinical practice hours** – 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 period. The expectation is that this time will be spread out over the time period of May through July. Clinical hours may be arranged for either 4-hour or 8-hour time blocks. All precepted clinical hours must be completed by **Aug. 1st** 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 requirements to be successful in the course.

**d. Required Texts:**


e. **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.


**Required Resources, References, Supplies:**

**Course Requirements:**

- 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!

Computer Hardware and Software requirements:

1. Computer
2. High speed internet access
3. Microsoft Office (The MSU Computer Store offers special pricing for students [http://cstore.msu.edu/](http://cstore.msu.edu/)).
4. Strongly recommend computer spyware and virus protection

**Clinical Requirements:**

- MSU lab coat (order information in Angel)
- MSU clinical Name Badge
- Stethescope
- Additional requirements available in Angel.

**Evaluation of Academic Performance:**

1. **Learning Assessments and Grading:** Assignments to be graded will include discussion forum postings; weekly lesson activities as assigned; exams; AGREE paper, reflective journals, & Scholarly Project PICO paper. Specific assignment details and evaluation requirements will be available on-line.

2. **Precepted clinical practice hours** – graded on a **pass-fail** basis. Successful completion of the clinical experience is required to receive a passing grade in the course. Failure to pass clinical means failure to pass the course. **Students must be compliant with all MSU and CON requirements AND receive approval of personalized clinical objectives from MSU Faculty prior to beginning clinical hours.**

**b. Course Grading Scale:**
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 $\geq 0.5$ 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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<td>86 – 80</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>79 – 75</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>74 – 70</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<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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Allocation of Grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam/Assignment</th>
<th>% of total grade</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Format</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>50 pts.  Multiple choice &amp; essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>50 pts.  Multiple choice &amp; essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>180 minutes</td>
<td>100 pts  Multiple choice &amp; short essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion forums/Activities</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion forum rubric and expectations in ANGEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBP Scholarly Paper PICO</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Please refer to the SP PICO PAPER GUIDELINE and “GRADING CRITERIA” in ANGEL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGREE Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Please refer to the “CASE MANAGEMENT PAPER GUIDELINE” and “GRADING CRITERIA” in ANGEL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation/Reflection</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical assignment requirements located in Angel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Internship</td>
<td>Must Pass*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total percentage</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Examination. All students are expected to take examinations at the designated date and time. A score of zero (0.0) points 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 text book, read PPP/script and/or listen to audio carefully before posting. Students are expected to follow appropriate netiquette rules at all times. Postings deemed inappropriate will be removed by the faculty.

**SP 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.

**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:

(a) Work with and learn from experienced clinicians (preceptors).

(b) Begin to develop the core competencies to function as a clinical nurse specialist with a focus in the Direct Care sphere of influence.

(c) Expand exposure to clinical situations, assessment tools & strategies amendable to CNS intervention.

(d) Apply theory to clinical practice.

(e) Develop and expand their clinical expertise in clinical decision making for young adults to the frail elderly.

(f) Increase their knowledge of health care systems and the role ethics plays in clinical decision making.

(g) 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, students 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 MSU Lab Jackets and they **must wear their MSU nametag at all times.**
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, May 15th, (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 (Week #2), you will be able to see materials for the prior Week #1.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to log into weekly lessons, activities, and actively participate in any discussions on the unit message boards as required. Scholarly interchange is vital to everyone's understanding of the material.

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
- Information for Current Students—including Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations for Students  http://www.msu.edu/current/index.html
- Academic Programs  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

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* (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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Textbook Readings</th>
<th>Activity Assignments due by MN</th>
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</table>
| 1 5/16/12 | - Introduction to the course  
   - CNS Role  
     o Overview of course  
     o Overview of CNS role  
     o CNS Role dimensions  
     o Scope of Practice  
     o Distinguishing features of APNs; CNS vs. CNL  
     o Clinical experience | - Fulton – Chapters 1, 2, 3  
   - Hamric – Chapter 2  
   - NACNS – Statement on Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice and Education  
   - Adult Gero competencies | - Read syllabus  
   - Review course layout in Angel |
| 2 5/21/12 | - Evidence Based Practice (EBP)  
   - Benefits and barriers  
   - Agree  
   - Scholarly Project  
     o PICO Process | - Melnyk – Chapters 1, 2, 3  
   - Fulton – Chapter 10 | - **Clinical objectives & Proposed clinical schedule** due **May 23rd**  
   - **May begin clinical hours starting after approval of clinical objectives and clinical schedule May 29th** |
| 3 5/28/12 | - Nursing and Medical Differential Diagnosis  
   - Decision Theory | - Ackley – Section 1 |
| 4 6/4/12 | Aging Theories | - Readings to be determined | **Reflection Log due June 8th**  
   - **Exam #1 Date/Time 1900 - 2200**  
   - Scholarly Project PICO Question due June 12 |
| 5 6/11/12 | - Pulmonary (acute and chronic)  
   o COPD  
   o Asthma  
   o Pneumonia  
   o Powerlessness  
   o Ineffective coping  
   - Renal  
     o Acute renal failure  
     o Failure to rescue  
     o Hypoxia  
     o ABGs | - Ackley – Pages 294 – 299; 665 – 672  
   - Fulton – Pages 438 – 440 | |
| 6 6/18/12 | - Test Characteristics and Risk Assessment:  
   o Specificity/Sensitivity  
   o Validity & Reliability  
   o Positive Predictive Value  
   o Negative Predictive value | - Melnyk – Chapters 4, 5, 6  
   - Fulton – Chapter 17 | - **Discussion Forum (DF) #2** due **June 19th**  
   - **Agree Paper Due 6/24/2012** |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/6/25/12</td>
<td>• Cardiovascular</td>
<td>• Ackley – Pages 119 – 124</td>
<td>• 1st H &amp; P with a Pulmonary/Frail elderly due June 29th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Acute MI</td>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Heart Failure (acute and chronic)</td>
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<td>◦ Interventional cardiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Activity intolerance</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/6/25/12</td>
<td>• Critical Appraisal of Evidence Guidelines</td>
<td>• Melnyk – Pages 9; 13; 45; 102; 518</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7/2/12</td>
<td>• Vulnerable populations</td>
<td>• Ackley – Pages 335 -361</td>
<td>Happy 4th! No Clinicals on the 4th! You can be in clinical any other time that week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Risk for falls</td>
<td>• Fulton – Chapter 2</td>
<td>Reflection Log due on July 3rd</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Electronic Health Record Application Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/7/9/12</td>
<td>• Ethical, Political and Professional Issues for EBP</td>
<td>• Fulton – Chapter 2</td>
<td>Discussion Forum (DF) #3 due July 13th</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Root Cause Analysis</td>
<td>• Melnyk – Chapters 11, 12, 14</td>
<td>Exam #2: July 10th 1900 - 2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/10/16/12</td>
<td>• Families across the continuum</td>
<td>• Zuzelo – Pages 278 – 279</td>
<td>H &amp; P for CV frail elderly due July 17th</td>
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<td></td>
<td>◦ Dynamics</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last possible day of clinical July 20th</td>
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<td>◦ Place in health and wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/23/12</td>
<td>• Final exam July 30th (Opens at 17:00 and closes at 22:00)</td>
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<td>• Clinical Evaluations with faculty will be arranged &amp; completed prior to August 3rd starting July 30th. To be arranged.</td>
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<td>• Course Evaluation due August 5th.</td>
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Faculty reserve the right to revise the calendar based on assessment of student learning. Revisions will be posted in a timely manner and all students will receive email notifications.