Michigan State University
College of Nursing

NUR 805

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY FOR THE APN

Course Syllabus

Credits: 3

Course Coordinator:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This graduate course, offered totally on the World Wide Web, will focus on alterations of various physiologic systems and the associated Pathophysiology of frequently encountered primary care conditions across the life span and special populations. We will perform in-depth case analysis of risk factors, pathophysiologic changes, and associated signs and symptoms. We will also look at relevant pathophysiologic theories and research as a basis for APN practice.

This is not an introductory pathophysiology course. It is expected that students already have a basic understanding of pathophysiology, physical assessment, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics.

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

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Analyze the etiology and pathophysiologic alterations associated with selected common primary care conditions across the life span.
2. Examine relevant theories and research as a basis for explaining the pathophysiologic changes associated with common conditions in primary care.
3. Discuss the pathophysiologic basis for development of clinical manifestations in selected common primary care conditions.
4. Discuss the issues and considerations associated with the pathophysiologic changes in special populations.
5. Apply the pathophysiologic principles to case situations as a basis for APN practice.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

A variety of methods will be used, e.g., PowerPoint lectures, Real Player audio, text with links, case studies, active discussion on conversation message boards, and quizzes.

CLASS AVAILABILITY

In a regular classroom setting, faculty are usually available to meet with you briefly before or after class or during scheduled office hours or if you make an appointment. In this setting, faculty are usually not available to answer your questions at midnight or on weekends. Sometimes it may take up to 48 hours for the faculty to respond to your questions. The faculty are not on line 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. Expect a reasonable response time for your questions. Do not wait until the last minute to ask an important question! Plan ahead.
REQUIRED TEXT

Pathophysiology: The Biological Basis of Disease in Adults and Children, 4th Edition
Kathryn L. McCance & Sue E. Heuther, 2002. Published by Mosby, St. Louis, MO.
Available at: Medical Book Store, MSU, East Lansing (517) – 353-9560
It is also available online at sites such as amazon.com.

GRADING

Your grade will have the following components:

20% Exam #1 (Cardiovascular/Respiratory)
20% Exam #2 (Immunology/Hematology)
20% Exam #3 (Gastroenterology/Endocrinology)
20% Exam #4 (Neurology/Reproductive, Musculoskeletal)
10% Case Studies (total of 15)
10% Message Board Participation

Quizzes and Exams – 80%

The quizzes will be online and allow you to download the questions and study them PRIOR to entering your responses on the computer. The quizzes will open on Friday at midnight (EST) and will close at 5 pm (EST) on the Thursday of the following week. You will have a number of days in which you may submit the exam. You may access them day or night for your convenience. Exams must be submitted by the deadline time; access will not be available after that. The system will not allow you to submit more than one copy of each quiz. Do not click “Submit” button until you are sure you are ready! You will be able to view your results at 8 am the morning after the exam closes. At that time, when you go to the quiz, the button will say “View Answers”. Your grade will immediately be available in the online gradebook.

Case Study Application – 10%

There are approximately 15 cases in the course. The case study(s) will be at the end of each Topic. The purpose of the case studies is to facilitate application of the content for that week. We expect that you will complete each of the case studies for your own learning and feedback. Your answers will not be viewed by other students, only the instructors. The instructor’s ideal answers will be available after submission of your answers. This process is the instructor’s method of providing feedback to you. A grade is not assigned for each case study, such as an A, B, or C, but completion of all the cases constitutes 10% of the grade.
Message Board – 10%

Class participation in Message Board discussion is also an expectation. One of the methods for facilitating discussion among faculty and students for an online course is through Message Board. Since this is not a traditional learning environment with face-to-face interaction between faculty and students, Message Board becomes the major way in which we share information among each other. Each of you bring a wealth of clinical experience through your clinical background. We encourage you to participate in the discussion through posting new information that you may have researched on your own, additional web sites that are not currently posted in the Topic area, and providing feedback to your peers. Communication on the Message Board should be information valuable to all. Personal questions should be addressed through email to the instructors. Participation in Message Board will equal 10% of your grade.

Grading Scale:

93-100%   4.0
85-92%     3.5
80-84%     3.0 (passing)
73-79%     2.5
66-72%     2.0

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week #1
  Complete the Orientation

Week #2
  CARDIOVASCULAR: Coronary Artery Disease; Atherosclerosis, Hyperlipidemia, and Angina

Week #3
  CARDIOVASCULAR: Hypertension and Heart Failure

Week #4
  RESPIRATORY: Pneumonia

Week #5
  RESPIRATORY: Asthma
  EXAM #1

Week #6
  IMMUNOLOGY: HIV/AIDS
Week #7
IMMUNOLOGY: Cancer

Week #8
HEMATOLOGY: Anemia
EXAM #2

Week #9
GASTROENTEROLOGY: PUD/GERD

Week #10
ENDOCRINOLOGY: Thyroid Disorders

Week #11
ENDOCRINOLOGY: Diabetes Mellitus
EXAM #3

Week #12
NEUROLOGY: Parkinson’s Disease

Week #13
REPRODUCTIVE: Endometriosis

Week #14
MUSCULOSKELETAL: Arthritis (RA, OA)

FINALS WEEK
EXAM #4