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 a basic understanding of pathophysiology, physical assessment, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics.

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 Format

NUR 809 is a fully online course. There is no “real time” class required. There are specified calendar date deadlines for quizzes and the final exam but there is a window of time allowed for completion of all assignments. This allows students to access the course at times most convenient to their own schedule. It is expected that all students will adhere to the quiz schedule except in very rare circumstances. If there is a problem with the schedule, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Content areas and quizzes are opened on the Friday preceding the week scheduled in the syllabus. This is done for those of you who prefer getting a “head start” on content.

The course relies heavily on reading from current journals as well as the textbook. All journal readings are available on the web by using the MSU proxy.
server. Students can access any journal to which MSU holds a subscription. Warning: if you are planning to use a computer from a worksite, organizational firewalls and security systems may not allow you to configure the computer for the MSU proxy. Students are urged to check this before beginning the course.

It is expected that students have a good basic knowledge of pharmacology. NUR 809 is an ADVANCED course which requires application of basic pharmacological principles and concepts. It is important that students review basic pharmacology if they have deficits in their background knowledge.

There is weekly lecture content as well as readings. Application of concepts to clinical cases is done for each area. Discussion forums have been set up to allow students to share expertise and experiences as well as be actively involved in discussion of the weekly content. Although students are not graded on participation in classroom discussion, sharing of expertise, questions, comments is highly encouraged.

**Course Content**

The focus of the content is on the pharmacological management of common problems encountered in primary care. Learning is done primarily through case studies. Students are expected to apply pharmacological principles to patient cases representing diverse populations of patients.

In addition, issues related to ethics of prescribing, cost and legalities are included in the course.

Specific content and dates for study are included in the course calendar online.

**Course Access**

In order to access the course, the student must be enrolled and received an MSU email account. Students will receive confirmation of enrollment and instructions for how to activate their email account. The student must enter both an MSU user name and a password in order to access the class.

The course is accessed through the ANGEL online course platform. The url is [http://www.angel.msu.edu](http://www.angel.msu.edu) There is a tutorial for use of this online course system and it is HIGHLY recommended that students review this before beginning the course.

Access to NUR 809 for Spring 2006 begins on January 9 and ends on May 5.
Grades

There are a total of 10 quizzes throughout the semester. Each 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).

There is a timed final exam. You will be allowed one hour to complete the final exam. The final exam will be available from 8a on APRIL 27 until 23:59 on May 3. Once you have signed onto the exam, you must complete it at that 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.

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

Final exam is worth 25% of grade.

Grading scale is:

90-100  4.0
85-89   3.5
80-84   3.0
75-79   2.5
70-74   2.0

End of course grades. 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 need to have 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.

PROBLEMS
Although the ANGEL system is fairly easy to use, there are occasional "glitches." If there is just a broken link in the class (ie., it doesn't take you to an article), please post a message in the discussion area. I check all links prior to the class going live but sometimes they fail. I would appreciate knowing asap. If you have other problems with ANGEL or you cannot make the system work correctly, please call the toll free help line below. I also have listed the website for assisting you with MSU mail. You should have your MSU email forwarded to your preferred email account. All messages from me will go out over the MSU mail system so it is important that you are able to access them.

**Toll-free help line:**
MSU Libraries, Computing and Technology 24-hour help and information line is toll-free: **1-800-500-1554** (local calls at 355-2345).

**Information about your pilot account (MSU email):**
The Computing Service Centers' web site, [www.msu.edu/user/cic/pilot/](http://www.msu.edu/user/cic/pilot/) has much useful information for setting up and using your Pilot account.

**Course content questions:**
For questions about the course materials, case studies, references, etc. you can email Patty, [ppeek@msu.edu](mailto:ppeek@msu.edu), or post a message in the discussion forum.