Michigan State University  
College of Nursing  

NUR 805  
Summer 2006  

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY FOR THE APN  

Course Syllabus  

Credits:  3  

Course Coordinator:  

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Guest Faculty:  

Patty Peek, R.N., C.S., M.S., P.N.P  
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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 pathophysiological 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 pathophysiological alterations associated with selected common primary care conditions across the life span.
2. Examine relevant theories and research as a basis for explaining the pathophysiological changes associated with common conditions in primary care.
3. Discuss the pathophysiological basis for development of clinical manifestations in selected common primary care conditions.
4. Discuss the issues and considerations associated with the pathophysiological changes in special populations.
5. Apply the pathophysiological 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 in conversation discussion forums, 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 online 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, 5th Ed.*
Kathryn L. McCance & Sue E. Heuther, 2006. Published by Mosby, St. Louis, MO.
Available at: Stat Book Store, 4790 S. Hagadorn, Suite 138, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) – 351-2610
It is also available online at sites such as amazon.com.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a minimal expectation of this course. Academic dishonesty in ANY FORM will NOT be tolerated. Any student involved in academic dishonesty will be reported to the Student Affairs Committee and a grade of 0.0 will be issued for the course. Examinations must remain the property of the College of Nursing and must not be copied or reproduced in any way, either in part or entirety. If an examination is copied or reproduced in any way or if the contents of an exam are communicated to another student, the student will receive a grade of 0.0 on that exam and the Student Affairs Committee will be notified. According to university policy, consequences for academic dishonesty may include failure of the course, expulsion from the major, or expulsion from the university. Academic Integrity resource at MSU:
[http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html](http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html).

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. The link to the MSU Spartan Life Student Handbook and Resource Guide is [http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm](http://www.vps.msu.edu/SpLife/index.htm).

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% Discussion Forum 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 Area. 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. Completion of the case studies is critical to maximizing your learning. 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 final grade. (You will have 1 group assignment in Anemia, as well as the regular case study you do on your own for that content area.)

**Discussion Forums – 10%**

Class participation in Discussion Forums is also an expectation. One of the methods for facilitating discussion among faculty and students for an online course is through the Discussion Forum. There are areas in which to post: the regular discussion in the current week’s topic, and Hot Off The Press News! which combines ways to share your own experiences as well as new information that you may have researched on your own or additional web sites that are not currently posted in the Topic area. Since this is not a traditional learning environment with face-to-face interaction between faculty and students, the Discussion Forum 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, and providing feedback on the Topic areas. Communication in the Discussion Forum should be information valuable to all. Personal questions should be addressed through email to the instructors. Participation in Discussion Forums will equal 10% of your grade. Feedback on Discussion Forum participation will be given at midterm so students will have an understanding of the quality of their participation. Discussion Forum Criteria is as follows:
### Discussion Forum Criteria:

| Exceptional | Demonstrates applied level of understanding  
|             | Provides new information through links/readings  
|             | Provides original insights or responses  
|             | Supports and leads others in discussion  |
| Satisfactory | Provides insights or responses  
|             | Makes connections to what others say; respects others and their ideas  |
| Below Satisfactory | Primarily consists of summary or paraphrasing of readings  
|             | Contribution is primarily a response to others; minimal originality  |

### Grading Scale:

- 94 - 100%  4.0
- 87 - 93.99%  3.5
- 80 - 86.99%  3.0 (passing)
- 73 - 79.99%  2.5
- 66 - 72.99%  2.0
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week #1 (May 15)
Complete the Orientation (Quiz at the end will open up Week #2 Topic Area)

Week #2 (May 15)
CARDIOVASCULAR: Coronary Artery Disease; Atherosclerosis, Hyperlipidemia, and Angina

Week #3 (May 22)
CARDIOVASCULAR: Hypertension and Heart Failure

Week #4 (May 29)
RESPIRATORY: Pneumonia

Week #5 (June 5)
RESPIRATORY: Asthma
EXAM #1 (opens 6/9/06 at 12 midnight; closes 6/15/06 at 5 pm)

Week #6 (June 12)
IMMUNOLOGY: HIV/AIDS

Week #7 (June 19)
IMMUNOLOGY: Cancer

Week #8 (June 26)
HEMATOLOGY: Anemia
EXAM #2 (opens 6/30/06 at 12 midnight; closes 7/6/06 at 5 pm)

Week #9 (July 3)
GASTROENTEROLOGY: PUD/GERD

Week #10 (July 10)
ENDOCRINOLOGY: Thyroid Disorders

Week #11 (July 17)
ENDOCRINOLOGY: Diabetes Mellitus
EXAM #3 (opens 7/21/06 at 12 midnight; closes 7/27/06 at 5 pm)

Week #12 (July 24)
NEUROLOGY: Parkinson’s Disease

Week #13 (July 31)
REPRODUCTIVE: Endometriosis

Week #14 (August 7)
MUSCULOSKELETAL: Arthritis (RA, OA)

FINALS WEEK
EXAM #4 (opens 8/11/06 at 12 midnight; closes 8/17/06 at 5 pm)