Course Faculty and Contact Information

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Please refer to memo from Kathy Dontje from Fall Semester 2006 and the Course Documents folder in Angel course web site for information regarding NUR 807 clinical placements and experiences.
Contacting Faculty and Office Hours

For questions at any time about the online portion of the course, contact Celia. Contact Kathy for any questions pertaining to the clinical portion of the course prior to January 8, 2006. For questions about the clinical portion of the course after January 8th, contact your assigned clinical faculty member.

Unless arranged otherwise with a specific faculty member, please use the Angel course email system to communicate with the faculty about other course-related issues. Office hours with the course faculty are arranged via email appointment. Please do not leave telephone messages on our office telephones, as these messages may not be received by us in a timely fashion.

University Course Description

- **Semester**: Spring of every year
- **Credits**: 2 credit online seminar; 1 credit laboratory (clinical) component
- **Restrictions**: Open only to master's students in the College of Nursing
- **Description**: Clinical decision-making in advance practice nursing. Decision theory and related concepts. Application of critical thinking and clinical judgment to differential diagnoses of common primary care conditions. NUR 807 is a hybrid course that blends regularly scheduled online instruction with regularly scheduled classroom time.

Course Overview

NUR 807 is a “bridge” course between the MSN core courses 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 advanced clinical practice role. To achieve this aim, NUR 807 is offered in a hybrid (blended) format that includes online and in-person instructional components. The theoretical portion of the course is offered primarily online and focuses on the concepts of clinical judgment and decision-making which are needed by advanced practice nurses (APNs) as a basis for making sound clinical decisions. The clinical portion of the course has both online and in-person instructional experiences and will involve application of the key course concepts to often-encountered situations in APN clinical practice. There will be clinical hours for this course which provide practice in clinical data gathering skills, diagnostic reasoning, and clinical problem solving.

Course Objectives

- Apply decision theory to formulate differential diagnoses.
- Analyze the concept of clinical diagnoses in primary care.
- Analyze relevant clinical subjective and objective cues to explain clinical diagnoses.
- Develop appropriate differential diagnoses for the common primary care conditions.
- Analyze the implications of diagnostic decisions relative to cost and efficacy within the contemporary health care delivery system.
- Document a HPI by using the problem-oriented record (POR).
Required Materials


- Moyet-Carpenito, L.J. (2005). *Handbook of nursing diagnosis* (11th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins. This reference will be useful for formulating nursing diagnoses in NUR 807 and the clinical management courses. You may use another nursing diagnosis book as desired, which has been published within the past several years and which contains NANDA nursing diagnosis information.

- Online articles to be downloaded by the student via the MSU Library (see Course Documents folder in Angel course web site for a list of articles).

- Your textbooks from NUR 815 (Stommel & Wills, *Clinical Research*; Gordis, *Epidemiology*) may be useful references for the epidemiology and evidence-based practice concepts covered in NUR 807.

- A variety of online information sources will be used to supplement the textbook and articles that are used in the course. Links for public-access sources will be provided in the course web site in each week’s Lessons folder.

- During clinical conference sessions and clinical case discussions, the clinical faculty and class members may suggest additional readings, review of key web sites, etc.

Evaluation of Academic Performance

- **Midterm exam** – 20% of course grade. This will be given in a proctored format on campus on Thursday, March 1, 2007. The 2-hour short answer/discussion format exam will be based on a selected realistic clinical case scenario that is commonly encountered in APN practice. The exam questions will focus on application of the key theoretical concepts covered thus far in the course.

- **Final Exam** – 30% of course grade. The April 26th LAC experience will include a written component (the NUR 807 Final Exam) in which the theoretical concepts and clinical principles learned in NUR 807 will be applied to in the write-up of a selected patient case.

- **Screening test analysis paper** – 25% of course grade. Each student will select a screening test to analyze that is commonly used in APN practice. See Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for additional details.

- **Online clinical activities** – 25% of course grade. Key activities include but are not limited to: weekly online discussion of clinical cases, practicing clinical write-ups of various sorts, practicing HPI/POR documentation, and peer review activities as assigned by the clinical faculty (see Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for additional information).

- **LAC experiences** – graded on a pass-fail basis. Clinical simulation experiences will take place in the MSU Learning Assessment Center (LAC) on Thursday, March 1st, and Thursday, April 26th, 8 am – 5 pm each day. The March 1st simulation experiences are intended as formative practice for entering the precepted clinical practice hours component of the course following MSU Spring Break. Practice will be obtained with HPI and
differential diagnosis for selected realistic situations such as will be encountered during the precepted clinical practice experiences. The April 26th LAC experience will include a written component (the NUR 807 Final Exam) in which the theoretical concepts and clinical principles learned in NUR 807 will be applied to in the write-up of a selected patient case. See Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for additional information.

• **Precepted clinical practice hours** – graded on a pass-fail basis. 32 precepted clinical hours in a selected practice setting are to be arranged with the clinical faculty. A maximum of 8 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 March 13th through April 28th. Clinical hours may be arranged for either 4-hour or 8-hour time blocks. All precepted clinical hours must be completed by April 28th, 2007 in order to receive a course grade for NUR 807. See the Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for additional information.

### Course Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade on University Grading Scale</th>
<th>Percentage Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>86-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>80-85%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>60-64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Course grades for Spring 2007 are due to the Registrar’s Office by Tuesday, May 8, 2007. **Please do not contact the course faculty for information about course grades prior to May 8, 2007 as this can significantly slow down the process of calculating and submitting course grades.** Individual students are usually able to view their course grades online via the MSU STUINFO web site by approximately 48 hours following the due date for grades submission; e.g., course grades will be viewable online by approximately May 10, 2007.

### Attendance/Participation Policy

Unless otherwise negotiated with the course faculty member, weekly online discussion contributions and other course assignments are expected to be posted/turned in by the pre-established due dates/times. Exceptions for the course exams, clinical practice hours, and other assignments due dates/times are typically made only for emergency situations. Assignments submitted late without prior approval of the faculty will receive zero credit. **Individual special needs for NUR 807 must be discussed with the course faculty by no later than the end of the first week of classes, Friday, January 12, 2007.**

### Academic Integrity Policy

Assignments submitted for a grade are expected to be fully the work of individual students. Breaches of academic integrity standards (such as unauthorized collaboration with others on course assignments or the midterm exam) will result in zero credit for the affected assignments, may result in a failing course grade, and may require official administrative action up to and including dismissal from the MSN program. Refer also to College of Nursing policies included in the MSN Student Handbook.
Safety in Clinical

Professional Development Guidelines

Preparation for the professional practice of nursing requires more than the acquisition and application of knowledge. Therefore, in addition to the academic standards listed, the student must demonstrate:

1) appropriate interpersonal relations and communication with clients, peers, faculty and other health care personnel;
2) responsible fulfillment of class and practicum obligations, including provision of safe nursing care in the practicum setting; and,
3) honesty and integrity in all academic and professional matters.

These expectations are reflected in the Graduate (MSN) Clinical Performance Criteria for each clinical nursing course. Failure to meet each Professional Development Objective will result in the student earning a grade of 0.0 for the course.

Faculty reserve the right to dismiss a student from clinical areas if the student is too ill, unprepared, or deemed to be a risk to patient safety. Dismissal from clinical for any reason, excluding student illness, is deemed unexcused, thus carrying the requisite grade consequence as described in the course syllabus.


Where to Look for Course Materials

The NUR 807 course web site is located on the MSU Angel platform. To access the course web site, go to the MSU Angel home page and type in your MSU NetID (part that appears before the “@msu.edu” portion of your email address) and your password. If you are registered for the course, you will see a link for the course web site on your personal home page that opens after you’ve entered your MSU address and password. If you experience any difficulties viewing the link to the NUR 807 web site on your personal home page in Angel, contact Jennifer Kallos, Administrative Staff Assistant for Academic Affairs, at 517.432.1172. All other technical problems with use of Angel should be referred to the Angel Help Desk. The toll free Angel Help Line number is 1.800.500.1554 (North American and Hawaii), and the local campus area number is 517.355.2345.

When to Look for Course Materials

Thursdays are considered the “first” day of the week for course purposes. The weekend is positioned in approximately the middle of a given week of the course. This format is intended to provide weekend time during the “middle” of the course week for work on course activities as desired. The first day of NUR 807 is Thursday, January 11, 2007. The course web site will be accessible starting at 7 am on the first day of MSU spring semester classes, on Monday, January 8, 2007. You will be able to access the Week #1 and Week #2 Lessons folders starting on January 8th. If possible please review the course syllabus, Course Documents, and Week #1 folder contents by Thursday, January 11th so that you are prepared to ask any questions as needed before starting the course.

By Friday evening each week you will be able to view the contents for the prior weeks, the current week, and the next week of NUR 807 class. For example, NUR 807 Week #1 (January 11-17, 2007) and Week #2 (January 18-24, 2007) folders will be accessible to you on Thursday, January 11th. On Thursday, January 18th, you will be able to
view the NUR 807 Weeks #1-#3 folders. On Thursday, January 25th, you will be able to view the NUR 807 Weeks #1-#4 folders, and so forth. Please see the Course Documents folder in the Angel course web site for information about the course web site structure.

Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Course Activities, Due Dates, and Other Reminders</th>
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| #1   | • January 8th - MSU classes begin. NUR 807 web site opens at 7 am.  
      • January 11th – start NUR 807 Week #1  
      • **January 12th** - deadline to inform faculty of any special needs  
      • January 15th – Martin Luther King Day (University open; no classes)  
      • January 17th – Week #1 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #2   | • January 18th – start NUR 807 Week #2  
      • January 24th – Week #2 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #3   | • January 25th – start NUR 807 Week #3  
      • January 31st - Week #3 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #4   | • February 1st – start NUR 807 Week #4  
      • **February 2nd** – End of tuition refund period for Spring 2007  
      • February 7th – Week #4 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #5   | • February 8th – start NUR 807 Week #5  
      • February 14th - Week #5 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #6   | • February 15th – start NUR 807 Week #6  
      • February 21st - Week #6 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today  
      • **March 1st** – On campus midterm exam and LAC experience (8 am – 5 pm) |
| #7   | • February 22nd – start NUR 807 Week #7  
      • **March 2nd** – 5 pm deadline to email Celia will screening test paper topic  
      • Week #7 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today  
      • **Spring Break week, March 5 - 9th** |
| #8   | • March 1st – start NUR 807 Week #8  
      • March 14th - Week #8 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today  
      • Week of March 12th – NUR 807 precepted clinical practice hours begin |
| #9   | • March 15th – start NUR 807 Week #9  
      • March 21st - Week #9 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #10  | • March 22nd – start NUR 807 Week #10  
      • March 28th - Week #10 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
| #11  | • March 29th – start NUR 807 Week #11  
      • April 4th - Week #11 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
# Course Calendar (continued)

| #12 | April 5th – start NUR 807 Week #12  
|     | April 11th – Week #12 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |
|     | April 11th – Week #12 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |

| #13 | April 12th – start NUR 807 Week #13  
|     | April 18th – Week #13 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today |

| #14 | April 19th – start NUR 807 Week #14  
|     | April 25th - Week #14 online discussion comments and other clinical assignments (as relevant) are due by no later 5 pm today  
|     | April 26th - On campus Final Exam and LAC experience (8 am – 5 pm)  
|     | April 30th - Screening test papers should be uploaded to the course paper drop box by no later than 5 pm today  
|     | April 27th – last day of Spring 2006 MSU classes  
|     | May 7th – NUR 807 course web site closes at 5 pm |

Syllabus prepared by Celia E. Wills, PhD, RN, and Kathy Dontje, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP  
Last updated November 2006