COURSE NUMBER: NU 578 – ON-LINE

COURSE TITLE: PHARMACOLOGY FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES

COURSE CREDIT: 3 Semester Hours

FACULTY: Elizabeth VandeWaa, PhD
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PLACEMENT IN CURRICULUM: Core Course for Advanced Practice Tracks

PREREQUISITES: Admission to Graduate Program

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a 3 credit hour course which is a required core course for advanced practice students. This course enables graduate students who anticipate having prescriptive authority in their advanced roles to expand pharmacological knowledge and integrate treatment of various disease states into their practice. Course will include content of clinical pharmacology of commonly encountered drug categories. Pharmacokinetics of drug therapy for commonly occurring pathophysiological processes managed by the nurse practitioner will be analyzed. The mechanism of action, pharmacologic response, usual dose, adverse effects, indications, interactions, contraindications and special routes of administration of drugs used throughout the lifespan will be emphasized. The course will also emphasize economic, cultural, ethnic, and racial considerations of drug therapy for the neonate, very young, adolescent, young adult, middle aged, elderly and very old. Ethical and legislative issues affecting pharmacological management will also be addressed.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

OR
Drug Information Handbook for Advanced Practice Nursing. Turkoski, B., Lance, B. And
COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Analyze pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic characteristics such as indications, contraindications, mechanisms of action, therapeutic effects, clinical response, adverse effects, and toxicity of major drug categories.
2. Evaluate appropriate drug therapy including action indications, contraindications, usual dose, administration route, adverse effects, drug interactions, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural considerations for patients throughout the lifespan with commonly occurring pathophysiological processes.
3. Relate pharmacokinetic properties of drugs to common pathophysiological processes in patients reflecting a variety of settings and in the various age categories.
5. Integrate relevant research findings evaluating and anticipating therapeutic consequences of drug selections and drug interactions.
6. Analyze the advanced practice nurse’s legal and ethical responsibilities in prescribing and monitoring drug therapies.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

1. Introduction to Clinical Pharmacology
   A. Terminology
   B. Drug Actions/Effects
   C. Pharmacokinetics
   D. Administration of Drugs
   E. Adverse Reactions
   F. Interactions
   G. Toxicology
   H. Prescriptive practice and rules
   I. Controlled Substances

2. Major Drug Classifications
   A. Drugs Affecting the Autonomic Nervous System
   B. Drugs Affecting the Central Nervous System—Drugs for Pain
   C. Drugs Affecting the Endocrine System
   D. Drugs Used to Treat and Prevent Infections
   E. Drugs Affecting the Respiratory System
   F. Drugs Affecting the Cardiovascular System
   G. Drugs Affecting the Gastrointestinal System

3. Nurse Practitioner Responsibilities Related to Pharmacotherapeutics

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

Assigned text and web site readings. Class notes posted in each unit. Threaded discussions or unit activities.
EVALUATION METHODS:
Written Exams: 7 @ 50 points = 350
Threaded Discussions: 1 @ 50 points = 50

Grading Scale:

90-100% A
80-89% B
70-79% C
60-69% D
59-Below F

EXAMS:
There will be seven exams given in this course. All exams are of equal value and will be given online. You will be able to access the exams on the assigned day ONLY. You will have limited time in which to take the test, after which, the exam will be removed from your screen. You will be given credit for the work you have done up until the time the exam was removed. The exams are OPEN book and OPEN notes, however, you will benefit most from this class if you prepare for the exams by studying, and then take them as they are intended—to test your knowledge. The exams are to be your OWN work—do not work with a classmate or accept any outside help while taking an exam. This will constitute cheating and may be grounds for a grade of 0 on an exam or for charges of academic misconduct.

THREADED DISCUSSIONS (TD):
The student is responsible for completing the threaded discussion assignment BY THE POSTED DATE. Assignments posted late will receive a grade of “0”.

COURSE POLICIES:

CLASS
Students are responsible for all content presented in class notes on-line. Students are also responsible for all readings assigned with each unit. In addition, website readings may be assigned. You will be expected to do a good deal of independent work in this course, keeping up will readings and unit notes are the responsibility of the student. I will expect you to maintain regular communication with me throughout the course (via completion of assignments).

EXAM POLICY:
All exams will be given on-line. These will be available to you ONLY on a specific date, and you MUST complete the exam on this date. When taking an exam on-line, occasionally you may encounter difficulty (your computer crashes, your server shuts down, you cannot save answers to eCollege, etc.). Should ANY of these things happen, it is YOUR responsibility to contact eCollege IMMEDIATELY to document the problem. eCollege will then contact me to make me aware of the situation.
If, for any reason, you are unable to take an exam on the posted date, let your instructor know as soon as possible. A make-up exam may be offered at the discretion of the instructor; however, the format may differ from the original test. Make up exams are offered only at the end of the semester.

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. It is up to THE STUDENT (in large part) to assure that cheating does not occur. Sharing information regarding exams, printing tests, copying assignments, working on assignments together, or sharing answers on these are considered cheating. Attempting to print the exam may result in closure of the exam. Any of these activities may result in charges of academic misconduct and dismissal from the course.

EXAM REVIEWS:

Students may request a review of missed exam questions from the instructor within one week of the exam. If a student needs an individual exam review, an appointment must be scheduled within a week of the time the exam is given. Students may review only the most recent exam given. Students are not allowed to wait until the end of the semester to review multiple exams.

COPING WITH DISABILITIES:

The University of South Alabama complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation ACT of 1973 and the ADA of 1990 as amended. Any questions relating to the accessibility should be directed to the Manager, Special Student Services, Student Center, Room 270, (251) 460-7212. The faculty will be happy to accommodate anyone who has an ADA recognized disability. Requests must be filed, in advance, with the ADA office. The policy does not permit retroactive accommodations.

COURSE CHANGES:

The instructor shall have the right to make revisions to the class or examination schedule, the examination process, course and administrative policies, and any other related issues regarding this course. Students will be notified in writing if such changes are made.

PROBLEMS WITH THE COURSE:

Should a student have difficulty with the course, or a problem with the instructor, it is up to the student to first contact his or her instructor to attempt to resolve the difficulty. If this does not result in satisfactory resolution, the student may then contact the course coordinator (Dr. Elizabeth VandeWaa) with the problem.

COMMUNICATION / FEEDBACK PROCESS:

The faculty strive hard to provide high quality courses. We welcome your feedback and suggestions. You will have an opportunity to evaluate this course at the end of the semester. To provide feedback prior to the end of the semester or to discuss issues and concerns, you should first contact the course faculty. Should you need further assistance or feel your concerns were not resolved contact the course coordinator next, followed by the department chair, and finally the dean.

The Course Coordinator’s and Department Chair’s contact information is provided below.
**Course Coordinator**  
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