COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Master's Nursing Program

SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Clinical Pathophysiology
COURSE NUMBER: NURS 750
CREDIT HOURS: Three (3)
PROFESSOR: Martha Gainer, APN-CCNS, MS
TRIMESTERS OFFERED: Fall
INTENDED AUDIENCE: Graduate students in the master's nursing program.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Analysis of mechanistic and regulatory deficits in altered physiological states. Emphasis is on foundation of disease as the basis for clinical intervention.

PREREQUISITES:

NURS 745 as prerequisite or co-requisite, BS in nursing degree or post master's nursing student and consent of the instructor.

RESTRICTIONS:

RN license in State of Illinois and personal malpractice liability insurance.

RATIONALE:

Advanced practice nursing at the graduate level requires a well-grounded understanding of normal physiology and pathological mechanisms of disease that serve as one primary component of the foundation for clinical assessment, decision making, intervention, and client care management. The course uses a systems approach in analyzing changes in normal human functioning that result in symptoms indicative of illness. The pathophysiology of acute and chronic illnesses is explored from the perspective of developmental physiology, pathogenesis, and clinical manifestations of selected illnesses.
EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the essential features of selected disease processes as they relate to the body’s reaction to injury, infection, immunologic responses, disturbances in circulation, abnormalities of cellular growth, and fluid-electrolyte balance across the lifespan.

2. Explain the natural history and clinical manifestation of specific diseases in terms of etiology and pathogenesis.

3. Interpret dynamic interactions among human body systems in health and when a pathological process is present.

4. Explain the effects of disease on major organ systems in terms of their regulatory and compensatory roles.

5. Apply current research-based knowledge of pathological changes in selected disease states to delineate the interventionist parameters for advanced practice nursing.

6. Propose clinical interventions based on knowledge of the dynamics of pathophysiology and current treatment rationales as reported in research literature.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITIES/ACTIVITIES:

The course provides learning opportunities through weekly lecture/discussion sessions, self-study modules, critical thinking projects requiring use of text, electronic and other library resources, and an in-depth synthesis paper. Interactive sessions for case study analysis, debate, and class presentation are provided. Students are expected to use the textbook as only one source of information. Current research findings pertaining to various pathophysiological conditions must be obtained from library journals and via scientific literature searches on the Internet.

REQUIRED TEXT:


RECOMMENDED LIBRARY RESOURCES:
Books:


Scientific Journals:

CANCER
JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)
Lancet (Journal of the Royal Medical Society)
New England Journal of Medicine
Other professional nursing and medical specialty journals as appropriate

TOPICAL OUTLINE/COURSE CONTENT:

I. Conceptual Approach to the Study of Pathophysiology

II. The Cellular Perspective, Neoplasm

III. Fluid and Hemodynamic Disturbances

IV. Immunopathology

V. Genetic Disorders

VI. Diseases of the Cardiovascular System

VII. Diseases of the Respiratory System

VIII. Diseases of the Alimentary Tract

IX. Diseases of the Kidney and Urinary Tract

X. Diseases of the Endocrine and Reproductive Systems

XI. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System

XII. Diseases of the Neurological System

XIII. Diseases of the Skin and Breast

EVALUATION:

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Revised 12-11-01
1. Attendance, on-time arrival to class, and participation in class discussions regarding the content of the previous week's lecture. (5 points).

The student is expected to notify the professor of reason for absence or need for repeated late arrival or early departure to obtain full credit for any material due.

2. Mid-Term Exam (15 points).

3. Final Exam (15 points).

4. Ten (10) Critical Thinking Assignments Based on Course Content . (5 points each/50 total).

Each assignment shall be 4-6 pages in length (including title page and reference list) and typewritten/word processed in current APA format (5th Edition). See attached Specifications for Formal Papers. A minimum of four (4) sources including the textbook by Hansen (1998) must be used for each assignment with at least two (2) from non-textbook sources. Use of current professional internet sources is encouraged. The format should include a statement of the question then the student's response. The first four (4) assignments may be resubmitted with corrections within one week after grading for a reevaluation; the original grade on subsequent assignments will not be altered.

5. Synthesis/Application paper on a Pathophysiological Condition (Disease) of the student's choice. (15 points).

The paper shall be 7-8 pages, typewritten/word processed, including the title page and reference list in current APA format. No less than ten (10) individual sources may be used with at least two (2) from professional-level internet sources. The paper shall include a clear description of the pathophysiological condition, its etiology, its epidemiology, its effects on other body systems, the scientific rationale for signs and symptoms, recommended interventions (both medical and nursing) with the rationale for their use, possible prevention strategies, and prognosis/outcome factors. See attached Guidelines for Formal Paper Evaluations for scoring parameters.

6. Students will be provided with self-study guides related to normal physiology to aid them in their review of undergraduate course content. It is recommended that students use these to prepare in advance for lecture content.

7. STUDENT LEARNING PORTFOLIO:
At the end of the course, write a concise, but thorough, reflective self-evaluation that relates your learning in the course to the expected outcomes. This is graded on a “Pass-Fail” basis. A “Pass” is required to complete the course successfully.

GRADING SCALE:

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>100 - 93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>92 - 85</td>
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<td>74 - 65</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>64 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Governors State University and the nursing program comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other federal and state legislation. Inquiries about assistance to meet special needs should be directed to the Division of Student Development, through which appropriate academic and service areas will be notified. Provision of such assistance will be based upon the individual student’s need to have equal access to the learning environment. The nursing program maintains core performance standards and has a functional abilities worksheet to assist the student and advisor in determining if accommodations are appropriate. If requests for auxiliary aids, academic adjustments, or other special services necessitate a modification of academic standard or create undue hardship on the university or the nursing program, the requests may be denied.

Students who have a disability or special needs and require accommodation in order to have equal access to the classroom, must register with the designated staff member in the Division of Student Development. Please go to Room B1201 or call (708) 534-4090 and ask for the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students will be required to provide documentation of any disability when an accommodation is requested.