N517 Foundations of Pharmacotherapeutics
Semester Offered: Fall
Credits: 1 lecture
Pre or Co-requisites: N560, graduate standing, or consent of instructor

Course Description: Introduces the student to the essentials of pharmacotherapy for advanced practice nurses. Provides a basis for understanding the pharmacokinetics and actions of selected classes of drugs commonly used in primary care practice. Legal and ethical considerations of prescriptive practice are addressed.

Course Objectives:
1. Discuss pharmacokinetics and physiological factors that alter/predict drug actions.
2. Discuss the pharmacokinetics of major drug classifications.
3. Discuss the increasingly common use of over-the-counter (OTC) medications and complementary alternative medicine (CAM) products and their efficacy across the life span.
4. Identify common adverse drug reactions including interactions between complementary alternative medicine (CAM), over-the-counter (OTC) medications and prescription medications.
5. Identify basic principles of client education regarding pharmacotherapy.
6. Identify legal and ethical issues inherent in prescriptive practice.

Suggested Content:
Role of NP, Relationship with Pharmacist, Legal and Ethical Considerations
Drug Information Resources
Dietary Supplements/Herbal
Clinical Pharmacology
Basic Pharmacology
Overview of major classifications of drugs used in Primary Care
Adverse Drug Reactions
Antibiotics drug classifications and Resistance

Approved and modified by GAAC: April, 2003; November, 2005
Approved by Faculty: April, 2003; April 2007