

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Master Resource Outline
NRSRG 630 Advanced Psychopharmacology II (NP, Psych/Mental Health)

Credits: 3 (lecture)

Semester Offered: Summer

Prerequisites: NRSRG 602, NRSRG 603

Degree: DNP

DNP Essentials: I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII

Graduate Program Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Course Description: This graduate nursing course is designed to build upon prior pharmacologic study to address advanced concepts in the clinical management of psychiatric symptoms. Students will critically analyze psychotropic interventions including, but not limited to, mechanisms of action, indications of use, dosing, side effects, drug-drug interactions, contraindications, and patient education. The use of psychotropic agents and complimentary alternative medicine in relation to possible differential diagnoses is considered. Appropriate treatment across the patient lifespan, concurrent pathophysiology, multicultural influences, and socioeconomic circumstances are also addressed. Emphasis on the prescriptive writing actions of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse is made in consideration with the ethical, legal, and professional issues of practice.

Course Objectives:

1. Apply relevant principles of human neurophysiology, pharmacology, and psychology related to drug therapy in treating mental health disorders based on evolving scientific knowledge.
2. Utilize the principles of sound research design when evaluating and interpreting the scientific literature of psychotropic agents and complimentary alternative medicine (CAM) treatments.
3. Analyze and provide a rationale for selecting a drug regimen for mental health disorders using accepted treatment algorithms, evidence-based practice, and consideration for individual patient characteristics.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of necessary laboratory monitoring and acceptable parameters for safe and effective drug therapies for chronic and acute psychiatric disorders.
5. Formulate and synthesize clinically responsible approaches to determining and evaluating loading, maintenance, titration, tapering, and discontinuation of psychotropic agents.
6. Discuss the rationale for selecting appropriate psychotropic approaches in clinical case studies, taking into consideration potential differential diagnoses, adverse reactions, drug-drug interactions, contraindications, and co-occurring medical conditions.
7. Evaluate the pros and cons of various treatment options considering the psychological, physiological, and economic impacts of drug therapy as they apply to vulnerable individuals with psychiatric disorders.
8. Assess and demonstrate appropriate patient education related to psychotropic drug therapy to facilitate increased patient understanding and compliance.

9. Integrate content from current peer-reviewed journal articles and other scientific resources as adjunct information during class discussions.
10. Demonstrate critical thinking and awareness of cultural influences and values as they relate to psychopharmacologic and CAM treatments across the patient lifespan and across the socioeconomic spectrum.
11. Demonstrate appropriate documentation in selecting and prescribing psychotropic agents.
12. Integrate into clinical discussions appropriate State laws and Federal rules and regulations pertaining to the prescribing of scheduled and non-scheduled medications.

Approved by GAAC: 10/20/11; modified 10/26/12; amended 11/5/2012; 8/19/16

Approved by Faculty: 4/9/2012; modified 1/7/2013; 8/19/16