



## Faculty of Nursing

**NURS 646 Nurse Practitioner Practicum III**

**Differential Diagnosis and Management**

**Tuesday January 3 – Friday February 24**

**Winter 2012**

**Course Coordinator and Clinical Preceptor:**

**Dina Sotiropoulos RN MN NP CPN(c)**

**Instructor & Nurse Practitioner**

**Office: PF2296**

**Phone: 403-210-7003**

**Pager: 403-212-8223 # 02412**

**Email: [dsotirop@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dsotirop@ucalgary.ca)**

**Secretary: Helen Laqua**

**Phone: 403-220-6261**

**Email: [hlaqua@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hlaqua@ucalgary.ca)**

**Clinical Preceptor:**

**Dr. Karen L. Then RN CCN(C) NP PhD**

**Professor & Nurse Practitioner**

**Room: PFA 2228**

**Phone: 403-220-8542**

**Pager: 403-212-8223 # 01944**

**Email: [kthen@ucalgary.ca](mailto:kthen@ucalgary.ca)**

**Admin Assistant: Anne Nazareth-Gracias**

**Phone: 403-220-4640**

**Email: [anazaret@ucalgary.ca](mailto:anazaret@ucalgary.ca)**

**Faculty Preceptors and Academic Half Days:**

**Dina Sotiropoulos RN MN NP CPN(c)**

**Dr. Karen L. Then RN CCN(C) NP PhD**

**Dr. James A. Rankin RN NP PhD**

**Clinical Mentors:**

**Cardiology, Internal Medicine, Pulmonary, Infectious Diseases,  
Rheumatology & Gastroenterology**

## N646 Differential Diagnosis and Management

<b>Complete Course Dates:</b>	<b>January 3 – February 24</b>
<b>Clinical Hours:</b>	<b>Jan 9 – Feb 15 180 hours minimum (3 x 10h days/week x 6 weeks)</b>
<b>Pre-Clinical Activity:</b>	<b>January 3 – 6 (40 hours)</b>
<b>Academic Half Days:</b>	<b>Jan 12 – Feb 17 R &amp; F 48 hours (8 h/week x 6 weeks)</b>
<b>Post-Clinical Activity:</b>	<b>February 17 - 24</b>

### Course Description

**UC Calendar** - Learning opportunities and practice experience with emphasis on clinical diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests, differential diagnosis and patient management.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with learning opportunities and practice experience in adult settings specifically focusing on clinical diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests, differential diagnosis and patient management. Students will have opportunity to further develop skills related to clinical history taking, physical assessments and overall advanced nursing practice knowledge.

The knowledge and clinical skills gained in N641 and N644 will be expanded and refined in N646. The activities in the N646 clinical experience will be in collaboration with Faculty NP preceptors and physician clinical mentors. The NP students will learn to function in an expanded nursing role, which is integral to the role of the nurse practitioner within a multidisciplinary team approach. The focus will be the diagnosis, differential diagnoses and management of ill adult patients in the context of their families and their communities. It will be expected that students continue to refine their conceptual framework for advanced nursing practice within the clinical settings and in their academic half days.

Prerequisites or Co-requisites: Nursing 644.

### \*Please Note:

- Participation of NP students in clinical practice and all academic activities is **mandatory**
- Clinical practice experiences may be scheduled at various times including evenings, nights and weekends. Clinical practice experiences may also extend outside of the normal academic term.
- Normally, a student will not be permitted to withdraw from an NP clinical course in order to avoid a failing grade in that course.

### Objectives

A variety of clinical settings dealing with hospitalized adults will be used to obtain the experience necessary to achieve the objectives of the course. The clinical settings will include, but not necessarily limited to the following: general internal medicine units, respiratory, cardiology units, coronary care, medical rounds, departments of radiology and laboratory medicine, and ambulatory care clinics. In addition, the students will meet with their Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors on a regular basis to discuss case studies, relevant research, and will participate in selected seminar topics.

The course objectives are to:

1. Continue to refine and increase health assessment skills to an advanced level by taking a detailed history and performing accurate physical exams on adults with a broad spectrum of acute and chronic health problems. In addition, assess the pertinent psychosocial factors that impact the patient and family.
2. Correlate clinical data from health assessment with cognitive knowledge to provide a working diagnosis and a comprehensive list of differential diagnoses.
3. Order and interpret the appropriate diagnostic and laboratory tests for adult individuals with a broad spectrum of acute and chronic health problems. .
4. Continue to refine and increase knowledge and skills in documenting history, physical examination, differential diagnosis and plan of care.
5. Plan strategies for the collaborative case management of adults with acute and chronic medical problems. This plan includes assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation.
6. Describe and application of advanced pharmacology of prescribed medications used in the treatment of selected conditions. Application of advanced pharmacology includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and major side effects.

7. Knowledge and application of advanced pathophysiology of conditions and diseases relevant to both acute and chronic health problems. This includes the communication of pathophysiology within clinical settings and in academic half days.
8. Communicate in an ethical and professional manner with patients and health professionals.
9. In consultation with Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors and medical mentors plan strategies for the case management of adult patients.
10. Continue to refine and extend skills in invasive interventions (e.g. pleural tap, chest tube insertion) where applicable.
11. Incorporate current research findings and clinical practice guidelines at an advanced level in relation to patient and family education, treatment and planning management of care.
12. Demonstrate the complementary and collaborative relationship between advanced nursing practice and medical management of patients in relation to NP practice.
13. Incorporate your advanced practice nursing model into your role as an NP student.
14. Obtain experience in completing a co-authored scholarly and clinically focused, manuscript for submission to a health sciences journal.

## Evaluation

Evaluation in N646 has **4 major components**: clinical practice, OSCE exams, case/seminar presentations and writing a scholarly manuscript.

### 1. Clinical Practice

Students will be evaluated on a continuous basis by their Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors. Students are expected to take an active role in self-evaluation and monitoring the range and depth of their own learning. Formative evaluation is to be sought from Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors on a regular basis.

As part of the ongoing evaluation process, Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors will consult with physician mentors. Other health professionals and patients with whom the students have interacted during the clinical practicum will also be consulted.

Student evaluation will be principally based on the extent to which the objectives outlined above are met using a 5-point scale: unsatisfactory (1), unsatisfactory (2), minimum pass (3), good (4) and excellent (5) (See Clinical Evaluation tool for criteria). The student must obtain a **minimum** pass of "3" in **each** component of the evaluation.

In addition, at any time during the clinical practicum students may be asked to demonstrate their knowledge and skills relevant to the clinical practice area.

### 2. Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE)

Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and skills relevant to the clinical practice area. This will include at least one Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE). Written exams may also be given throughout the course to test students on certain topics.

### 3. Presentations

Case presentations in clinical and selected seminar presentations in academic half days will form part of the overall evaluation given by Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors. Students are expected to provide scholarly case and seminar presentations at least once a week from their clinical setting.

The presentations will include, but are not limited to, the student demonstrating:

- Clinical knowledge - The history and physical exam
- Knowledge of appropriate laboratory, diagnostic imaging and other tests
- Competence in making differential diagnoses
- Knowledge of advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology
- Application of an appropriate case management plan
- Application of: advanced nursing practice, clinical research and practice guidelines

### 4. Scholarly Manuscript

Scholarly writing is an expected component of the Advanced Practice Nurse's competence. To this end, the student will complete the co-authored scholarly and clinically focused manuscript developed in the fall term during N644, for submission to a health sciences journal. Students will work collaboratively with their Faculty of Nursing NP clinical preceptors to co-author the manuscript. The aim is to complete a manuscript for submission as per the "guidelines for authors" of the selected journal. It will be reviewed by the NP Faculty

members and following an iterative process the completed manuscript will be submitted at the end of N646. The Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors will determine the scholarliness and completeness of the final manuscript. Topics may include (but are not limited to) a case presentation, a pathophysiological phenomenon or a detailed description of the pharmacology of a drug.

**Please note** that for the manuscript assignment the course professors (Rankin, Then and Sotiropoulos) will co-author. The completed manuscript will be the conclusion of an iterative process among the authors. Following feedback from the journal editor, the student is expected to work collaboratively with the course professors. In the event that there is no collaboration on the part of the student the course professors will assume the role of primary authors by July 2012.

The Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors are responsible for both formative and summative evaluations of NP students. A mid-term evaluation will normally be discussed with the student and the final evaluation will be written and shared with the student. All four evaluative methods will be discussed with the student.

**The Faculty of Nursing clinical preceptors are responsible for the award of the final credit/fail grade.**

The following bullet points are adapted from the Examiner's Report document from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Calgary. The areas identified below indicate what an examiner is expected to comment on when providing a written submission for an examination. These are very helpful criteria to consider when writing any scholarly paper:

- Relevant literature
- Organization of the written submission
- The literary competence displayed
- The logic of enquiry in the paper and the interpretation of results
- The argumentation leading to the conclusions
- The degree of sophistication shown in the treatment
- Originality and contribution to the discipline

**In order to obtain a passing grade, students must pass ALL four components of the course as described above.**

### **Academic Half Days**

The academic half days are normally on Thursday mornings (0800-1200) and Friday afternoons (1300-1700). The academic sessions provide the student with an opportunity to interact with clinical experts and preceptors – the half days will have a strong clinical focus. The sessions will consist of seminar discussion and formal case presentations. The seminar leader will present on the topic of interest and, in particular, discuss the clinical aspects of:

- The history and physical exam
- Appropriate lab and other tests
- Differential diagnoses
- Management plan
- Appropriate clinical research

Students are expected to be prepared and actively participate in the clinical discussion of cases. Students are also expected to present at least one clinical case per week from their setting and other presentations as requested (e.g. pathophysiology, pharmacology, clinical research, advanced practice role).

### **Professional Conduct and Attitude**

The NP student will demonstrate professional behaviour with patients, families, clinical preceptors, clinical mentors and colleagues. In addition the NP student will be conscientiousness and reliable in all aspects of professional work. Students will demonstrate skills necessary for optimal collaborative work and professional life long learning. Professional conduct and attitude will form a component of the student's overall evaluation.

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Information (such as a phone number, addresses, tracking sites of practica, etc.) that you may be asked to provide is collected under the authority of the Universities/Colleges Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 32c. It will be used for contact purposes. Your personal information is protected by Alberta's Freedom of

Information and Protection of Privacy Act and can be reviewed upon request. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, please contact Pat Jolly, Graduate Administrator at 220-6241.

### **Student Academic Conduct:**

#### **University of Calgary Regulations**

The University of Calgary's Graduate Studies Calendar 2011 - 2012 outlines the rights and responsibilities of a student. Students are responsible to read and understand the Academic Regulations as specified in the Calendar.

#### **Withdrawal**

The last day to withdraw with permission is Friday, February 24, 2012.

#### **Reappraisals and Appeals**

Students are referred to the U of C Calendar 2011-2012 for guidelines regarding reappraisal and appeal processes. There is a 15-day time limit between the receipt of a mark and a request for a reappraisal or appeal.

#### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Students with a disability who may require academic accommodation are advised to register with the Disability Resource Centre in MacEwan Student Centre Room 293 (telephone 403-220-8237).

#### **Plagiarism**

Students are expected to comply with the academic regulations specified in the University of Calgary Calendar. Intellectual honesty is expected at all times. A single offence of cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct, on term work, text, or final examinations, etc., may lead to disciplinary probation or a student's suspension or expulsion from the Faculty by the Dean, if it is determined that the offence warrants such action (Academic Regulations, University of Calgary Calendar, 2011- 2012). Confidentiality of patient/client information must be ensured. Discussion of clinical practice should be restricted to the students, their professors and their clinical preceptors.

If you have any doubts or questions with respect to what plagiarism actually is please consult with the course professors.

Here are useful websites relating to plagiarism:

Extensive definition of plagiarism is found in the graduate student calendar: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/calendar> see 0.1 Plagiarism/cheating/other academic misconduct.

<http://ec.hku.hk/plagiarism/introduction.htm>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml#plagiarized>

#### **Pre-clinical theory**

There is one week of seminars prior to clinical from Jan 3 to Jan 6 inclusive.

#### **Clinical Schedule**

Jan 9 – Feb 15. A minimum of 10 hour days on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.  
Doc's Lounge RGH: 9753. PLC: 6978

#### **Academic half days**

Academic half days are normally Thursday mornings (0800-1200) and Friday afternoons (1300-1700) during the clinical practice weeks Jan 12 – Feb 17

Note: Due to NP Faculty and Physician clinical service commitments all topics for the academic half days are subject to change. Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes, your consideration and cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

**Academic Half-Days**

The academic half days will be held on Thursdays and Fridays

**Note:** Due to NP and physician clinical service commitments all topics for the academic half days are subject to change. Students will be notified as soon as possible.

Normally Thursday am (08:00-12:00) & occasionally pm (1300-1700) & Friday pm (13:00 -17:00)

**Withdrawal Date**

February 24 2012

Note: Students are not permitted to withdraw from a clinical course in order to avoid a failing grade in that course.

Sherry Spence – HSC Room Bookings 220-8468 [sspence@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sspence@ucalgary.ca)

Dr. Johns Lecture Theatre Kathy 944-1969

Medical AV IT: [avmed@ucalgary.ca](mailto:avmed@ucalgary.ca)

First day of classes – Tuesday Jan 3 2012

Last day of classes – Friday Feb 17 2012

Last day of course – Friday Feb 24 2012

Doc's Lounge RGH: 9753. PLC: 6978

## Clinical Evaluation

### Faculty of Nursing – University of Calgary

#### Student Evaluation– Nursing 646 NP III

**Student:**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rating Scale</b>					<b>Not observed (N/A)</b>
	1	2	3*	4	5	
	Unsatisfactory				Excellent	

\*Minimum pass is a “3” for each item

The items in this evaluation, where appropriate, apply to both the clinical and academic half-day settings.

#### **Clinical History**

Interview is organized, complete (including family assessment, development, risk factors)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A		
Identifies pertinent +/- issues			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Documentation is accurate, thorough, summarizes key issues	1	2	3	4	5	N/A		
Verbal Presentation of cases			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Verbal presentation of cases in seminars			1	2	3	4	5	N/A

#### **Physical Exam**

Organized and systematic			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Comprehensive and accurate			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Identifies common abnormalities			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Documentation is comprehensive, uses appropriate terminology			1	2	3	4	5	N/A

#### **Clinical Reasoning**

##### **Diagnostic Certainty**

Differential dx/issue identification			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Synthesizes findings from H & PE and anticipates related problems and issues			1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Able to provide sound rationale			1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Testing**

Choices reflect an understanding of the clinical utility of common diagnostic tests	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Articulates rationale for diagnostic testing choices	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Considers the impact of testing on patient/family	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Individualizes diagnostic workup based on relevant data	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Analysis and Synthesis of Data**

Relates data and evidence to the specific patient situation	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Is able to identify relationships among various patient health/illness issues	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Treatment Planning**

Formulates a defensible plan of care for patients/families with acute/chronic illness	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Negotiates treatment plan with patient/family	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Initiates consultation or referral as appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Identifies d/c needs and implements plan	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Dictates consultation letter and discharge summary as appropriate	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Evaluates patient/family progress and adjusts plan accordingly	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Communication skills with...**

Preceptor	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Interdisciplinary team	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Patients/families	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Evidence-based Practice**

Communicates the application of pathophysiology to explain common conditions	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Demonstrates due diligence in reviewing relevant pathophysiology.	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Communicates the application of pharmacotherapeutic principles when making treatment decisions	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Provides sound rationale for specific medication choices	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Communicates the application of relevant research to practice	1	2	3	4	5	N/A



**Professional conduct**

Demonstrate professional behaviour with...

Patients/families	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Faculty of Nursing Clinical Preceptor	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Clinical Mentor	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Interdisciplinary team	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Comes prepared for clinical practice:						
Punctual	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Conscientious	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Reliable	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Manages time efficiently	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**Comments – Faculty of Nursing Preceptor/NP Mentor/Physician Mentor****Recommendations for N650:****Comments – NP Student:****Overall Rating:****Credit****Fail****Faculty of Nursing Clinical Preceptor /NP Mentor/Physician Mentor****Signature:****Student Signature:****Date:**