PHA 160T.01: Survey of Pharmaceutical Products

Lisa Wrobel
University of Montana - Missoula
Course number and title: PHA160T – Survey of Pharmaceutical Products

Date revised: 8/27/04

Semester credits: 3
Contact hours per semester: 3
Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: 0
Clinical/internship hours per week: 0

Meeting schedule: TR 1:10-2:30 in HB19

Prerequisites: None

Instructor name: Lisa Wrobel, PharmD, RPh
E-mail address: lisa.wrobel@umontana.edu
Phone number: 243-7813
Office location: AD04B
Office hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

Required texts:  
(1) Pharmacology: Principles & Applications (Fulcher, Soto, Fulcher)
(2) A drug information handbook of the student’s choice such as Lexi-Comp, Mosby, Prentice Hall or Springhouse.

Supplies: simple calculator

Relationship to program(s):
This course will build upon the knowledge gained in medical terminology, and will also help prepare the student to do clerkship in medical transcription and medical assisting. Familiarity with medications is essential for medical transcriptionists and medical assistants in order to prevent medication or record-keeping errors, to optimize patient care, and also for proper communication between health care providers.

Course description: This course is a basic overview of the most commonly used pharmaceutical agents in the major drug classes, and discusses their forms and preparations, administration considerations, implications of use, and basic pharmacological properties. Drugs will be studied according to therapeutic classifications. Students will also become familiar with drug references, laws pertaining to drug distribution, and simple dosage calculations.

Student performance outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, the student will:
1. Recognize drug products as belonging to a particular classification, and be familiar with the general actions of that class of drug by familiarity with prototypes in each class.
2. Have a basic knowledge of the principles of pharmacology.
3. Identify actions, adverse reactions and side effects of selected drug products.
4. Understand the various forms and preparations of drug products, and the rationale for such.
5. Use correct spelling and pronunciation of drug names. Communicate drug information effectively with other health professionals.
6. Understand the concepts of safe and accurate dosage calculations as they apply to medical transcription and assisting.
7. Understand the general history of the pharmaceutical industry and the laws pertaining to drug products, as well as the governmental agencies overseeing drug manufacture and distribution, in order to comply with state and federal regulations.
8. Locate drug information and become familiar with sources of information.
9. Have an appreciation for the importance of proper drug selection, preparation and distribution as part of the role of the medical assistant or transcriptionist.

Student performance assessment methods and grading procedure:
The grading scale is department-wide, and is as follows:

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

Students in Health Programs must have a "C" or better final grade in each class to progress within their programs. If a "C" or better is not obtained, students will have to re-take the class if they wish to complete the program.

80% of grade will be the average of test grades, including the final. 20% of the grade will be assignments.

Attendance policy:
Attendance is expected but not mandatory. However, it has been shown that students who regularly attend class achieve better grades than those who do not. Students who miss class should call the instructor ahead of time as a courtesy, and get notes and assignments from a fellow student.

OTHER POLICIES:

Tests must not be missed. If you have a legitimate reason for missing the test, let me know ASAP. If I feel your excuse is legitimate, a test will be issued to you at the ASC center to be taken. The ASC center has limited hours about which the student is expected to be informed.

Assignments must be turned in on-time. 25% of the total grade will be deducted for every day it is late. This means if an assignment is 4 days late, no credit will be given.

If tests are not taken or assignments are not turned-in, a zero will be averaged into the grade.

Academic dishonesty: Students found guilty of cheating or helping others to cheat will be given an F as their final grade in the course without exception. No second chances will be allowed due to the significance of such dishonest behavior in a health oriented profession, and the possible dire consequences such dishonest behavior could on the public, your chosen profession, and our school, if allowed to continue.
Students must have access to an internet-capable computer. “Blackboard” (a “course enhancement” program available to students only via the internet) will be used as a course supplement, and many notes and assignments will only be available if you have proper computer access and the ability to print the necessary files. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that this access is in place.

Students with disabilities: eligible students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course provided it is requested in a timely manner. If you are a student with disabilities, please speak with me and be prepared to provide a letter from your DSS coordinator.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1
Ch. 1 – Pharmacology in the Medical Office
Ch. 2 – Legislation and Ethics
Ch. 3 – Basics of Pharmacology
Ch. 4 – Understanding Drug Use
Ch. 8 – Interpreting Drug Labels

Unit 2
Ch. 15 – Analgesics and Antipyretics
Ch. 16 – Immunizations & the Immune System
Ch. 17 – Antimicrobials, Antifungals, & Antivirals
Ch. 19 – Nutritional Supplements & Alternative Medicines

Unit 3
Ch. 20 - Medications for Disorders of the Endocrine System (anti-diabetic drugs only)
Ch. 21 – Medications for Disorders of the Eye and Ear
Ch. 24 – Medications for Gastrointestinal System Disorders
Ch. 25 – Medications for Respiratory Tract Disorders

Unit 4
Ch. 26 – Medications for Circulatory Disorders
Ch. 29 – Medications for Neurological Disorder
Ch. 30 – Medications for Mental Disorders

Unit 5
Dosage Calculations – Material TBA

There will be a test after the completion of each unit.

Final Exam: Thursday, December 16th, 3:20-5:20
The final exam will include key material from all units except unit 5.