

Department of Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

NP1700 (3): Introduction to Pharmacology – 3 (3-1-0) 60 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:
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OFFICE HOURS:
By Appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This study involves investigating the impact of drugs on the human body, encompassing their therapeutic effects, side effects, adverse reactions, and potential interactions with other drugs. It also delves into familiar drug classifications and specific medications, including herbal preparations, within each classification. Note: Available only to Practical Nursing students.

PREREQUISITE(S): NP1205, NP1250, NP1280, NP1500

COREQUISITE(S): NP1400, NP1410, NP1450, NP1480, NP1600

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Lilley, L. L., Swart, B., & Snyder, J. S. (2021). Pharmacology for Canadian health care practice (4th ed.). Elsevier.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Lilly, L. L., Swart, B. & Snyder, J., S. (2021). Guide for Lilley's pharmacology for Canadian health care practice (4th ed). Elsevier

DELIVERY MODE(S): In-person Lecture and seminar

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of NP1700, learners will be able to:

1. Apply concepts from anatomy and physiology to pathophysiological processes and pharmacotherapy.
2. Understand the fundamental principles of pharmacology, including drug classifications, mechanisms of action, and routes of administration.
3. Identify pathophysiological processes and pharmacotherapy interventions.
4. Comprehend the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs, including absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.
5. Recognize the common drug-drug interactions, adverse drug reactions, and their implications for patient care.
6. Understand the importance of patient education regarding medication use, including instructions, side effects, and potential risks.
7. Understand the concepts of evidence-based practice and research in pharmacology to make informed clinical decisions.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.alberta.ca>.

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.

EVALUATIONS:

The final grade is based on the following assessments, and there are no additional assignments or marks provided in the course. All evaluation components must be completed to pass the course.

Assignment	Weight	Date	Related Course Learning Outcomes
Pharmacology Cards	20%	Weekly (x12 weeks)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Midterm Exam #1	25%	Week 5	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Midterm Exam #2	25%	Week 10	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Final Exam	30%	Week 15	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Pharmacology Cards

Students will create Pharmacology Cards for a drug or drug classification. A total of 13 cards will be made. Each card is worth 1.5%. The last card will be worth 2%. Each card should include the following:

1. Drug Name (Generic and Brand).
2. Common Dosages (Typical dosages, if applicable).
3. Drug Classification (e.g., beta-blocker, diuretic).
4. Purpose/Indication (Primary uses).
5. Mechanism of Action (MOA) (How the drug works in the body).
6. Nursing Considerations and Side Effects (Including monitoring parameters, contraindications, and patient education points).

Rubric for Pharmacology Cards is posted on D2L.

Midterm Exam #1

The first midterm exam includes all content covered up to and including Week 5. Question format includes a variety of styles including, but not limited to multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply.

Midterm Exam #2

The second midterm exam includes all content covered from week 6 up to and including week 10. Question format includes a variety of styles including, but not

limited to multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply.

Final Exam The final exam is not cumulative and covers content from week 11 and onward. Question format includes a variety of styles including, but not limited to multiple choice, short answer, long answer, matching, and select all that apply. Scheduling of the final exam is set by the Registrar's Office.

GRADING CRITERIA: Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week 1	Chapter 43 Antibiotics: Part 1 Chapter 44 Antibiotics: Part 2 Chapter 45 Antiviral Drugs
Week 2	Chapter 46 Antitubercular Drugs Chapter 47 Antifungal Drugs Chapter 49 Anti-inflammatory and Anticancer Drugs
Week 3	Chapter 50 Immunosuppressants Chapter 52 Antineoplastic Drugs Part 1 Chapter 53 Antineoplastic Drugs Part 2



	Chapter 54 Biological response antirheumatic
Week 4	Chapter 55 Anemia Chapter 37 Antihistamines, Decongestants and Antitussives (include Fever) Chapter 38 Drugs affecting the Respiratory System
Week 5	Review Midterm Exam #1
Week 6	Chapter 20 - Adrenergic Blocking Drugs Chapter 23 - Antihypertensives Chapter 24 - Antianginal Drugs
Week 7	Reading Break
Week 8	Chapter 25 - Heart Failure Chapter 26 - Antidysrhythmic Chapter 27 - Coagulation Modifiers Chapter 28 - Antilipemic Drugs
Week 9	Chapter 31 - Pituitary Drugs Chapter 32 - Thyroid and Antithyroid drugs Chapter 33 - Antidiabetic Drugs Chapter 34 - Adrenal Drugs
Week 10	Chapter 21 - Cholinergic Drugs Chapter 22 - Cholinergic blocking Drugs Chapter 16 - Antiparkinsonian Drugs Review for Midterm #2

Week 11	Midterm Exam #2 Chapter 15 – Antiepileptic Drugs Chapter 17 – Psychotherapeutics
Week 12	Chapter 11 Analgesic Drugs Chapter 12 – General and Local Anaesthetics Chapter 13 – CNS Depressants and muscle relaxants Chapter 14 – CNS Stimulants and related drugs
Week 13	Chapter 30 – Fluid and Electrolytes Chapter 29 – Diuretics Chapter 19 – Adrenergic Drugs
Week 14	Chapter 39 – Acid-Controlling Drugs
	Chapter 40 – Antidiarrheals and Laxatives Chapter 41 – Antiemetic and Antinausea Drugs Chapter 42 – Nutritional Supplements Review Week
Week 15	Final Exam Week

• Subject to Change

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a student at NWP, you have rights and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this Course Outline and the PN student handbook and to clarify any areas of concern with the instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with NWP policies. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the policies that might impact you while you are here:

- [NWP Department of Practical Nurse & Health Care Aide: Practical Nurse Handbook](#)

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities

policy available <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnicleadership/policies-directory>.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: To obtain credit in the course ALL assignments, examinations, and quizzes must be completed. Students are expected to make every effort to complete assignments on time. Assignment submissions are expected on the date determined by faculty. If extensions are necessary, they may be requested up to 48 hours prior to the assignment due date and should be submitted in writing to the faculty member involved. Not all extensions will be granted. In exceptional situations, extension requests within the 48-hour period may be considered. Late assignments will have 5% of total marks (or one letter grade) for the assignment deducted for each day/partial day (including weekend days) beyond the due time. For example, a paper marked at B+ would receive an adjusted grade of B if handed in one day late. After 5 days, a grade of 0 will be awarded to the assignment. If the late penalty places the grade below the necessary pass grade, students will be unsuccessful in the course. When submitting assignments electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure the assignment has been received. Papers/assignments may not be rewritten for a higher grade. Concerns regarding grading are to be discussed with the faculty member involved.