1. **COURSE ID:** NURS 615  
**TITLE:** Pharmacology for Nurses: Practical Applications  
**Units:** 3.0 units  
**Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
   Degree Credit  
   Transfer credit: CSU

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
   **Catalog Description:**  
   Course provides practical application of the pharmacological principles of drug therapy to the Nursing Practice. Discussion will stress the utilization of key drugs prescribed to treat different disease states. Lectures are organized by body system in order to correlate with the nursing pharmacology text currently being used (Summer only).

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
   Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:  
   1. Categorize the medications into drug categories using the "Top 200 medications" prescribed annually.  
   2. Describe drug therapy as it relates to the different body systems and disease states.  
   3. Describe the most common drug interactions and side effects.  
   4. Differentiate specific administration concerns for the different classes of drugs.  
   5. Describe the RN's role in medication administration using the nursing process.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
   Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:  
   1. Describe drug therapy as it relates to the different body systems and disease states.  
   2. Identify chemical mediators and receptor cell targets affected by a specific class of drugs.  
   3. Evaluate how the choice of drug therapy is based upon side effect profile, specificity of action, and frequency of administration.  
   4. Describe the most common drug interactions and side effects.  
   5. Differentiate specific administration concerns for the different classes of drugs.  
   6. Using the nursing process, describe the RN's role in medication administration.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
   **Lecture Content:**  
   1. Introduction (brief):  
      A. Pharmacological principles: Pharmacokinetics, Drug Absorption & Excretion  
      B. Calculation of doses: simple ratio method  
      C. Routes of administration  
   2. The RN's role in Drug Administration  
      A. The Drug Order  
      B. The Use of Nursing Process  
      C. National Patient Safety Goals  
      D. Continuum of Care  
   3. CNS:  
      A. Psychotropics (anti-anxiety, antidepressants, sedatives, stimulants)  
      B. Anticonvulsants  
      C. Parkinson meds  
      D. Narcotic analgesics  
      E. Pain management - opioids  
   4. Autonomic NS  
   5. Cardiovascular  
      A. Cardiac drugs  
      B. Antihypertensives  
      C. Anticoagulants  
      D. Antilipemic
6. Renal & GU (genito-urinary) drugs:
   A. Diuretics
   B. Female & Male reproductive agents

7. Endocrine:
   A. Pituitary
   B. Thyroid
   C. Pancreas & Diabetes
   D. Adrenal

8. Respiratory: Cough & cold, COPD, inhalation therapy
9. Anti-infectives: ATB, Antifungals, Antivirals, etc.
10. Anti-Inflammatory: Non-steroidal (NSAIDs) vs. Steroids
11. Immune System drugs
12. GI (gastro-intestinal):
   A. Antacids
   B. Acid-Blockers
   C. Antidiarrheals & Laxatives
   D. Antiemetics
   E. Nutritional supplements

13. Dermatological agents
14. Ophthalmics agents: Glaucoma meds
15. Otic

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
   Typical methods of instruction may include:
   A. Other (Specify): Students will be required to complete learning activities online utilizing the textbook publisher learning management system.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS
   Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:
   **Writing Assignments:**
   Written reports
   Sample writing assignment:
   Complete a written report on the usage and potential side affects of a particular medication.
   **Reading Assignments:**
   Read assigned chapters in textbook.
   Sample reading assignment:
   Read chapter 22 - Antihypertensive Drugs
   **Other Outside Assignments:**
   Online activities - Audio/Visual presentations, case-studies, quizzes, and critical thinking activities.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION
   Representative methods of evaluation may include:
   A. Exams/Tests

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):
    Possible textbooks include:
    Other:
    A. Online course access for textbook.

    **Origination Date:** December 2014
    **Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** March 2015
    **Effective Term:** Fall 2015
    **Course Originator:** Tracy DeVille