

# NURS 6917 - Differential Diagnosis

## Summer 2026 Syllabus, Section A06, CRN 30895,

Credit hours: 3

## Instructor

**Melody Wright**

Professional Qualifications:

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, Ohio

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

Nursing Education, Trinity School of Nursing, Steubenville, Ohio

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Communication Expectations:

The best form of communication is via email. Emails are checked every day throughout the week and after hour requests and weekends may not be addressed until the following business day but all effort is made to respond in a timely manner. Please do not send any messages through blackboard messaging, please use email for all communication.

How to Refer to me:

Ms. Wright

## Course Description

6917. Differential Diagnosis. Developing diagnostic reasoning skill through comprehensive analysis of present and past histories, physical findings, and diagnostic studies that contribute to differential diagnoses of major health problems across the lifespan. The client is assessed from a holistic advanced practice perspective with consideration of individual culture, social, family, and community environments. Prereq.: NURS 6902.

## Course Readings

| Group    | Title                                                                                                                                                   | Author | ISBN |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------|
| Required | Required Text Rhodes, J., Penick Julie C., (2023). Formulating a Differential Diagnosis for the Advanced Practice Provider (3rd ed) New York: Springer. |        |      |

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

## Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week of | Reading(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Proposed Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Due/To Prepare for Class                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6/29    | Begin Reading Course Introduction in your textbook. Review the Welcome tab and Readings and media Start Module 1 course readings, assignments and tests. Read the Preface and Introduction to Differential Diagnosis of Common Problems. Review and listen to the 2 PowerPoints provided: Formulating a Differential Diagnosis and Soap note formation and explanation. Watch: Soap Notes How to get a Patient History | First week of the course Review all of the content located in: Getting Started Blackboard Orientation and Requirements Developing a Differential Diagnosis Neurological System Pulmonary System Genitourinary system Focus will be on HEENT Gastrointestinal System Musculoskeletal System (focus) Also reviewing Integumentary system | Acknowledge the Syllabus Due by Sunday of the first week by 11:59PM. Complete the Practice Test located in Module 1. Complete Case Study Worksheet: Building a Differential Diagnosis By Sunday of the first week no later than 11:59pm. There are no peer responses required the first week..<br>• Initial Discussion Post: Developing Differential Diagnoses By Wednesday 11:59PM. • Respond to 2 peers by no later than Sunday of each week by 11:59 PM |

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The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.