

**Psychopharmacology
COUN 6520**



Text: Preston, J.D., O’Neal, J.H. & Talaga, M.C. (2007). *Handbook of Clinical Psychopharmacology for Therapists*, 5th ed. New Harbinger Publications

Course description: *Biochemical, Neurophysiological, and neuroanatomical bases; emphasis on drugs used in investigating and treating psychological disorders.*

Course objectives: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of established neurotransmission systems.
- demonstrate knowledge of general, specific, and adverse effects of Rx on brain and behavior: Behavioral Pharmacology.
- demonstrate understanding of the body’s effects on behaviorally active drugs (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion).
- demonstrate knowledge of common side effects and drug interactions.
- describe and discuss issues and controversies in psychopharmacology.
- demonstrate knowledge of clinical trials, FDA oversight, and ADR reports.
- demonstrate understanding of the uses of psychopharmacology with pediatric populations in schools, community care, long-term care facilities.
- demonstrate ability to use FBA as evaluation tool to evaluate academic and behavioral effects of Rx on students and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- demonstrate ability to provide behavioral data in format useful to primary care providers and psychiatrists.
- describe effects of Rx on pregnant women and geriatric populations.
- locate current information on psychoactive substances.

****Important!** Students should not make medical decisions for themselves or others on the basis of this (or any other) psychology course. It is important that persons taking prescription medications **do not** alter any prescription use without consulting a medical practitioner who is licensed to prescribe.

Course requirements/assignments color-coded by Method of Instruction:

SAMPLE SYLLABUS—WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES

1. Lectures/discussion/participation/small group work. Attendance expected at all classes. Additional readings will be provided in class.

2. Exams. Four in-class exams will cover material in the readings and lectures. Exams include multiple-choice and essay/short answer, making a possible total of 95 pts. for each exam (380 pts total for 4 exams).

3. Clinical Research Assignments (CRA*). Blue-highlighted semester sessions involve clinical research assignments based on the text and/or web sites. Each assignment is worth 10 pts. (80 pts total). All assignments will be word-processed and due at the next class period.

4. Semester Psychopharmacology Projects. Students will select a topic from among those suggested in class overview of the course and develop an online presentation with accompanying APA-style References list. Examples of possible format include text, images, power-point, question-and-answer, lab presentation. (40 pts.)

Professional Counseling Program Dispositions. Students in the Professional Counseling Program are required to demonstrate program Dispositions (being collaborative, ethical, professional, reflective, self-directed, and critical-thinking students) in this class and in all other academic and professional endeavors. Information regarding demonstration of these dispositions may be communicated to program faculty to be used as a component of the faculty's continuous evaluation of student progress. (See Professional Counseling Program Handbook for details.)

Grading scale:

92 – 100% = A
64 – 73% = D

84 – 91% = B
Below 64% = F

74 – 83% = C

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you have a documented disability as described by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would like to request academic and/or physical accommodations, please contact John Harris, Director, Disabled Student Services (898-2783) as soon as possible. Course requirements will not be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided as appropriate.

Class Schedule

| <u>Session</u> | <u>Content Areas:</u> | <u>Chapter to cover</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Overview: Behavioral Pharmacology | Ch 1/2 |
| 2 | Neurobiology; Pharmacology | Ch 3 |
| 3 | Psychopharmacology | Ch 4 |
| 4 | Terms & Definitions | |
| 5 | Exam | |
| 6 | Diagnostic Considerations | Ch 5 |
| 7 | Depressive Disorders* | Ch 6 |
| 8 | Antidepressants Medications | Ch 15 |
| 9 | Bipolar Disorders* | Ch 7 |
| 10 | Bipolar Medications | Ch 16 |
| 11 | Exam | |
| 12 | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders | Ch 9 |
| 13 | Anxiety Disorders* | Ch 8 |
| 14 | Antianxiety Medications | Ch 17 |
| 15 | Psychotic Disorders | Ch 10 |
| 16 | Break | |
| 17 | Break | |
| 18 | Antipsychotic Medications | Ch 18 |
| 19 | Exam | |
| 20 | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | Ch 11 |

SAMPLE SYLLABUS—WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 21 | Psychotropic Rx Interactions; Medication Safety* | C/G |
| 22 | Borderline Personality Disorder | Ch 12 |
| 23 | Neuropsychology of Substance-Use Disorders* | |
| 24 | Substance-Related Disorders | Ch 13 |
| 25 | Miscellaneous Disorders* | Ch 14 |
| 26 | Herbs & Holistic Medicine | Ch 19 |
| 27 | When to re-evaluate* | Ch 21//D/E/G |
| 28 | Pediatric Psychopharmacology | Ch 21 |
| 29 | Developmental Issues* | |
| 30 | Ethical Issues in Psychopharmacology | |
| 31 | Study Day | |
| 32 | Final Exam: 3:30 – 5:30 | |