

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING

Course Syllabus: Fall 2009

Course: PSYCH 775.191 Psychopharmacology for Non-Medical Therapists

Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Fall 2009

Instructor: Cheryl H. Jaworski, MD

Office: Adjunct

Office Hours: On request

Contact: Home phone 301-627-3831 (leave message and number where you can be reached)

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I. COURSE PREREQUISITES: Admission to Psychotherapy Certificate program or 21 hours of graduate psychology courses and permission of the instructor

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed for non-medical psychotherapists and counselors. Students will be presented an overview of the current therapeutic use of psychotropic drugs. A brief history of psychopharmacology, an overview of neuroanatomy, a survey on current research on neurotransmitters, and a review of pharmacological terminology will be given. Specific drugs to be considered include the narcotic analgesics, the sedative hypnotics, stimulants, neuroleptics and atypical antipsychotics, anxiolytics, antidepressants, and mood stabilizers including lithium and the anticonvulsants.

III. REQUIRED TEXT: Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology, by Stephen Stahl, MD  
Third Edition (2008)

Suggested additional text: Basic Psychopharmacology for Counselors and Psychotherapists  
by Richard S. Sinicola and Timothy Peters-Strickland (2006)

IV. CURRICULUM THEMES:

1. Academic Scholar  
(Objectives 1 and 4)
2. Effective Practitioner  
(Objectives 1,2,3, and 4)
3. Reflective Practitioner  
(Objective 3)
4. Multiple Forms of Assessment  
(Objective 2)
5. Personal and Interpersonal Perspective  
(Objectives 2 and 3)

STUDENT OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES:

1. Have a knowledge of drug use and misuse.
2. Have skills in identifying and assessing problems presented by the client and the ability to formulate treatment strategy appropriate to the client's needs and concerns.
3. Have competence in knowledge of legal and ethical issues when counseling clients.
4. Have knowledge of sources of information about psychopharmacologic interventions

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, each student should:

1. Be able to recognize and use psychopharmacologic terms appropriately.
2. Have gained an exposure to the scientific underpinnings supporting the use of psychopharmacologic treatments.
3. Be aware of the names of commonly used psychotropic drugs and properly identify their category and indications for use.
4. Have gained exposure to the possible risks of psychopharmacologic treatments as well as the possible benefits.

#### VI. INSTRUCTIONAL MODES:

##### Traditional Experiences

Lecture/discussion, with particular emphasis on presentation and discussion of patient case histories both by the instructor as well as the students.

#### VII. STUDENT REQUIREMENTS/GUIDELINES:

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate actively in class discussions. They are required to complete two study prompts and answer questions on two case histories during the course, and these must be submitted in person by their due date for credit unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. There will be two written examinations, a midterm and a non-cumulative final. Students in the Guidance and Counseling and Counseling Psychology programs are required to complete ten hours of Professional Development Activities in the community. (See information and forms attached at the end of this syllabus.) For this course, the activities are left to the discretion of the student, but should be related in some way to the use of medications in treating mental illness.

#### VIII. GRADING/EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

##### A. Methods:

###### Traditional Assessment

Study prompts, case histories, written examinations, class participation

###### Grading Method:

The two written exams will be multiple choice/matching. The average grade for the class will be determined and that will be assigned as a B. The standard deviation from that average will then be used to determine the points needed for an A,B,C, or F. If the average grade is such that it will be more advantageous to the student to use the standard system where 90 and above is an A, 80 and above is a B, etc., then that will be used.

##### B. Evaluation:

Attendance/Class Participation	10%
Study Prompts(two)	10%
Case Histories(two)	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam(non-cumulative)	30%

#### IX. COURSE OUTLINE:

- 2 Sep Introduction, historical background for psychopharmacology; course overview, review of grading policy

- 9 Sep Structure and Function of Neurons; Synaptic Neurotransmission and Signal Transduction
- 16 Sep Transporters, G Protein-Linked Receptors, Ion Channels, and Enzymes as Targets of Psychopharmacologic Drug Action
- 23 Sep Psychiatric genetics; Circuits and from Circuits to Symptoms in Psychopharmacology  
First Study Prompt due 23 Sep
- 30 Sep Psychosis and Schizophrenia
- 7 Oct Antipsychotics; Review for midterm exam
- 14 Oct Midterm Exam
- 21 Oct Mood Disorders and Antidepressants; First Case History Due
- 28 Oct Mood Stabilizers
- 4 Nov Anxiety Disorders, Anxiolytics, and Sleep Disorders and their Treatment  
Second Study Prompt due
- 11 Nov Treatment of Pain and Fibromyalgia
- 18 Nov Cognitive Enhancers: Treatment of ADHD; Treatment of Dementia
- 25 Nov No Class- Thanksgiving Holiday
- 2 Dec Disorders of Reward, Drug Abuse, and their Treatment; Second Case History Due  
Review for Final Exam
- 9 Dec Final Exam

#### X. Bibliography

Contemporary References: Cooper JR, Bloom FE and Roth RH. (2003) The Biochemical Basis of Neuropharmacology. New York, Oxford University Press.

Davis KL, Charney D, Coyle JT and Nemeroff C. (eds) (2002) Neuropsychopharmacology: The Fifth Generation of Progress. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Marangell LB and Martinez JM. (2006) Psychopharmacology. 2nd. ed. Washington, D.C., American Psychiatric Publishing.

Meyer JS and Quenzer LE. (2005) Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior. Sunderland, MA, Sinauer Associates.

Stahl SM. (2005) Essential Psychopharmacology: The Prescriber's Guide. Cambridge, UK, Cambridge University Press.

Classic Reference: Feldman RS, Meyer JS and Quenzer LF. (1997) Principles of Neuropsychopharmacology. Sunderland, MA, Sinauer Associates.

Journals: The American Journal of Psychiatry  
Journal of Clinical Psychiatry  
Journal of Essential Psychopharmacology

Key General Reference: The Physician's Desk Reference (The PDR)  
Published yearly by Medical Economics, Inc.

NOTE: Students who have a disability and think that they may need special accommodations should report to the Office of Disability Support Services, Room 1328 in the Center for Business and Graduate Studies, or call Mr. Hughes at 301-860-4067.