

BC260 PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY FOR THERAPISTS

SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will review basic principles of pharmacology with attention to the various medications given in the field of mental health. Students will learn mechanisms, indications, side effects, and adverse reactions of important psychiatric medications. Prior instruction in biology, cell biology, or neurobiology is helpful but not required. *3 hours.*

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Develop a broad understanding of psychopharmacology. This course is designed to familiarize therapists with a solid understanding of psychiatric medications for their careers.

1. Understand basics of neuroscience.
2. Understand how basic medication classes work.
3. Understand which medications are indicated for certain disorders.
4. Understand the valuable role of the therapist in monitoring clients and know when to refer or collaborate.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOK

A. Required

Preston, J. D., O'Neal, J. H., & Talaga, M. C. (2017). *Handbook of clinical psychopharmacology for therapists* (8th ed.). Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications.

B. Suggested

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments (see course schedule below) and maintain an accurate reading log.

B. Quizzes

There will be nine quizzes covering the chapters of the text, discussions and class experiences. If you do not attend a class (illness, family circumstances, mental health days, etc.), you will not be given the opportunity to make up the quiz. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** However, you may drop your 2 lowest quiz scores, so please plan accordingly. The student will also complete one mid-term exam and one final cumulative exam.

C. Presentations

Each student will participate in a small group presentation based on an assigned course topic. Specific requirements for this assignment will be provided.

V. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination, the student is responsible for informing the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VI. COURSE POLICIES

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

B. Weighing of Course Requirements for Grading

Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Presentations	20%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

C. Class Participation

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to contribute to discussions with ideas and questions based on their weekly reading of assigned materials. Active engagement is expected for the benefit of both individual students and the class as a whole. Class participation will account for 10% of the student's final grade.

D. Late Assignments

No late assignments will be accepted. If a student does not turn in the assignment when it is due or does not show up for a scheduled quiz, it will result in a zero for that assignment. There will be no exceptions.

E. Absences

Upon the third absence (justified or not) the student will be dropped from the course. Excessive absences indicate a lack of priority for the course at this time in the student's life and should therefore be repeated at a more appropriate time in the future for the student.

VII. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Class Topic	Chapter	Quiz
1	8/28	Introductory		None
2	9/4	History/Integrated Models/ Neurobiology	1-3	None
3	9/11	Pharmacology Basics/DX Considerations/Philosophy of Diagnosis/DSM	4-6	Quiz 1 History/Integrated Models/ Neurobiology
4	9/18	Depressive Disorders/Antidepressants	7, 16	Quiz 2 Pharmacology Basics
5	9/25	Bipolar Disorders/Bipolar Medications	8, 17	Quiz 3 Depressive Disorders
6	10/2	Anxiety Disorders/Anti-anxiety Meds	9, 18	Quiz 4 Bipolar Disorders
7	10/9	OC Disorders/PTSD Disorders/ Medications	10, 16, 18	Quiz 5 Anxiety Disorders
8	10/16	Midterm Exam		None
9	10/23	Psychotic Disorders/Antipsychotics	11, 19	None
10	10/30	Borderline PD, Substance/Meds	13, 14	Quiz 6 Psychotic Disorders
11	11/6	Child and Adolescent Disorders	23	Quiz 7 Borderline/Substance
11/12-16		Reading Week – No Class		
11/19-23		Thanksgiving Break – No Class		
12	11/27	Sleep-Wake Disorders	20	Quiz 8 Child and Adolescent Disorders
13	12/4	Eating Disorders	20	Quiz 9 Sleep-Wake Disorders
14	12/11	Final Exam	cumulative	None