

MH206
Pharmacology

3 Credits

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MH206 Version: 2



Pharmacology

Calendar Description

This class explores the pharmacological therapies that are used for treating mental disorders. Currently, this is the most popular method of relieving symptoms for mental illness. However, oppositions are emerging, and our exploration of mental health continues to evolve.

Rationale

This is a required course for the Community Mental Health certificate. The professional in the Mental Health field must be knowledgeable about the use of medications/naturopathic/alternative therapies for relieving symptoms of mental illness within their areas of expertise.

Prerequisites

None

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. explain the four phases of how the body processes drugs.
2. describe the different ways drugs are administered into the body.
3. recognize that the main focus for all psychiatric medications involves neurotransmitters in the brain.
4. discuss the impact of side effects in drug therapy.
5. describe some side effects commonly seen in drug therapy.
6. recognize the importance of medication compliance.
7. name the seven drug classifications and what disorders they may be prescribed for.
8. identify the rules for administering medications.

Resource Materials

There are no required texts for this class. However, a list of books and resources are provided should you wish to read some of them in future or during this class. It is expected that students watch the videos and TED talks on 'YouTube'. Also, make use of the internet to assist you with assignments or to broaden your knowledge of course material. The books listed (as well as the DVD movie: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") may be found in local libraries.

One book that may be particularly useful for the class and in future when working with clients would be any psychotropic medication reference book. These reference books are updated often.

Conduct of Course

This is an online course offered over ten weeks. This course requires the students to be actively involved in online discussion and research and to watch videos and read articles to help facilitate exploration of the pharmacological therapies that are used for treating mental disorders. Students need to follow the dates outlined for assignments.

Evaluation Procedures

The requirement for marks in this class consists of 6 "mini comments" (a paragraph or two), 3 written assignments and one final exam.

A. Mini Comments:	(5 percent for each mini comment = 30%)
B. Research Assignments	(10 percent each research assignment = 30%)
C. Final exam	40%

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Because this course is on-line, attendance is demonstrated by keeping up with readings and assignments, participation in dialogue on the discussion board and completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor.

In cases where illness impedes participation, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Course Units/Topics

- A. Introduction to mental illness and medications
- B. History of mental illness and the introduction of medication as therapy
- C. Pharmacology
 - i) 4 phases
 - ii) administrative forms
 - iii) considerations in medication therapy
 - iv) general information
- D. How do we treat mental illness with drugs
 - i) what causes mental illness
 - ii) common disorders of the mind
- E. Attitude toward mental illness
- F. What is a neurotransmitter
- G. Side effects
- H. Categories of medicines
 - i) antidepressants
 - ii) antipsychotics
 - iii) mood stabilizers
 - iv) sedatives and anxiolytics
 - v) stimulants
 - vi) cognitive enhancing
 - vii) substance abuse
- I. Your involvement
 - i) rules for administration
 - ii) supportive assistance
- J. Naturopathic and alternative methods
 - i) plants/herbs
 - ii) OTC
 - iii) vitamins
 - iv) lifestyle
 - v) nutrition
- K. Note on medical treatment oppositions
- L. Conclusion



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