

## **BC260OL PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY FOR THERAPISTS**

### **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.

### **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE**

- A. Develop a broad understanding of psychopharmacology.
  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.
  5. Increase exposure to different treatment modalities and communicate with clients about treatment options.
  6. Familiarize future therapists with a solid understanding of psychiatric medications for their careers.

### **III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

#### **A. Required**

*Handbook of Clinical Psychopharmacology for Therapists, Eighth Edition, John D. Preston PsyD, ABPP, John H. O'Neal MD, Mary C. Talaga RPh, PhD*

#### **B. Suggested**

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

### **IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. **Reading Assignments**—as directed below.
- B. **Case Scenarios** – You will have 5 Case Scenarios throughout the semester in which you will determine the diagnosis and appropriate treatment. More information will be given in class. This accounts for 10% of your final grade
- C. **Quizzes and/or Exams**

There will be eight quizzes given throughout the semester. It will be based upon the assigned reading and material discussed in class. If you miss the quiz deadline (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 final cumulative exam. Your average quiz grade will account for 35% the final grade. The final exam is 35% of the student's final grade.

## V. COURSE POLICIES

### A. Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Video Lectures	10%
Class Participation	10%
Case Scenarios	10%
Quizzes	35%
Final	35%

### B. Class Participation

Active engagement is expected for the benefit of both individual students and the class as a whole. Students are expected to attend class and contribute to discussions with ideas and questions based on their weekly reading of assigned materials. Class Participation will account for 10% of your final grade.

### C. Late Assignments

Refer to DTS Student Handbook

### D. 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 thus be repeated at a more appropriate time in the future for the student.

### E. Plagiarism (inclusion optional)

The following statement is from the 2007-2009 Student Handbook:

“The website, Turnitin.com, defines plagiarism as ‘the use of another’s original words or ideas as though they were your own. Any time you borrow [copy] from an original source and do not give proper credit, you have committed plagiarism...’ ([http://turnitin.com/research\\_site/e\\_faqs\\_text](http://turnitin.com/research_site/e_faqs_text)). Plagiarism is academically dishonest and contrary to biblical standards of integrity. Any course work involving dishonest academic practices will be graded as zero without any resubmission permitted. In each case the Office of the Dean of Students will be notified” (1.16.3).

### F. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

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

## VI. 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 Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

## VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Quiz</b>
Week 1	Introductory/History/Integrated Models	1-2	None
	Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology Basics	3-6	Neurobiology and General Psychopharm Quiz
Week 2	Antidepressants	7, 16	Antidepressants Quiz
	Anti-anxiety Meds	9, 18	Anxiolytics Quiz
Week 3	Bipolar Medications	8, 17	Bipolar Medications Quiz
	Psychotic Disorders/Antipsychotics	11,19	Antipsychotics Quiz
	OCD Disorders/PTSD Disorders/ Medications	10, 12, 16, 18	OCD/PTSD Quiz
Week 4	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	23	ADHD Quiz
	Review		
Week 5	OTC and Herbal Medicine	20	OTC and Herbal Medicine Quiz
	Review		
	Final	Cumulative	None