I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

To facilitate learning about the medications that clients are taking and to give a sense of different classes of medications, suggest some basic concepts about psychotherapeutic medications, and help in the building of vocabulary about medication use in clients.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of the course the graduate student will be able to:

1. Discuss general pharmacologic principles as they relate to psychiatric medications for clients with mental health diagnoses.
2. Identify appropriate medications for clients with common mental health disorders such as: depression, bipolar illness, Anxiety, psychotic disorders.
3. Identify and describe common side effects of medications commonly prescribed to clients with mental health disorders such as: depression, bipolar illness, anxiety, psychotic disorders.
4. Explain how drugs work in the treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse.
5. Describe how medications are used as a tool for people diagnosed with borderline personality disorders.
6. Identify common medications used for sleeping disorders and potential for abuse of these medications.
7. Discuss the appropriate drug therapy for other types of mental health problems such as: Obsessive-compulsive disorder, eating disorders, aggression, PTSD, ADD & ADHD.
8. Using evidence-based research, provide examples in the research literature of examples of both successes and failures with psychopharmacology in mental health disorders.
9. Describe how drug therapy is useful in the treatment of schizophrenia.
10. Explain how alternative therapies such as herbs and supplements may interfere with other forms of prescribed psychotherapeutic agents.

III. COURSE FORMAT

This course is an on-line course. Case studies will be used to illustrate successful and unsuccessful pharmacologic management of mental health disorders in clients. A variety of reading assignments will augment the on-line content.

IV. COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING

All students are expected to complete modules in a timely manner. Grading for the class is according to the following:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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Final Grade:

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<td>C-</td>
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Course Evaluation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Completion of Modules according to Course Schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Assignments* – 7 Brief Critiques of Articles (5% each)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Assignment - Due May 2, 2008</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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*When there is only one article for the module, the critique will be of that article. When there is more than one article for the module, the article to be critiqued will be assigned to each student.

Instructions for completion of article critiques and the case study final assignment will be posted on Blackboard and will be emailed to each student. All written assignments must conform to APA guidelines and must be submitted through the Digital Drop Box on Blackboard. Do not email assignments to the instructor unless

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directed to do so. Thank you.

Within the School of Social Work, grades are determined in each class based on the following standards which have been established by the faculty of the School:

1. Grades of A or A- are reserved for student work which not only demonstrates very good mastery of content but which also shows that the student has undertaken a complex task, has applied critical thinking skills to the assignment, and/or has demonstrated creativity in her or his approach to the assignment. The difference between these two grades would be determined by the degree to which these skills have been demonstrated by the student.
2. A grade of B+ will be given to work that is judged to be very good. This grade denotes that a student has demonstrated a more-than-competent understanding of the material being tested in the assignment.
3. A grade of B will be given to student work that meets the basic requirements of the assignment. It denotes that the student has done adequate work on the assignment and meets basic course expectations.
4. A grade of B- will denote that a student’s performance was less than adequate on an assignment, reflecting only moderate grasp of content and/or expectations.
5. A grade of C would reflect a minimal grasp of the assignment, poor organization of ideas, and/or several significant areas requiring improvement.
6. Grades between C- and F will be applied to denote a failure to meet minimum standards, reflecting serious deficiencies in all aspects of a student’s performance on the assignment.

V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


VI. RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS


VII. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. *Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible.* DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.
VIII. COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Module 1: Overview of the Course
Weeks of January 7 & 14 The Basics of Psychopharmacology
Diamond, Chapters 1&2
Objective 1

Discussion Board Sunday, January 13 at 8:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Module 2: Disorders of Depression
Weeks of January 21 & 28 Diamond, Chapter 4
Objective 2, 3, & 8

Discussion Board Wednesday, January 30 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Article Critique 1 due on February 1 (Digital Drop Box)


Module 3: Schizophrenia
Weeks of February 4 & 11 Diamond, Chapter 3
Objectives 8 & 9

Discussion Board Monday, February 11 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Article Critique 2 due on February 15 (Digital Drop Box)
Module 4: Bipolar Disease
Weeks of February 18 & 25

Diamond, Chapter 5

Objectives 2, 3, & 8

Discussion Board Thursday, February 28 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Article Critique 3 due on March 1 (Digital Drop Box)


Module 5: Anxiety Disorders
Week of March 3

Diamond Chapter 6

Objectives 2, 3, & 8

Discussion Board Wednesday, March 5 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Article Critique 4 due on March 7 (Digital Drop Box)


Module 6: Sleep Disorders
Week of March 10

Diamond Chapter 6

Objectives 6 & 8

Discussion Board Thursday, March 13 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard

Week of March 17-22

Spring Break

Module 7: Other types of Mental Health Disorders: Borderline Personality Disorders, Eating Disorders, Aggression, OCD, PTSD, ADD & ADHD, and Addiction

Weeks of March 24 & 31

Diamond Chapter 7 & 8

Objectives 4, 5, 7, & 8

Discussion Board

Wednesday, April 2 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard


Robert, Sophie PharmD *++; Hamner, Mark B. MD *++; Kose, Samet MD +; Ulmer, Helen G. MSN *++; Deitsch, Sarah E. PhD +; Lorberbaum, Jeffrey P. MD. Quetiapine Improves Sleep Disturbances in Combat Veterans With PTSD: Sleep Data From a Prospective, Open-Label Study. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 25(4):387-388, August 2005.

Loew, Thomas H. MD *; Nickel, Marius K. MD *+++; Muehlbacher, Moritz MD; Kaplan, Patrick MD ++; Nickel, Cerstin MD ++; Kettler, Christian MD ++; Fartacek, Rainhold MD +; Lahmann, Claas MD *; Buschmann, Wiebke MD +; Tritt, Karin PhD *; Bachler, Egon PhD [S]; Mitterlehner, Ferdinand ++; Pedrosa Gil, Francisco MD [//]; Leiberich, Peter MD *; Rother, Wolfhardt K. MD ++; Egger, Christoph MD. Topiramate Treatment for Women With Borderline Personality Disorder: A Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Study. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 26(1):61-66, February 2006.

Gadow, Kenneth D. PhD; Nolan, Edithe E. PhD *; Sverd, Jeffrey MD +; Sprafkin, Joyce PhD *; Schwartz, Joseph PhD. Anxiety and Depression

**Module 7**  
**Alternative Therapies**

**Week of April 7**  
**Objectives 8 & 10**

**Discussion Board**  
**Thursday, April 10 at 10:00 p.m. through Blackboard**

*Article Critique 7 due on April 11 (Digital Drop Box)*


**April 14 – 10 p.m.**  
**Discussion Board – Review for Final Assignment**

**Weeks of April 14 & 21**  
**Complete Case Study Final Assignment**

**April 20 – 10 p.m.**  
**Final Discussion Board for Questions regarding Case Study Assignment**

**April 28, 2007**  
**Case Study Assignment Due (Digital Drop Box – Blackboard)**