

Department of Psychology
Lakehead University

Psychology 5491 WA - Clinical Psychopharmacology
2017 Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dwight Mazmanian
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CLASS: Tuesdays, 7:00 – 10:00; RB 3023
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 2:30 – 3:30; Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30; or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The foundations of psychopharmacology provided in Psychology 5471 (Psychopharmacology) or an equivalent course will be developed, with particular emphasis on practical clinical issues. The student will gain sufficient knowledge to allow him or her to interact effectively and intelligently in a multidisciplinary treatment team environment. This knowledge will assist the clinician in assessment (e.g., differentiating symptoms from side-effects), treatment planning, monitoring the effectiveness of treatment, and collaborating in medication studies. In addition to clinical applications, considerable emphasis will be placed on probable mechanisms of action and the biological bases of psychopathology.

The curriculum of this course (in conjunction with its prerequisite Psychopharmacology) adheres to that proposed by the American Psychological Association for Level 1 training in psychopharmacology (*Final Report of the BEA Working Group to Develop a Level 1 Curriculum for Psychopharmacology Education and Training*, Board of Educational Affairs, American Psychological Association, December, 1995).

PREREQUISITE: Psychology 5471 (Psychopharmacology) or permission of the instructor.

PRIMARY TEXTS:

Procyshyn, R. M., Bezchlibnyk-Butler, K. Z., & Jeffries, J. J. (Eds.). (2015). *Clinical handbook of psychotropic drugs* (21st ed.). Seattle, WA: Hogrefe & Huber. (required)

Advokat, C. D., Comaty, J. E., & Julien, R. M. (2014). *Julien's primer of drug action* (13th ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers. (required)

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders*. (5th ed.) Washington, DC: Author. (recommended)

Additional reading material will be made available. You can expect to read several additional journal articles or book chapters for each topic. A reading list will be provided. Each

student will be responsible for assigning a journal article related to his or her study critique, and his or her seminar presentation.

EVALUATION:	Class participation	5% (ongoing)
	Research article critique (oral)	10% (dates to be assigned)
	Research article review (written)	10% (dates to be assigned)
	Objective test	30% (March 7)
	Seminar	15% (dates to be assigned)
	Exam	30% (exam period)

(Please note that the mark breakdown and dates listed above are consistent with Lakehead University's "timely feedback" regulation.)

Class participation: These points can be earned by attending every class, by providing acceptable (or brilliant) answers to the "surprise" review questions at the beginning of each class, asking insightful questions after each seminar presentation, and by participating in the general class discussions. Since you are graduate students, I assume that you will not miss any classes and that you will make some intelligent contributions to our discussions. (If I misjudged on the attendance assumption, you can count on a loss of 2.5% per missed class to a maximum of 5%).

Research article critique (oral): This exercise is designed to expose you (and your classmates) to primary published research in this domain. You will simply select a study (in consultation with me), from any area in clinical psychopharmacology, and present the study to the class (8 to 10 minutes). It can be a large randomized controlled trial, a small controlled trial, a non-controlled case series, a small treatment trial, or anything that could be called a study of some sort. Your job is to summarize: (1) the purpose the study (including rationale), (2) the methodology (including design, outcome measures, etc.), (3) the results of the study, and (4) the main conclusions presented by the authors.

Research article critique (written): This is simply a written review or evaluation of the paper you presented (about 2-3 pages). You are, in effect, acting as a journal reviewer, submitting your evaluation the editor of the journal. You should provide a very brief written summary of the study you presented (1 or two paragraphs), then a section on the strengths of the study, and a section on its weaknesses or limitations. The goal is this component is to sharpen your critical evaluation skills, and to prepare you for actually reviewing journal articles.

Objective test: This is a very brief test in multiple-choice/short answer format. It will cover the material you have learned up to the time of the test. (This is the "timely feedback" component, and also a means of increasing the reliability and validity to your grade.)

Seminar presentations: Each seminar will focus on a specific, relevant, and interesting question (or issue) in some area of clinical psychopharmacology. You will be responsible for selecting an article related to your topic one (1) week before your presentation, and distributing this to your classmates. Please consult with me on your choice. It should be a very recent article. Your presentation should be a 15 to 20-minute overview of your issue or question, with some good arguments, and some good conclusions. Detailed instructions and grading criteria will be provided, just in case you have not done this kind of thing before.

Exam: The exam will cover material from the texts, lectures, seminar presentations, and readings. If you attend class and keep up with the readings, you will not find it too difficult. The exam is really just a chance to demonstrate how much you have learned, and a way of increasing the reliability of your grade. It will be a take-home exam.

TENTATIVE LECTURE TOPICS:

1. General Introduction

course overview
history and philosophy
review of basic psychopharmacology (principles, mechanisms, etc.)
review of basic terms and concepts
some new terms and concepts
nomenclature, classification
ethical and legal issues

2. Review of Pharmacokinetics

3. Review of Pharmacodynamics

4. Review of Neurons, Neurotransmitters, Overall Organization of the Brain

5. Psychotic Disorders

definitions, classification, and assessment
epidemiology
biological factors
psychosocial factors
historical and current medications
possible mechanisms of action
pharmacokinetics
side effects
dosing parameters
indications and contraindications
acute and maintenance treatment
special populations and comorbidity

6. Mood Disorders

(as #4 above)

7. Anxiety Disorders

(as #4 above)

8. Developmental Disorders and other Disorders in Children

(as #4 above)

9. Acute Pain and Chronic Pain

(as #4 above)

- 10. Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders**
(as #4 above)
- 11. Other Disorders (Sexual, Sleep, Axis II Disorders, etc.)**
(as #4 above)
- 12. Psychotherapy and Psychopharmacology**
- 13. Designing, Conducting, and Evaluating Medication Studies**
- 14. "Natural", Alternative, or Herbal Products**
- 15. New or Unapproved Treatments**
- 16. Psychology and the Prescription Privilege Debate**