Psychopharmacology Survey: Two Semester Unit Course

Instructor: John Preston, Psy.D., ABPP

Course Description:
General principles of psychopharmacology, an overview of neurochemistry and a rational framework for the use of psychoactive drugs. The interface of psychotherapy and psychopharmacology and how to effectively interact/collaborate with psychiatrists and primary care physicians. Understand about diversity issues as they relate to psychopharmacology.

Psychopharmacology Survey Topic Sections:

1. Course Overview
2. Foundations
3. Depression
4. Bipolar Disorder
5. Anxiety Disorders
6. Psychotic and Other Significant Disorders
7. The Elderly and Late Life Depression
8. Conclusion and Resources
9. Review and Assessment

Goals:
Students will have a working knowledge of common clinical conditions in which psychiatric medications may be useful. They will learn about the limitations of drug treatment, ethical and legal considerations, and specific treatment strategies for dealing with a wide range of psychiatric disorders.

Specific Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Identify clinical signs and symptoms of neurobiologically based psychopathology
2. Carefully assess for the need to refer for medication treatments for psychiatric disorders
3. Competently collaborate with primary care physicians and psychiatrists regarding psychopharmacology
4. Understand the basics of clinical psychopharmacology
5. Appreciate the limits of medication treatments for psychiatric disorders
6. Develop comprehensive treatment interventions that integrate psychological and bio-medical models of treatment
7. Appreciate cultural and other diversity issues as these relate to psychopharmacology

Instructional Strategy:
This course is lecture-based class. The online version is a sequence of edited video recordings that exactly capture the four 7.5 hour days of Dr. Preston's lectures.
Course Requirements and Evaluation of Students:

Videos Lectures: You are required to view all of the video lectures in each section.

Reading assignments: You are required to read in full the textbooks listed in the bibliography.

Final Exam: The grades for this class will be based on a Final Examination. Every topic in the class, with exception to Elderly, contains a self-review section with quizzes (questions with answers shown afterwards) to help prepare for the Final. Every question on the Final is contained in the self-review quizzes. The Final Exam questions are also pulled from the video lectures and reading assignments. You are allowed to take it twice and must receive a score of 80% or better.

Transcript: After you have completed all of the requirements and passed the Final Exam, email us at ce@alliant.edu to receive a transcript.

Bibliography: You are required to read all of the following materials:

   NOTE: Do not purchase. The book is in your handouts on the Course Overview page.

   NOTE: You will need to purchase this textbook. The best place is through Amazon.com

   NOTE: Do not purchase. The book is in your handouts on the Course Overview page.

School Mission and Rationale for this course:

AIU is committed to programs that focus on intellectual advancement, integrity, and appreciation for diversity, stewardship, innovation, and social responsibility. This course includes learning objectives and experiences that address all of these fundamental concerns. This is accomplished by use of classroom experiences, reading materials and audio visual materials designed to challenge and sensitize the student to these important issues. Clinical cases incorporate multicultural and other aspects of diversity. This course, as a core course in the clinical Psy.D. program, is designed to provide a solid foundation for clinical work. This course is important in many respects: clinicians must be aware of those psychiatric disorders that are caused by bio-medical conditions and those that are responsive to psychopharmacology. Diversity issues: how other cultures view the “medical model”, and ethnic differences in drug metabolism.
Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics:
AIU is committed to a code of scholarly honesty. Its members are expected to abide by ethical standards both in their conduct and in their exercise of responsibility towards other members of the community. The complete academic code which covers acts of misconduct including assistance during exams, fabrication of data, plagiarism,

unauthorized collaboration, among others is to be found in the University Catalog. The University has the right to use plagiarism detection software.

Policy on Plagiarism and Screening for Plagirism: An act of plagiarism (defined on p. 56 of the University catalog as “Any passing off of another’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own”) is considered to be a violation of the University’s Student Code of Conduct and Ethics: Academic and will be addressed using the Policies and Procedures outlined on pages 57-58 of the University’s 2005-2006 catalog. The instructor in this course reserves the right to use computerized detection systems to help prevent plagiarism. Currently, Alliant International University subscribes to Turnitin.com for purposes of plagiarism screening. By enrolling in this course, students agree that all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Please note that any assignments or course documents submitted to this service will be included as source documents for the restricted access database of Turnitin.com which is exclusively used for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. You may indicate in writing to the instructor by the end of the add/drop deadline for this course that you refuse to participate in the Turnitin.com process, in which case the instructor can use other means to verify the originality of your work. Material identified as plagiarized will be dealt with pursuant to University’s Student Code of Conduct and Ethics: Academic. Penalties for plagiarism can be severe, up to and including expulsion from the University.

Special accommodations:
If you require any form of special accommodations, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester, and every attempt will be made to offer reasonable accommodations.

Additional Psychopharmacology References


Bauer, M., et al. (2003) Implications of the neuroprotective effects of lithium for the treatment of


2003: 32-34.


Texas Dept. of Mental Health (1998) Texas Medication Algorithm Project. Dallas, Texas.


