

Course Outline
University of Toronto Scarborough Campus
Clinical Psychopharmacology: PSY D35 H Lec 01

Winter Semester 2017 Professor: David Nussbaum, Ph.D., C. Psych.

Office Hours: Mondays: 11:10 – 12:10 Portable 3, Room 123

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Course Text: *Julien's Primer of Drug Action, 13th Edition. (2014)*

Authors: Advokat, C. D., Comaty, J. E. & Julien, R.M. New York: Worth Publishers

ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-1171-6

Lectures: Mondays: 9:10– 11:00 P.M.

Location: BV 355

	<u>Section/Week</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>
<i>Basics of Pharmacology</i>			
1.	January 2	Philosophy of Science, Redefining Psychology & Consequences for Psychopharmacology	
2.	January 9	Functional Neuroanatomy, Neurotransmission & Protein Synthesis	1
3.	January 16	Pharmacokinetics: How body handles drugs	2
4.	January 23	Pharmacokinetics: The drugs effect the body	3
<i>Abusable Drugs</i>			
5.	January 30	I: Addictions: Epidemiology, Neurobiology & Decision-Making	4
		II: Ethyl Alcohol & Inhalants of Abuse	5
6.	February 6	I: Caffeine & Nicotine	6
		II: Cocaine & Psychostimulants	7
	February 13	Term Test I: Lectures & Chapters 1 – 7	
7.	February 20	Family Day/Reading Week: No Classes	
<i>Therapeutic Medications</i>			
8.	February 27	I: Opioid Analgesics	10
		II: Cannabis: Analgesic and Abuse	9
9.	March 7	Mood Disorders I: Sedative/Anxiolytics	13
		Mood Disorders II: Antidepressant Drugs	12
10.	March 14	Bipolar Mood Disorder	14
11.	March 21	Antipsychotic Medications	11
12.	March 28	Term Test II: Lectures Weeks 8 – 11 & Chs. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14.	

Course Evaluation: Two multiple choice quizzes of ~100 items, each worth 50% of final grade.

Note: The Final Exam is **not** cumulative.

Course Description:

Increasingly, Mental Health Professionals across disciplines (including psychiatry) need to be better grounded in the effects of drugs (both licit medications and illicit recreational drugs) on information processing in cognitive, emotional, motivational, perceptual and motor systems in the CNS. This course is designed to familiarize senior undergraduate students in the Mental Health Stream with the basic pharmacological mechanisms by which the Central Nervous System (CNS) processes information, the basic neurotransmitter/receptor/complexes and their neuroanatomical locations and functions, how drugs of abuse impair typical information processing and how medications have been utilized to enhance functioning in individuals affected by common mental disorders. At the end of the course, students will be familiar with pharmacological treatments and how they work to manage common mental disorders.

By the end of the course, the student should be very familiar with:

- 1) A general approach for conceptualizing behaviour in light reflecting a “neurocentric” perspective
- 2) The general process of information processing at the pharmacological level
- 3) Specific types of information processing associated with different neuroanatomical regions and their embedded transmitter/receptor complexes
- 4) How different drugs of abuse achieve their effects
- 5) How different medications achieve improvement of functioning in mentally disordered individuals

Evaluation:

Grading will be based on two term tests worth 50% each. The second term test is NOT cumulative.