

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

Winter Semester 2019 Professor: David Nussbaum, Ph.D., C. Psych.

**Office Hours:** Mondays: 11:10 – 12:10 Room SW 123 E-F

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Course Text: *Julien's Primer of Drug Action, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Authors: Advokat, C. D., Comaty, J. E. & Julien, R.M.  
 New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN-10: 1-319-01585-9; ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01585-5

**Lectures: Mondays: 9:10– 11:00 P.M.**

**Location: HL006**

<u>Section/Week</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>
<b><i>Part 1 Introduction to Psychopharmacology: Biological Basis of Drug Action</i></b>		
1. January 7	Philosophy of Science, Redefining Psychology & Consequences for Psychopharmacology	None :-)
2. January 14	Pharmacokinetics: How Drugs Are Handled by the Body	1
3. January 21	The Neuron, Synaptic Transmission, and Neurotransmitters	2
4. January 28	Pharmacodynamics: How Drugs Act	3
<b><i>Part 2 Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse</i></b>		
5. February 4	I: Epidemiology and Neurobiology of Addiction II: Ethyl Alcohol and the Inhalants of Abuse	4 5
6. February 11	Cocaine, the Amphetamines, and Other Psychostimulants	7
February 18	<b>Family Day/Reading Week: No Classes</b>	
7. February 25	<b>Mid-Term Test: Lectures &amp; Chapters 1 – 7</b>	
<b><i>Therapeutic/Clinical Medications</i></b>		
8. March 4	Opioid Analgesics and Abuse Potential	10
9. March 11	Cannabis: A New Look at an Ancient Plant	9
10. March 18	I: Antidepressant Drugs II: Anxiolytics, Sedative Hypnotics, Anesthetics & Anticonvulsants	12 13
11. March 25	Antipsychotic Medications & Introduction to Epigenetics	11 Appendix B
12. April 1	Drugs Used to Treat Bipolar Mood Disorder	14

**Final Examination: TBA**

**During Final Exam Period: Readings and Lectures weeks 8 – 12.  
 Final Exam: Lectures Weeks 8 – 12 & Chs. 10, 9, 12, 13, 11 & 14.**

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

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 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.

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 operate
- 5) How different medications achieve improvement of functioning in mentally disordered individuals

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