

Course Outline
University of Toronto Scarborough Campus
Clinical Psychopharmacology: PSY D35 H Lec 01
Winter Semester 2020 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, 14th 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: AA 209

<u>Section/Week</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>	
<i>Part 1 Introduction to Psychopharmacology: Biological Basis of Drug Action</i>			
1.	January 6	Philosophy of Science, Redefining Psychology & Consequences for Psychopharmacology	None :-)
2.	January 13	Pharmacokinetics: How Drugs Are Handled by the Body	1
3.	January 20	Pharmacodynamics: How Drugs Act	3
4.	January 27	The Neuron, Synaptic Transmission, and Neurotransmitters	2
<i>Part 2 Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse</i>			
5.	February 3	I: Epidemiology and Neurobiology of Addiction	4
		II: Ethyl Alcohol and the Inhalants of Abuse	5
6.	February 10	Cocaine, the Amphetamines, and Other Psychostimulants	7
	February 17	Family Day/Reading Week: No Classes	
7.	February 24	Mid-Term Test: Lectures & Chapters 1 – 7	
<i>Therapeutic/Clinical Medications</i>			
8.	March 2	Opioid Analgesics and Abuse Potential	10
9.	March 9	Cannabis: A New Look at an Ancient Plant	9
10.	March 16	I: Antidepressant Drugs	12
		II: Anxiolytics, Sedative Hypnotics, Anesthetics & Anticonvulsants	13
11.	March 23	Antipsychotic Medications & Introduction to Epigenetics	11 Appendix B
12.	March 30	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.

Extended Course Description:

Increasingly, Mental Health Professionals across disciplines (including psychiatry) require better grounding 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 will familiarize successful senior students in the Mental Health Stream with the basic pharmacological mechanisms by which the Central Nervous System (CNS) processes information. More specifically, this course provides a strong background in 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.