

**SYLLABUS
PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
PSY 609 SY**

Rafael Rivas-Vazquez, Psy.D.
Spring 2012: Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm
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Overview

The primary objective of this course is to introduce graduate students to the field of psychopharmacology by reviewing biological and practical elements related to psychotropic medications. The course will be divided into three sections, the first of which will be general pharmacology. Students will learn basic physiologic processes related to drug-body interaction. There will be detailed emphasis on the areas of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics. The second section will focus on psychopharmacology, in which specific classes of currently used psychotropic medications and their mechanisms of action will be presented. The third section will consist of psychopharmacotherapy; essentially, the practical application of psychotropic medications to psychiatric disorders. In this section, current practice guidelines and issues related to pharmacologic treatment with various agents will be reviewed.

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with currently used psychotropic medications, be able to determine which drugs are most effective (or indicated) for various disorders, and understand underlying biological issues used to establish dose ranges, dosing schedules and potential adverse events. As appropriate, professional and legal issues related to psychopharmacotherapy will be discussed.

Required Texts

Julien, Robert M. (2010). A Primer of Drug Action, 12th edition.
ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-3343-9
ISBN-10: 1-4292-3343-5

Assignments

Readings will be assigned weekly according to the topic on the syllabus, and are expected to be completed before the following class.

Grading

Class participation:	30%
Mid-term examination	30%
Final examination:	40%

Schedule

<i>January 19, 2012</i>	Introduction Overview of Neurotransmission
<i>January 26, 2012</i>	Pharmacodynamics Receptors
<i>February 2, 2012</i>	Pharmacokinetics
<i>February 9, 2012</i>	Pharmacokinetics Drug Interactions
<i>February 16, 2012</i>	Midterm Examination
<i>February 23, 2012</i>	Overview of the psychopharmacopoeia Antipsychotics
<i>March 1, 2012</i>	Antidepressants Benzodiazepines Sedative hypnotics
<i>March 8, 2012</i>	Mood stabilizers Stimulants Cognitive enhancers
<i>March 15, 2012</i>	Spring Break
<i>March 22, 2012</i>	Overview of Drug Approval Process Basic Principles of Pharmacotherapy
<i>March 29, 2012</i>	Pharmacotherapy of Depression Pharmacotherapy of Bipolar Disorder
<i>April 5, 2012</i>	Pharmacotherapy of Psychotic Disorders
<i>April 12, 2012</i>	Pharmacotherapy of Anxiety Disorders Psychotropic drug use during pregnancy
<i>April 19, 2012</i>	Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Pediatric Pharmacotherapy
<i>April 26, 2012</i>	Discussion and Review for Final Examination
<i>May 3, 2012</i>	Final Examination