Psychopharmacology

Instructor: Prof. Richard Melloni Jr.
Tel. No: 617-373-3043
Email: r.melloni@northeastern.edu
Office Hours: 1pm – 2:30pm Mondays & Wednesdays
Office Location: 309 Nightingale Hall (ext. 3043 from phone)

Academic Term: Fall 2015
Course Schedule: MW 2:50-4:30p
Course Location: 108 Snell Engineering Center
Required Text: *Psychopharmacology* 
Drugs, The Brain, and Behavior – 2nd Ed. 
Meyer & Quenzer
Psychopharmacology

Course Description:
• Psychopharmacology is the scientific study of the effects drugs (both illicit and medical) have on mood, sensation, thinking and overall behavior. The area of psychopharmacology encompasses a wide range of substances with various type of psychoactive properties, focusing primarily on chemical interactions with the brain.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:
• Students should be able to **state** examples of theoretical perspectives in Psychopharmacology.
• Students should be able to **describe** diverse forms of drugs, **explain** how forms and administration, and individual characteristics effect drug action and efficacy.
• Students should be able to **describe** diverse forms illicit drugs of abuse and **explain** how these substances act in the nervous system to alter neural function and behavior.
• Students should be able to **describe** diverse forms of psychiatric illness and **explain** how psychopharmacologic intervention is used to treat these conditions and **defend** the use of these substances.
• Students should be able to **describe** ethical principles involved in using psychopharmacologic agents and **explain** how societal, legal, and pharmacologic issues influence illicit and medical human use.
Course Map

BLOCK 1
- Chapter 1 Principles of Pharmacology
- Chapter 9 Drug Use, Abuse, Dependence and Addiction
  **EXAM 1**

BLOCK 2
- Chapter 5 Catecholamines
- Chapter 6 Biogenic Amines - Serotonin
- Chapter 7 Acetylcholine
- Chapter 8 Glutamate & GABA
  **EXAM 2**

BLOCK 3
- Chapter 10 Alcohol
- Chapter 11 Opiates
- Chapter 12 Psychomotor Stimulants: Cocaine & Amphetamines
  **EXAM 3**

BLOCK 4
- Chapter 14 Marijuana & Cannabinoids
- Chapter 15 Hallucinogens, PCP, & Ketamine
- Chapter 16 Inhalants, GHB, & Anabolic-Androgenic Steroids
  **EXAM 4**

*BLOCK 5
- Chapter 18 Affective Disorders
- Chapter 19 Anxiety Disorders
- Chapter 20 Schizophrenia
  **EXAM 5** (during finals)

* If time allots
IMPORTANT POINTS OF ORDER

1. Lectures - mixture of textbook material and other important information
   → so come to class and listen to lectures
   → as REVIEW → read Chapter 2 (Structure and Function of the Nervous System) and
   Chapter 3 (Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones) – These concepts
   should have been covered extensively in Biological Psychology as PSYC 3458 and set
   foundation for this course. You are expected to know this material.
   → in all other Chapters, not all sections with a particular chapter will be covered but YOU
   ARE responsible for ALL chapter readings and the material therein
   → lectures will be dedicated to the material provided → any questions on material NOT
   covered should be presented during office hours

2. Lecture materials will be posted on Blackboard → print them out - 1 slide per page

3. If you miss a class, the material will NOT be re-lectured to you during office hours

4. SHUT OFF cell phones prior to the beginning of class

5. NO filming or recording of classroom lectures unless granted my permission

6. NO eating during class lecture

7. Each course section goes at it’s own pace. We will cover as much material as possible in the
   time allotted. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in course lectures. Much of
   the material we will be covering have many ethical, medical and legal issues associated them.
   My task to discuss and challenge you on those issues as well as the specific content
   covered in the textbook.
Evaluation and Grading:

1. There will be Five (5) Exams → each 20% of your grade
   (if we only finish 4 Blocks → each Exam will be 25% of your grade)

2. Class participation credit (*movement up one course letter grade as outlined in the Table below*) *may* be assigned for students that show *exceptional* classroom participation. This criteria is subjective and up to the discretion of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Letter Grade</th>
<th>Exam Average Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-83.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>