Psychopharmacology

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Office Hours: 1pm – 2:30pm Mondays & Wednesdays
Office Location: 309 Nightingale Hall (ext. 3043 from phone)

Academic Term: Fall 2016
Course Schedule: MWR 4:35-5:40p
Course Location: 135 Shillman Hall
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 types 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 of 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 Indoleamines
- Chapter 7 Acetylcholine
- Chapter 8 Glutamate & GABA
  
  EXAM 2

BLOCK 3
- Chapter 10 Alcohol
- Chapter 11 Opiates
- Chapter 12 Stimulants
- Chapter 14 Cannabiniods
  
  EXAM 3

BLOCK 4
- Chapter 18 Affective Disorders
- Chapter 19 Anxiety Disorders
- Chapter 20 Schizophrenia
  
  EXAM 4 (during finals)
IMPORTANT POINTS OF ORDER

1. Lectures - mixture of textbook material and other important information
   - so come to class and listen to lectures AND read the assigned chapters
   - 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 (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 on test day!
   - 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. Some 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 Four (4) Exams → each 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.

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