

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### EDU 671 - Psychopharmacology

#### Course textbook (required):

1. McKim, W.A.: Drugs and behaviour. An introduction to behavioral pharmacology, 3rd edition, Prentice Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1997, ISBN: 0-13-377128-8 (paperback), or 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000.

#### Supplementary text (not required):

1. Diaz, J.: How drugs influence behavior. A neuro-behavioral approach. Prentice Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ 1997, ISBN: 0-02-328764-0 (paperback).

#### Conceptual Framework:

Niagara University's graduate counselling programs adhere to the Eight Core Areas set forth by the **Council for the Accreditation for Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)**. The Eight CACREP Core Areas are listed below along with which Core Areas the course meets. Note: CACREP does not require a course to meet all Eight Areas. Core Areas not addressed in EDU 671 will be addressed in other courses.

1. Professional Identity: *Addressed in this course.*
2. Social and Cultural Diversity: Not addressed in this course.
3. Human Growth and Development: *Addressed in this course.*
4. Career Development: Not addressed in this course.
5. Helping Relationships: *Addressed in this course.*
6. Group Work: Not addressed in this course.
7. Assessment: Not addressed in this course.
8. Research and Program Evaluation: Not addressed in this course.

#### Course requirements:

1. to meet regularly with the instructor, as scheduled (approx. 6-7 times during the duration of the course);
2. to study from the textbook and other sources (provided) as directed;
3. to participate in in-class discussions and presentations from the studied material during each meeting followed by a seminar-style explanation by the instructor.

#### Grading procedure:

1. Attendance and active participation in the course (25% of the final mark);
2. Preparation to meeting discussions (25% of the final mark);
3. Overall understanding of the subject's principles (25% of the final mark);
4. A final multiple choice 1-hr test (up to 30 questions) (25% of the final mark).

#### Learning outcomes:

1. The student will evidence ability to:
  - discuss the principles of neuropharmacology and pharmacokinetics;
  - discuss neurophysiological bases of psychoactive drug action on major neurotransmitter systems;

- relate pharmacological effects with therapeutic effects;
- understand differences between drug effects, side effects, acute and chronic use, withdrawal syndrome, use and abuse of psychoactive agents;
- describe psychoactive drug effects in relation to major neuropsychiatric illnesses and drug addiction.

Major study topics:

1. Principles of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics;
2. Dependence, addiction and self-stimulation;
3. Sedative-hypnotics: barbiturates and benzodiazepines;
4. Psychomotor stimulants: amphetamines and cocaine;
5. Neuroleptics/antipsychotics: schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease;
6. Antidepressants and mood stabilizers: depression and bipolar psychosis.