

**Niagara University**  
**Department of Leadership and Counseling**  
**Summer II 2008**

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Office Hours: By appointment only

**A. Course Number and Title**

EDU 671 C5 – Psychopharmacology of Drugs (T and TH; 4pm – 9pm; ***St. Vincent's Hall Room 105***)

**B. Number of Credits**

Three (3) credit hours

**C. Required Text**

Sinacola, R. & Peters-Strickland, T. (2006). Basic psychopharmacology for counselors and psychotherapists. Pearson Education, Inc. : Boston, MA. ISBN 0-205-44005 – 3.

*Recommended Text:* (You do not need to purchase these for the course, but they will certainly help you in practice! The PDR can also be accessed online for free...)

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., Text Revision). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association.

Physicians' Desk Reference. (2009). Physicians' Desk Reference (63<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Thomas Ruters.

**D. Course Description**

The ability to understand how medications impact the treatment of mental health is an essential function of an effective mental health counselor. How different medications act to treat different diagnoses will be the focus of the course. Prior knowledge of mental health disorders and treatment options is assumed. Major study topics will include principles of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, dependence and addiction, stimulants, neuroleptics/antipsychotics and antidepressants and mood stabilizers.

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.

*Note: Areas not addressed above are addressed in other counseling course work*

**E. Methods of Instruction**

Teaching methods are designed to meet a variety of learning styles and will include methods such as lecture, large group discussion, small group discussion, and case analyses. Students will also individually apply their knowledge through examinations, presentations and short papers. Additionally, students will have the chance to apply their learning to case studies focusing on various mental disorder categories.

**F. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of EDU 671, the student will be able 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

**G. Outline of Course Content (reading assignments are due *before* the date of discussion)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
June 16	.Contact information .Article Discussion .Why study psychopharmacology? .Basic Neurobiology .Psychopharmacology and Pharmacokinetics	Chapters 1, 2, & 3	
June 18	.History Taking and Assessment Techniques .Treatment of Anxiety Disorders .Treatment of ADD and Disorders of Attention	Chapters 4, 7 & 9	.Case Study Review .Psychopharmacology Assignment & Presentation
June 23	.Treatment of Psychotic Disorders .Treatment of Cognitive Disorders .Treatment of Sleep Disorders .Review for Midterm	Chapters 8, 10 and 11	.Case Study Review .Psychopharmacology Assignment & Presentation
June 25	.Article Critique Presentation .Midterm Examination		Article Critique & Presentation
June 30	.Treatment of Unipolar Depression .Treatment of Bipolar Disorder	Chapters 5 & 6	.Case Study Review .Psychopharmacology Assignment & Presentation
July 2	.Treatment of Personality Disorders	Chapter 12	.Case Study Review .Psychopharmacology Assignment & Presentation
July 7	.Treatment of Chemical Dependency and Co-Occurring Conditions .Treatment of Comorbidity and Other Disorders Review for Final Exam	Chapters 13 & 14	.Case Study Review Psychopharmacology Assignment & Presentation

## H. Evaluation Process

- Attendance and active participation in the course. (10 points)
- Completion of two article critiques and their presentations (20 points)  
(Written Article Critique: 2 x 5 points each = 10 points)  
(Presentation of article and critique information: 2 x 5 points each = 10 points)
- Completion of drug presentations (20 points)
- Satisfactory completion of a mid-term and final exam (non-cumulative). (50 points)  
(Mid Term: 25 points)  
(Final: 25 points)

### Grade Point Distribution

100+: A+	Below 70: F
94-99: A	
90-93: A-	
87-89: B+	
84-86: B	
80-83: B-	
77-79: C+	
74-76: C	
70-73: C-	

## I. Attendance

**\*\* NO CLASSES MAY BE MISSED DUE TO THE FEW NUMBER OF CLASSES WE HAVE!** If you need to miss a class, you need to speak with me as soon as possible as your attendance will affect your grade.

## J. Student Disclosure

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations due to a disability is requested to speak with the professor no later than the first two weeks of class. Students should also notify the Coordinator of Specialized Services located in Seton Hall of their particular situation and needs. The university will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities.

## K. Counseling Services

Counseling services are provided for all Niagara University students free of charge. The Office of Counseling Services is located on the lower level of Seton Hall 716-286-8536. Counseling services are confidential.

## L. Writing Center

Students are encouraged to make use of the NU Writing Center. The Writing Center is located on the first floor of Seton Hall (716) 286-8075. During the summer, you may "drop in" for assistance (M-TH 8:30am-4:30pm and Fri 8:30am – 12n). If the Writing Center hours are not reasonable for you, it would be prudent to have a friend, relative, or someone you trust examine your assignments.

## M. Academic Integrity

Any student caught plagiarizing papers or cheating on exams will be subject to a grade of "F" for the assignment in question.