COURSE OUTLINE
EDU 671 - Psychopharmacology

Course textbook (required):

Supplementary text (not required):

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.
7. Assessment: 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.