SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY: PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 5360.001
SYLLABUS
Spring, 2013

Instructor: Dr. Robert Mims
Office: BH 3.56; 825-2389
Day and Time: W, 7:00-9:30 PM
Office Hours: W, 6:00-7:00 PM
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Psychology 5360 will introduce the graduate student to the basic classes of psychotropic drugs and their effects on human behavior. The course will begin with a basic review of how drugs are processed and used by the body including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and neuronal transmission. A discussion of the chemical properties of therapeutic prescription drugs, herbal formulations, and drugs of abuse will follow, including a discussion of the most common drugs to treat psychological disorders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
1. Be able to identify the basic pharmacological processes by which drugs are absorbed, distributed, & and eliminated from the body.
2. Identify the basic mechanism of action for the major classes of psychotropic drugs.
3. Recognize the therapeutic effects and side effects for the major classes of psychotropic drugs.
4. Recognize the psychological symptoms of medical disorders.

EVALUATION/GRADERS
Course grades will be based on a total of 400 points.
(A) There will be 3 examinations worth 100 points each. Tests will be given on the date announced unless you are instructed to the contrary. There will be no make up examinations. At the discretion of the instructor, make up tests may be allowed for a personal emergency involving a student. If you are a student that is an athlete, inform me immediately and provide a schedule of anticipated absences.
(B) 60 points will be allotted to other assignments such as presentations, short papers, or role plays.
(C) 40 points will be given for a paper describing an interview with a prescriber concerning psychotropic medications.

Attendance and Class Participation. Class attendance is expected and if you miss a class you are responsible for all material covered during your absence, including changes in schedule, reading assignments, or quizzes. If you miss a
class, you should gather information from your peers in the course rather than from the instructor.

DETERMINATION OF GRADES
The final course grade will be based on your performance on the three exams, two written assignments, and your participation for a total of 400 points. The following point system can be used to calculate your final grade in the course: 90% or 360+ pts=A; 80% or 320-359 pts=B; 70% or 280-319 pts=C; 60% or 240-279 pts=D; 239 pts or below = non-passing grade.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:
Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Please make sure your password information is up to date so you can access this information. Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in class or any other electronic media that could be disruptive and all cell phones must be turned off completely and put away during class. Students who use phones in class including texting, will be asked to leave by the instructor or referred to the Dean of Students if their behavior persists. Please do not put yourself in this uncomfortable position and be polite and respectful of your instructor and fellow students.

COMPUTER USE:
Computer use for class activities is permitted if it does not disrupt other students. If you use your computer for non-class related activities (e.g. web surfing, Facebook, etc.) you will forfeit the opportunity to use it in class and will be asked to leave or referred to the Dean of Students if the behavior persists.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, cheating, handing in materials used in other courses, the use of old exams from previous classes, or the use of any work that is not the student’s will be dealt with according to university policy (see the current University Catalog and Student Handbook).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Federal anti-discrimination statutes provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This and similar legislation require that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

Tape recording of lectures, guest speakers, or other class activities is prohibited without prior permission from the instructor. Exceptions may be made for students with disabilities or other special circumstances which might be allowed with the permission of the instructor.
ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203 E and can be reached at 825-2651.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99. C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

WITHDRAWAL/INCOMPLETE
The last day you may drop a course with a grade of “W” is April 12th and you must complete the necessary paperwork yourself. A grade of “Incomplete” is given only with the permission of the instructor if you have satisfactorily completed all course requirements to that point and you contact me at least one week prior to the end of class.
COURSE SCHEDULE (The instructor reserves the right to modify presentations of the topics and tests as necessary for optimum learning environment)

1/23 Course Introduction & Syllabus
   Chapter 1-Pharmacokinetics
1/30 Chapter 2-Pharmacodynamics
   Chapter 3-The Neuron, Synaptic Transmission, & Neurotransmitters
2/6 Chapter 4-Antipsychotic Drugs: Major Tranquilizers & Thymic Stabilizers
2/13 Chapter 5-Antidepressant Drugs
2/20 Chapter 6-Drugs to Treat Bipolar Disorder
   Chapter 7-Sedative-Hypnotic & Anxiolytic Medications
2/27 TEST 1
3/6 Chapter 8-Herbal Medications & Natural Treatments for Psychological Disorders
   Chapter 9-Non-narcotic Anti-inflammatory Analgesics (NSAIDS)
   Chapter 10-Opioid Analgesics
3/13 Spring Break Enjoy!
3/20 Chapter 11-Caffeine & Nicotine
   Chapter 12-Cocaine, the Amphetamines, & Nonamphetamine Behavioral Stimulants
   *Paper-Interviews with Providers Due
3/27 Chapter 13-Ethyl Alcohol & Inhalants of Abuse
   Chapter 14-Cannabinoid Agonists & Antagonists
4/3 TEST 2
4/10 Chapter 15 Psychedelic Drugs
   Chapter 16-Anabolic Steroids
4/17 Chapter 17-Topics in Drug Abuse
   Chapter 18-Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology
4/24 Chapter 19-Geriatric Psychopharmacology
   Chapter 20-Integrating Psychopharmacology & Psychological Therapies in Patient Care
5/1 Psychological Presentation of Medical Disorders (Handout)
   *Psychopharmacological Medication-Paper Due
5/15 Final Exam: TEST 3