SEMINAR IN PSYCHOLOGY: PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
PSYCHOLOGY 5360.001
SYLLABUS
Summer I-Extended, 2014

Instructor: Dr. Robert Mims
Office: BH 3.56; 825-2389
Day, Time, Room: TR, 6:00-8:30 PM, CS 114
E-Mail: robert.mims@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: T, 5:00-6:00 PM or by appointment


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) 100 points will be allotted to a paper concerning psychopharmacological medication.

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, one written assignment, 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:
Texas A & M University Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual student respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion group, and field trips.

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:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all form of cheating, such as illicit possession of examination or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity, or plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of work of another as one’s own work. In this class academic dishonesty or misconduct, or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero on any test or assignment and/or referral to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This and similar legislation require that all students will 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.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

DROPPING A CLASS/WITHDRAWAL/INCOMPLETES
Please consult with me before you drop a class to make sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the class be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a Course Drop Form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day you may drop a course with a grade of “W” is Friday, June 20th. 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.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY:
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, websites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical
campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** (The instructor reserves the right to modify presentations of the topics and tests as necessary for optimum learning environment)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/03</td>
<td>Course Introduction &amp; Syllabus&lt;br&gt;Chapter 1-The Neuron, Synaptic Transmission, &amp; Neurotransmitters&lt;br&gt;Chapter 2- Pharmacokinetics: How the Body Handles Drugs</td>
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<td>6/05</td>
<td>Chapter 3- Pharmacodynamics: How Drugs Act&lt;br&gt;Chapter 4- Neurobiology or Addiction</td>
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<td>6/10</td>
<td>Lecture: Drugs of Abuse: Alcohol, Inhalants, Stimulants, Hallucinogens, Cannabinoids, Opioids</td>
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<td><strong>TEST 1</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 11- Antipsychotic Drugs: Major Tranquilizers &amp; Thymic Stabilizers</td>
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<td>Chapter 12- Antidepressant Drugs-1</td>
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<td>6/24</td>
<td>Chapter 12- Antidepressant Drugs-2</td>
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<td>6/26</td>
<td>Chapter 13- Sedative-Hypnotic &amp; Anxiolytic Medications</td>
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<td>7/01</td>
<td>Chapter 14- Drugs to Treat Bipolar Disorder-1</td>
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<td>Chapter 14- Drugs to Treat Bipolar Disorder- 2</td>
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<td>7/08</td>
<td><strong>TEST 2</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 15- Child &amp; Adolescent Psychopharmacology</td>
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<td>Chapter 16- Geriatric Psychopharmacology</td>
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<td>Chapter 17- Integration: Psychopharmacology &amp; Psychological Therapies in Patient Care&lt;br&gt;Lecture: Psychological Presentation of Medical Disorders (Handout)&lt;br&gt;<em>Psychopharmacological Medication</em>-Paper Due</td>
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<td>7/22</td>
<td>Final Exam: <strong>TEST 3</strong></td>
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