

**Psychopharmacology for Social Workers
SW 790**

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| Instructor: Theadia L. Carey, MD, MS | Classroom: Room B798 SSWB |
| Office: 2764 SSWB | Saturday September 22 & 29, 9 am – 5 pm |
| Cellphone: 734-730-9075 | Prerequisite: None |
| tlcarey@umich.edu | This course presents advanced topics in interpersonal practice |

Course Description:

This course has a clinical focus and practical orientation; therefore, we will examine basic neuropsychopharmacology, neurotransmitter systems, drug metabolism (i.e. absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion), and the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of psychotropic medications to only a limited degree. Our emphasis will be primarily on understanding the physiological actions, therapeutic effects, and potential toxicities associated with prescribed pharmacotherapies for major classes of mental disorders affecting youth, adults and older adults.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the physiological actions of medications and differentiate among the types of currently available psychotropic medications.
2. Identify which medications are clinically indicated for which Mental Health Disorder or Substance Use disorders.
3. Discuss risk vs. benefits of different medications (therapeutic effects, side effects, adverse reactions, medication management).
4. Be able to identify the rewards and challenges regarding interdisciplinary collaboration between social worker and prescribing physicians.
5. Understand psychopharmacology with different populations
6. Address legal and other considerations in psychopharmacology for social workers.

Grading, Class Attendance, and Participation:

Grading: Grade will be satisfactory or unsatisfactory for the course

Attendance: In order to receive credit for this 1-credit mini course students must: 1. Attend all class sessions from start to finish; and 2. Participate in all activities and in-class assignments.

Purposeful participation in class discussion and activities are paramount for the successful completion of this course. Participation does not mean you need to talk a lot in class. It is important to be courteous and respectful to peers as well as to the instructors. Students are asked to refrain from using earphones during class. Students are expected to use laptops, tablets or smartphones for classroom related work.

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Required Texts/Readings:

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th Edition). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.

Dziegielewska, S. and Jacinto, G. (2016). *Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology*, (3rd Edition). New York, NY: Springer Publishing. The electronic version is available free from the library. Please read chapters 1 - 3 for first class.

Class Schedule:

Day One:

Morning:

- Class Introductions, Course Expectations
- Overview of Pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
- The Brain – review activities
- Depressive disorders/Antidepressants

Afternoon:

- Group planning for Day 2 presentations
- Bipolar and Related Disorders/Mood stabilizers
- Psychotic Disorders/Antipsychotics
- Substance Use Disorders/medication treatment options

Day Two:

Morning:

- Anxiety and Related Disorders/Treatment Anti-anxiety medications
- Attention Deficit Disorders/Stimulant medications
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Ethical and Legal issues in Psychopharmacology.

Afternoon:

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Class discussions

Class discussions, will be based on the interest of the group. Topics might include:

- Social and psychological effects (pro & con) of taking psychotropic medications
- Genetic tests that are currently available which may help to identify for each individual the best medication to treat mental health issues.
- Are we abandoning social work values by focusing on the medical model, rather than looking more broadly at needed environmental and psychosocial interventions?
- Views on Medication Assisted Treatment for persons with substance use disorders.

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- What are some important factors that parents, educators, and treatment providers should consider when prescribing psychotropic medications to minors?
- What are thoughts on the new Michigan State Laws regulating prescriptions of controlled medications?
- Medical Marijuana – Good, Bad or Other?
- How do cultural factors affect diagnostic and prescribing practices, drug trials and drug approval.