1. Course Statement

This course presents advanced topics in interpersonal practice. The topics may include emerging practice methods, advanced application of methods covered in other required methods courses, and applications of methods in specific populations.

a. 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.

b. Course content
- Overview of Psychopharmacology
- DSM 5 Diagnosis
- The Brain
- Depressive Disorders & Antidepressants
- Schizophrenia & Antipsychotics
- Bipolar Disorder & Mood Stabilizers
- Anxiety Disorders & Anxiolytics
• Attention Deficit Disorders & Stimulant Medications
• Substance Use Disorders and Medication Treatment Options
• Complementary and Alternative Medicine
• Ethical and Legal Issues in Psychopharmacology

c. Course objectives and competencies
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Compare the physiological actions of medications and differentiate among the types of currently available psychotropic medications.
• Formulate a medication treatment for each mental disorder or substance use disorder.
• Design a treatment plan, by applying risk vs. benefits of different medications based on: therapeutic effects, side effects, adverse reactions, medication management.
• Identify the rewards and challenges regarding interdisciplinary collaboration between social worker and prescribing physicians.
• Analyze psychopharmacological challenges associated with different populations (children, adolescents, adults, older adults, pregnant women etc).
• Assess legal and other considerations in psychopharmacology for social workers.

d. Course design
• Overview of Psychopharmacology – Principals of psychopharmacology.
• DSM 5 Diagnosis – Review diagnostic categories and mental status exam.
• The Brain – Review the 3-D Brain.
• Depressive Disorders & Antidepressants – Evidence based guidelines for treating depressive disorders with antidepressants.
• Schizophrenia & Antipsychotics – Antipsychotic medication guide for psychotic disorders
• Bipolar Disorder & Mood Stabilizers – Review the psychopharmacology of Bipolar Disorder.
• Anxiety Disorders & Anxiolytics – The psychopharmacology of Anxiety.
• Attention Deficit Disorders & Stimulant Medications
• Substance Use Disorders and Medication Treatment Options – Pharmacological agents to treat individuals with substance use disorders.
• Complementary and Alternative Medicine – Review the effectiveness/usefulness of alternative medicine.
• Ethical and Legal Issues in Psychopharmacology

e. Curricular themes
• Utilize current theories regarding the structure of the brain, function of neurotransmitters and stress-diathesis model, neuropsychopharmacology in order to become effective members of the treatment team and empower their clients. Demonstrate knowledge of theories related to understanding biological, sociological, cultural, psychological and spiritual development across life span.
• Understand the different evidence-based psychopharmacological treatment algorithms for specific psychiatric symptoms, diagnosis, relevant to the client’s age and comorbid medical conditions. Utilize conceptual frameworks that inform the process of assessment and intervention.

• Understand how cultural factors affect prescribing practices and the drug trials and drug approvals. Demonstrate understanding of the transcultural perspective and how dimensions of this perspective may inform practice, including dimensions of cultural; self-reflexivity/positionality; power, privilege and oppression; respectful partnership; and frameworks for culturally responsive practice.

• Discern the importance of the local systems of care including medical, behavioral health as well as the importance of health care reform in both the facilitation and impediment of health and well-being of individuals of different ages and cultural backgrounds. Understand that social systems both facilitate and impede health and well-being of individuals and families, particularly in relation to diverse populations (e.g. race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, immigration status, disability etc.).

• Apply the person in environment, differential psychiatric diagnosis and evidence-based psychopharmacological interventions for clients of different ages and backgrounds. Discuss and critically appraise how theories apply to practice, including empirical support and utility for diverse populations.

f. Relationship to social work ethics and values
Social work ethics and values will be addressed in the context of the NASW Code of Ethics. Concepts of medical ethics, social work ethics and bioethics will be discussed. Awareness of ethical issues involved in medical-ethical issues and dilemmas and decision making in health social work and discuss the impact of the social worker’s values and reactions to these issues will be discussed.

g. Intensive focus on PODS
Students are invited and expected to actively contribute from their experiences, field placement practice and knowledge of readings, etc. to help support and develop a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self-knowledge and self-awareness to facilitate PODS learning.
2. Class Requirements

a. Text and class materials

- Additional resources will be posted to Canvas

b. Class schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Required Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
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| Week 1 9/14/2019 | **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 | Syllabus  
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<td>9/21/2019</td>
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**Day Two:**

**Morning:**
- Anxiety and Related Disorders/Treatment Anti-anxiety medications
- Attention Deficit Disorders/Stimulant medications
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine

**Afternoon:**
- Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Class discussions
- Ethical and Legal issues in Psychopharmacology.

Text, Chapter 5 – 7

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c. **Assignments**

Required Assignment: Below are some of the current debates specific to psychopharmacology. You will get into groups of 3-4 (for a total of 5-6 groups) and choose one of the current debates below. You will be given time during day 1 to meet with your group and decide how you want to approach the debate and assign responsibilities for the week. On day 2 you will be given time to organize what each of you has worked on during the week and you will present to the class the main issues for social workers and link to what you have learned in this class, PODS and recommendations. You will have 20 minutes for the presentation. Feel free to be creative, use/create PowerPoint, Prezi, YouTube video, poster, panel, etc.

- Assess the argument against extensive and excessive use of psychotropic medications.
- The debate of prescription privileges by APRN’s and psychologists.
- Social and psychological effects (pro & con) of taking psychotropic medication.
- 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?
- Medication Assisted Treatment for persons with substance use disorders.
d. Attendance and class participation

In order to receive credit for this 1-credit mini course students must:
1. Attend all class sessions from start to finish; and
2. Actively 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 more about bringing a positive learning attitude to the class and being present for each session.

e. Grading

Grade will be satisfactory or unsatisfactory for the course.

Additional School and University policies, information and resources are available here: https://ssw.umich.edu/standard-policies-information-resources. They include:

- Safety and emergency preparedness
- Mental health and well-being
- Teaching evaluations
- Proper use of names and pronouns
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Religious/spiritual observances
- Military deployment
- Writing skills and expectations
- Academic integrity and plagiarism