Course title: Psychopharmacology for Social Workers
Course #/term: [Course Number SSW790, Section004], [Fall, 2019]
Time and place: Saturday, September 14 & 21 at 9 am – 5 pm, Room B760 SSWB
Credit hours: 1
Prerequisites: None
Instructor: Theadia L. Carey, MD, MS
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Contact info: Email: tlcarey@umich.edu   Phone: 734-730-9075
   You may expect a response within 24 hours
Office: [2764 SSWB]
Office hours: by appointment

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.

Note: Course objectives are intentionally connected to School of Social Work/Council on Social Work Education Competencies and Practice Behaviors so that the School can measure/assess student outcomes at both the course and curriculum/program levels.

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.
- Be able to 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
[Insert from course statement; must be logged in]

e. Curricular themes
[Insert from course statement; must be logged in]

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Required Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Morning:</td>
<td>Chapter 1 – 3</td>
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<td>Class Introductions, Course Expectations</td>
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<td>Overview of Pharmacology, pharmacokinetics</td>
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<td>The Brain – review activities</td>
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<td>Week 2 9/21/2019</td>
<td>Day Two:</td>
<td>Text, Chapter 5 – 7</td>
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<td>● Anxiety and Related Disorders/Treatment Anti-anxiety medications</td>
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<td>● Attention Deficit Disorders/Stimulant medications</td>
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<td>● Complementary and Alternative Medicine</td>
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<td>Afternoon:</td>
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<td>● Interdisciplinary Collaboration</td>
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<td>● Class discussions</td>
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<td>● Ethical and Legal issues in Psychopharmacology.</td>
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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, you-tube 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