



Course title:	Psychopharmacology for Social Workers	
Course #/term:	700.001, Spring/Summer, 2022	
Time and place:	Saturday/Sunday May 14 and 15, 9-5pm, B760	
Credit hours:	3	
Prerequisites:	None	
Instructor:	Colleen E Crane MSW, LMSW	
Pronouns:	She/Her/Hers	
Contact info:	Email: kennac@umich.edu	Phone: 248-330-3585
	You may expect a response within 24 hours	
Office:	2740	
Office hours:	By appointment	

1. Course Statement

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 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.

a. 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 workers and prescribing physicians.
- Analyze psychopharmacological challenges associated with different populations (children, adolescents, adults, older adults, pregnant women etc).
- Consider factors related to culture and diversity in prescribing, and monitoring use as well as implications for and complications with homeopathic and other indigenous remedies
- Assess legal and other considerations in psychopharmacology for social workers

b. Course design

Lecture and discussion format

c. Intensive focus on PODS

There are many observed variations among ethnic groups in the use of medications, dosages, therapeutic benefits and side effects. Social workers come from a unique perspective in that by understanding a client’s cultural life experiences from a biopsychosocial lens, we can also share knowledge with our client’s regarding the variations of use, doses, benefits and side effects of medications as well as complications when combined with other indigenous remedies. Students are expected to actively contribute from their experiences, field practice and readings to help support and develop a vision of social justice, as well as to learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice especially in the field of psychopharmacology.

2. Class Requirements

a. Text and class materials

Peterson, Ashley L. (2019). Psych Meds Made Simple. Ingram Book Co.

Recommended (but not required):

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR). March 2022

Dziegielewski, S. F., & Jacinto, G. A. (2016). Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology: A Person-in-environment Approach. Springer Publishing Company.

Stahl, S. M. (2020). Prescriber's guide: Stahl's essential psychopharmacology. Cambridge University Press.

b. Class schedule

Date/Time	Agenda	Required Readings & Assignments
Day One:	*Course expectations, discussion of final assignment. *Overview of Pharmacology. *Interdisciplinary Collaborations *Medication Assessment for Social Workers *Pretest *Brief overview of brain anatomy and function. *Brain Activity *Neurotransmitter Activity *Review main types of psychiatric disorders, their presentations & symptoms *Review psychotropic medication classes and therapeutic effects	Psych Meds Made Simple
Day Two:	*Describe potential side effects, adverse effects signs and symptoms, do	Psych Meds Made Simple

Date/Time	Agenda	Required Readings & Assignments
	not miss signs *Case Studies *Discussion of prescription patterns in marginalized communities. *Special Populations *Legal and ethical considerations for social workers. *Novel Treatments *New Frontier	

c. Final Assignment

Your final assignment for this course is as follows. Pick one of the current controversies in psychopharmacology. You will write a 4-6 page paper, utilizing 3-5 academic sources (which can also include newspapers and magazines) to support your stance.

1. Present the argument against extensive and excessive use of psychotropic medications in particular populations (i.e. marginalized populations, children, elderly).
2. The debate of medical marijuana for treatment of psychiatric diagnoses. For example: labeling of different strains and how they are identified as treating certain symptoms. Regulations.
3. The debate of prescription privileges by APRN's and psychologists. Who should be able to prescribe? What about social workers?
4. The use of genetic tests that are currently available which may help to identify for each individual the best medication to treat mental health issues and insurances not covering them. Should they or should they not?
5. Regulations on MDMA, Ketamine, Marijuana, and Psilocybin for treatment of psychiatric diagnoses. Who is able to prescribe (need for training?), how is it administered and monitored, treatment protocols, etc.
6. Issues related to culture and adherence to use of medication.

d. Attendance and class participation

In order to pass this 1 credit course attendance is required for all class sessions. Class participation is paramount to your learning and retention of the information that will be presented during the course. If you are sick or have tested positive for covid before the course begins, please make sure to reach out to me, so we can make other arrangements.

e. Grading

Grading for this course is pass/fail or satisfactory or unsatisfactory. A pass or satisfactory completion of this course is based on class attendance, participation and completion of the final assignment.

Please make sure to turn in your final assignment by the due date. Late submissions cannot be submitted without instructor permission.

f. Class Recording and Course Materials

Audio and video recording of in-class lectures and discussions is prohibited without the advance written permission of the instructor. Students with an approved accommodation from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present documentation to the instructor in advance of any recording being done. The instructor reserves the right to disallow recording for a portion of any class time where privacy is a special concern. If the instructor chooses to record a class, they will decide which classes, if any, are recorded, what portion of each class is recorded, and whether a recording is made available on the course management website. On days when classes are recorded, students will be notified a recording is occurring. Class recordings and course materials may not be reproduced, sold, published or distributed to others, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the instructor.

g. COVID-19 Statement

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff on campus, it is important for each of us to be mindful of safety measures that have been put in place for our protection. Your participation in this course is conditional upon your adherence to all safety measures mandated by the state of Michigan and the University, including properly wearing a face covering in class and compliance with the University COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Other applicable and additional safety measures may be described in the [Campus Maize & Blueprint](#). Your ability to participate in this course may be impacted by failure to comply with campus safety measures. Individuals seeking to request an accommodation related to the face covering requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the [Office for Institutional Equity](#) and those seeking an exemption related to the vaccination requirement should submit an exemption request through [WolverineAccess](#). I also encourage you to review the [Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and the [COVID-related Addendum to the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

h. Health-Related Class Absences

Please evaluate your own health status regularly and refrain from attending class and coming to campus if you are ill. You are encouraged to seek appropriate medical attention for treatment. School of Social Work students who miss class due to illness of any kind will be given opportunities to access course materials online or provided with alternative learning opportunities. Please notify me by email about your absence as soon as practical, so that I can make accommodations. Please note that documentation (a doctor's note) for medical excuses is *not* required.

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*