

COURSE OUTLINE

Pharmacology: Addictions

Course Description

BS 121. Pharmacology: Addictions. 2 hours credit. This course will enable the student to have a working knowledge of psychoactive drugs and the effects those drugs have on the human body and mind, as well as theories of addiction. This course is designed for those pursuing a career in addictions counseling or some other helping profession. Required for SRS/AAPS certification.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in this course will provide the student with the knowledge necessary to identify drugs of abuse and addiction, effects and side effects of the drugs and classifications of various drugs. The information learned in the course will equip the student with the skills to educate persons with substance abuse problems and to offer assistance to persons with prevention, substance abuse and dependence issues and questions.

Required Materials

Inaba, D., Cohen, W. and Hoistein, M. (2004). *Uppers, downers, all-arounders* (6th ed.). CNS Publications, Ashland, OR.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Identify and classify drugs of abuse and addiction
2. Explain effects, withdrawal, and toxicity of various psychoactive drugs

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Writing
 - The student will develop writing skills through the preparation of a research paper.
2. Critical Thinking
 - The student will develop critical thinking skills through written assignments and other activities conducted in class.

Secondary Skills (developed but not documented):

Reading
Listening
Time Management
Computer Literacy

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcomes and the primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by

1. Completing a written research paper on a drug-related topic
2. Analyzing and diagnosing a case study of patient

Course Content

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Biological and neurological effects of psychoactive substances
 - B. Defining substance abuse and substance dependence
 - C. Behavioral, social, psychological, and health effects of psychoactive substances
- II. Issues – Key areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. Psychoactive drugs and the brain
 - B. Behavioral, social, psychological, and health effects of psychoactive substances
 - C. Difference between substance abuse and substance dependence
- III. Concepts – that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Related terminology
 - B. DSM IV diagnostic criteria for substance abuse and substance dependence (DSM IV = Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV edition)
 - C. Availability of community and web-based resources
 - D. Physiological and behavioral effects of psychoactive substances
- IV. Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes
 - A. Describe the behavioral, psychological, health, and social effects of psychoactive substances
 - B. Identify the medical and pharmacological resources in the treatment of substance use disorders
 - C. Explain the symptoms of intoxication, withdrawal and toxicity for all psychoactive substances

Learning Units

- I. Psychoactive drugs: classification and explanations
 - A. Major psychoactive drugs
 - B. Drugs and CNS
 - C. Basic pharmacology
 - D. Levels of use
 - E. Routes of administration
- II. Stimulants (Cocaine, Amphetamines, Methamphetamines, Look-alikes, Nicotine, and OTC)
 - A. Pharmacology
 - B. Effects on CNS
 - C. Behavioral, psychological, social, and health effects
- III. Depressants (Opioids, Sedative-Hypnotics, Alcohol, GHB, Rohypnol, etc.)

- A. Pharmacology
 - B. Effects on CNS
 - C. Behavioral, psychological, social, and health effects
- IV. All-Arounders (Hallucinogens, Ecstasy, Marijuana, Ketamine, etc.)
- A. Pharmacology
 - B. Effects on CNS
 - C. Behavioral, psychological, social, and health effects
- V. Treatment
- A. Detoxification and withdrawal
 - B. Co-existing disorders
 - C. Treatment options
 - D. Community resources

Learning Activities

Learning activities will be geared toward achieving the intended course outcomes through lecture, instructor-led discussions, textbook reading assignments, audio-visual aids and video/DVD assignments, group work, and library and web-based research activities.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on assessment tasks, examinations, written assignments, quizzes and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.