

Bemidji State University

SOWK 2270: Drugs, Brain and Behavior

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 0

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course has a clinical focus with a practical orientation where students will be able to examine relevant facts and fictions about psychotropic medications, articulate the basics of psychopharmacology and assist individuals with medication-related concerns. The course will begin with a brief overview of psychotropic medications, to include the historical, sociopolitical, economic and ethical context of their administration. Our emphasis will be on actively and assertively helping individuals with their concerns regarding their medications using a range of approaches, techniques and strategies in collaboration with their families and providers. Lastly, we will discuss the language of the field and practice articulating with clients, families, and other providers the basics of psychopharmacology.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/08/2021 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Understanding psychotropic medications (historic, economic, and sociopolitical context)
2. Understanding pharmacokinetics (what the body does to medication) and pharmacodynamics of psychotropic drugs
3. Psychotropic medication classifications
4. Benefits and risks of medication use
5. Ethical issues with psychotropic medications
6. Roles of addiction professionals

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. describe the principles of pharmacokinetics (what the body does to medication) and pharmacodynamics (what the medications do to the body) and be able to describe the main actions of psychotropic drugs in the central nervous system and identify the risks and benefits of psychotropic medications.
2. describe the different psychotropic medication classifications and identify which medications are clinically indicated for different mental health or substance use disorders.
3. articulate the physical differences and different medication consideration among different groups.
4. identify and define the three core ethical standards of psychopharmacology practice for the helping professions.
5. identify in a case example a client's diagnosis, what medication would be prescribed based on the diagnosis, and the benefits and risks/side effects of the prescribed medication.
6. describe the roles for helping professionals and psychopharmacology and identify issues and shared rewards regarding interdisciplinary collaboration between helping professionals and prescribing providers.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted