Course Information

Course Name: Neuropsychopharmacology and Biologically Based Treatments
Course ID: NUR 554
Semester: Summer, 2020
Mode: Online

Instructor Information

Name: Karen G. Pounds PhD, PMHCNS, BC
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Phone: NA
Office Hours: online by appointment

Course Description

Official course descriptions for courses are available in the online catalog.
Prerequisite:
NUR 550, NUR 553
Course Credits: Three (3)
Required Texts:


Required Materials:
Other readings will be posted on Blackboard

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:
- Explore neurophysiological, genetics and environmental theories as the basis for biological treatment modalities.
- Analyze the legal and ethical issues of prescribing psychotropic medications and other biological treatment modalities.
- Describe indications, actions, potential benefits and risks and adverse effects of various biological interventions.
- Utilize clinical guidelines and evidence-based research to guide decision-making.
- Choose established outcomes to evaluate the efficacy of biological treatments.

Communication Plan

Expectations for Electronic Communication
Please use email *ONLY* when the subject is of a personal and confidential matter. If the question you ask is of a nature that even one other person in the course could benefit from the answer, post the question in the appropriate discussion board forum.

I check my email daily. You can expect a reply from me via email within 24 hours during the workweek.
Time Considerations
Students should be prepared to spend a minimum of 3 hours a week on reading and on course assignments. While you may feel that I’m displaying a lot of information to you on a weekly basis remember that in a traditional “live” course you would be coming to class for 3 hours and then spending an additional 3-6 hours (at least) outside of class on assignments and reading. In our online course environment, my expectation is that you will be spending those 3 “class hours” on your own, working on the concepts that you would usually get in a live lecture. Please be sure to budget your time accordingly!

Substantive participation in online discussions should:
- Add value to the discussion and avoid simply repeating, agreeing with, or answering yes or no to peer’s comments
- Challenge comments in class, including those of the facilitator
- Ask insightful questions
- Answer other people’s questions
- Exemplify the point with real-life events, when possible
- Make comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives

Things to keep in mind as you write discussion posts and communicate with other students:
- Share an experience related to the discussion. Comment on other participants’ experiences that relate to the course.
- Ask others questions about their ideas and experiences that are related to the course
- Challenge a point that another participant made in a respectful manner. Offer a different perspective on an idea that is being discussed
- Give insights gained from assigned readings for the week. If you need more information, ask the participants a question about the week’s reading
- Discuss a work issue that is related to the course or discussion and ask for feedback
- Relate how you have applied what you have read, learned or discussed regarding the course to your personal and professional life.
- Share another resource such as Web links, books, etc. that you have used to answer other participants’ questions or as you explore the topics of the course (as it is a violation of copyright law to copy the actual page)

Methods of Instruction

Final Grade Breakdown:

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<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Weight Toward Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (3 at 10% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions (4 at 10% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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Explanation of Final Grade Components:
Quizzes
There are three 20-item quizzes in the course, each worth 10% of your grade. Multiple choice and case studies may be used. During weeks in which there is a quiz, the quiz will be available between Friday at 6AM until Saturday 6PM of that week. Please see the course calendar for the quiz dates.

Quizzes will be given on Blackboard. Quizzes are open book and open notes but must be an individual effort. Anything else is considered academic dishonesty. Quizzes are timed (30 minutes). A study guide is not provided for the quizzes.
Discussion Board
There are four class discussions worth 10 points each. The discussion may be a series of questions and/or a case study. This is an individual effort. The discussion assignment will be posted with the corresponding course module. Please post your thoughtfully crafted answers on the main discussion board in the appropriate forum. Each discussion will be graded using the rubric posted below.

You are expected to post three times per discussion. All posts must be substantial and supported by your text and/or other professional sources.

Discussion format should include:
1. Posting a thoughtful content-related question and/or response and participating in a follow-up conversation. Active participation is vital. You must post at least three times per discussion.
2. If peers and/or faculty ask you a question, you must respond to the question within the allotted time frame.
3. Responding to a classmate’s posting in a substantive manner.
4. Substantive participation should:
   a. add value to the discussion
   b. avoid simply repeating, agreeing with, or answering yes/no to peer’s comments
   c. ask insightful questions
   d. answer other people’s questions
   e. make comments that are relevant to the course content and objectives
   f. give insight gained from readings
   g. Proper on-line etiquette and respectful, professional communication in postings

Discussion posts should be written using APA format and include appropriate citations (APA Manual, 6th edition).

Final Exam
The final exam is a 50-item exam worth 40% of your grade. The majority of the questions on the final are multiple choice. The final is open book and open notes but must be an individual effort. Anything else is considered academic dishonesty. The final is timed (60 minutes). Please refer to the course calendar for the date/time of the exam.

If you are unable to take the exam during the scheduled time, you must contact faculty via email at least 24 hours in advance of the start of the exam. It is likely that you will have to take an incomplete for the course until all work is completed. Please refer to the “incomplete policy” below. Failure to contact faculty in advance will result in a 0 for the exam.

An alternate exam date is at the discretion of faculty and will be granted only for extenuating circumstances. Vacation and work schedules are not extenuating circumstances. Please note that an alternate exam may be in a completely different format.

Late Assignments:
Discussions: Late discussion posts are subject to a 3% deduction per day late. This includes weekends. Discussion posts are not accepted after seven (7) calendar days.
Quizzes and Cumulative Exam: If you are unable to take a quiz/exam during the scheduled time you must contact faculty via email at least 24 hours in advance of the start of the quiz to request an alternate time. Extensions are at the discretion of faculty and may be granted only for extenuating circumstances. Vacation and work schedule are not extenuating circumstances. If you do not contact faculty in advance, you will receive a zero on the quiz/exam. Make up quizzes/exam may be in an entirely different format (for example, short answer, essay).

Center for Access and Success
In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester and provide the appropriate
paperwork from the [Center for Access and Success](#). The necessary paperwork is obtained when you bring proper documentation to the Center.

### University Academic Policies
These policies are also available in the student handbook on the University website - [umassd.edu](http://www.umassd.edu).

- Information on Incompletes
- Student Behavior
- Student Academic Integrity
- Definition of Credit Hour
- Course Withdrawal
- Grade Appeal
- Attendance Policy
- Academic Calendar
- Title IX and Sexual Assault/Harassment

### Academic and Technical Support

**Tutoring**
If you have difficulty with the coursework, please reach out to me or contact the [Academic Resource Center](#).

**Technical Help**
- 24/7 email, live chat, and phone support for myCourses is available at the [myCourses support portal](#).
- Do you need help with other UMass Dartmouth technologies? [Please contact CITS](#).

### Course Schedule

<table>
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<th>Unit Start/End Dates</th>
<th>Unit Topic</th>
<th>Student Responsibilities</th>
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| **Week 1** (6/9 – 6/13/20) | -Introduction to Course  
-Principles of Prescribing  
-Biological basis of psychiatric illness and psychopharmacology | **Reading:** Stahl Chapters 1 – 3;  
Higgins & George Chpts 2, 6-9  
**Activity:** Introductory discussion: class introductions. DUE: 6/11 at 6PM (Ungraded)  
**Assessment:** Quiz 1: covers this week’s content. Available from 6/12 6:00 AM – 6/13 6:00 PM |
| **Week 2** (06/14/20 – 06/18/20) | Biopsychopharm - Management of Psychosis and Anxiety Disorders | **Reading:** Higgins & George Chpt 23;  
Stahl chpt 4, 5, 9  
**Activity:** Discussion 1: DUE: 6/17 at 6PM  
**Assessment:** Quiz 2: Covers this week’s content. Available from 6/17 6:00AM – 6/18 6:00 PM |
| **Week 3** (06/19/20 – 06/23/20) | Biopsychopharm - Management of Mood disorders and Substance abuse Legal considerations | **Reading:** Stahl Chpts 6, 7, 8, 14  
Higgins & George Chpt 21  
**Activity:** Discussion 2: DUE at 6:00 PM on 6/23 |
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| **Week 4** (06/24/20 – 06/28/20) | Pediatric Psychopharmacology  
Biopsychopharm and management of Disorders of Cognition and Insomnia | **Assessment:** Quiz 3: Covers this week’s content. Opens at 6:00 AM 6/22 – 6/23 at 6:00 PM  
**Reading:** see external readings for pedi psychopharm; Higgins & George Chpt 24; Stahl 12, 13  
**Activity:** Discussion 3: DUE: 06/27 at 6:00PM  
**Assessment:** |
| **Week 5** (06/29– 07/07/20) | TMS  
ECT  
Cultural Considerations  
Into the Future | **Activity:** Discussion 4: DUE 7/6 at 6:00 PM  
**Assessment:** Cumulative Exam; 7/7 at 6:00 Am – July 8 at 6PM |