

Course discipline/number/title: HS 1740: Pharmacology of Addiction

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 2
2. Hours/Week: 2
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): ENGL 1117
4. Other requirements: None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): NA

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides students with an introduction to psycho-pharmacological aspects of addiction by evaluating prime effects and side-effects of mood-altering drugs. This course will discuss drug categories, routes of administration, incidence, prevalence, mechanisms of actions, and treatment approaches. Physical, social, and psychological effects of drugs are also addressed.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): February, 2025

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Ethical and legal standards
 - a) Federal and state laws
 - b) New drug development
2. History, prevalence, incidences, and effects of psychoactive substances
 - a) Cocaine, amphetamine, stimulants
 - b) Nicotine, caffeine, alcohol, and marijuana
 - c) Opiates, hallucinogens, tranquilizers, hypnotic, anxiolytic, and antidepressants
 - d) Steroids, supplements, herbal meds, prescription, and over-the-counter
3. How drugs work and act in the body/brain
 - a) Neurons and neurotransmission
 - b) Brain structures and their functions
 - c) Administration, absorption, distribution, and elimination
 - d) Dose-effects response relationship, drug safety and effectiveness, and drug interactions
 - e) Psychological, social, behavioral, and physical effects
4. Treatment options in patient care
 - a) Characteristics of users
 - b) Special populations
 - c) Prevention, medication, self-help, and traditional models

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Recall ethical and legal standards influencing drug use / abuse.
2. Explain the history and intended purpose of a psychoactive substance.
3. Describe the administration, absorption, distribution, and elimination process of a drug.
4. Summarize how drugs work in the body.
5. Discuss prime and side effects of a drug.
6. Identify drug prevalence, incidents, and drug classification systems.
7. Describe drug safety, effectiveness, dose responses, and drug half-life.
8. Distinguish categories of psychoactive drugs on the brain.
9. Differentiate tolerance, physical dependence, and psychological dependence.
10. Identify which medications are used for which psychological disorders.

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): NA

G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Methods may include but are not limited to:

1. Papers
2. Quizzes

- G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Methods may include but are not limited to:
Continued. . .
3. Discussions
4. Presentations
5. Performance Based Projects
- H. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S). This course contributes to meeting the following RCTC Core Outcome(s):
Communication. Students will communicate appropriately for their respective audiences.
- I. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None