



**PSY 507 Pharmacotherapy
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I TEN 2024
Web-Based
06/03/24 through 08/8/24**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kendra Saunders

Office Location: Virtual

Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: kendra.saunders@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays, in which case communication will occur the next day the university is open. I always try responds rapidly, if you have not heard back after 24 hours, feel free to send another email.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Stahl, S. (2021). *Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications 5th Edition*. Cambridge University Press; 5th edition. ISBN: 978-1108971638

Preston, J., Moore, B. A., & Johnson, J. (2019). *Clinical Psychopharmacology Made Ridiculously Simple: An Incredibly Easy Way to Learn for Physicians, Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, PAs, Psychologists, And Social Workers* (MedMaster Medical Books) 9th Edition. ISBN: 978-1935660408

Pliszka, S. R. (2016). *Neuroscience for the Mental Health Clinician*, Second Edition. The Guilford Press. ISBN: 978-1462527113

Preston, J. D., O'Neal, J. H., Talaga, M. C. & Moore, B. A. (2021). *Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychopharmacology Made Simple*. New Harbinger Publications; Fourth edition. ISBN: 978-1684035120

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

Pharmaco-therapy. Three semester hours This course provides an examination of psychoactive medications and their use in the treatment of mental and behavioral disorders. The efficacy and safety of medications will be discussed. The course presents basic principles of pharmaco-therapy that are the rationales behind the pharmacological treatment of psychological disorders. Applied components will relate to the aspects of the course material to mental health service delivery. The class also examines the historical psychopharmacological perspective, basic pharmacology underlying the use of medication, and recent research in the field. Prerequisite: Admission to a Psychology Graduate program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Student will learn basic neuroscience relevant to psychopharmacology.
- Students will understand how to think about pharmaco-therapy as a treatment intervention.
- Students will demonstrate ability to identify appropriate psychopharmacological interventions in treatment planning
- Identify basic pharmacological principles and convey understanding in a research paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Students will the ability to use word processing programs to complete course successfully.

Instructional Methods:

This is an online-only course, which is highly dependent on you remaining vigilant in the completion of your work. You will work with classmates on group projects, and individually on quizzes/research paper.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Sign-in to D2L regularly.
2. Read the textbooks.
3. Complete assignments thoroughly and on time.
4. Actively participate in group projects.
5. Take notes.
6. Ask for assistance...

GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

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C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = > 59

Important Note:

Once you open the exams or the quizzes you cannot close them and re-enter. You must complete them in the allotted time. There are no exceptions. If you have an emergency (the determination of which is in my discretion) you must email me immediately, stating you are in Psychopharmacology, and the nature of the emergency and I will respond to your email.

Quizzes 1-6 = 30% of your grade

Quizzes: There are six (6) quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 25 questions and is worth 4 points for a total of 100 points per quiz. The quizzes will be true/false and multiple choice. You will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz. Each quiz is worth 5% of your grade.

Group Projects 1-4 = 40% of your grade

Group Projects: *Group Projects (There are 4 Group Projects, each worth 10% of your grade for a Total of 40% of your grade)*

Group projects will be an integral portion of this class. During 4 weeks of this course, you will be randomly assigned groupmates to work together on discussing a case study. You will summarize the case and present a pharmaco-therapeutic treatment plan for the patient identified in the case study. All papers will be processed through TurnItIn.

This variation in group distribution will cultivate group dynamics and assist in clinical micro skills acquisition in addition to mimicking real life clinical experiences working with other clinicians. Your group assignments will be due by 11:59PM on each Sunday (of the weeks it is due), so use your group time wisely. Each group paper will be 3-4 pages in APA format with references. Each member of the group will receive the same grade and only one member of the group needs to submit the group paper into the assignment link in D2L. If there are concerns among the group they should be communicated by e-mail to the professor, only after the group has done everything possible to resolve any group conflicts or concerns.

Research Paper (30% of grade): Using the structure in Appendix A, complete a research paper covering a drug of your choice using your textbooks and at least 4 primary sources. You may select your drug from the content we discuss, or from another source with permission from the instructor. Research paper must follow American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines (see Appendix A) and should be 4-6 pages (not including cover and reference page; no abstract is necessary). You will be graded according to APA style, writing and organization, content, and references (rubric is in Appendix B). Primary source is defined as a peer reviewed journal article or book. This paper must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. All papers will be processed through TurnItIn.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
 Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
 Fax (903) 468-8148
 Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

AI Use in Course

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Read	Assignment
Week 1 (6/3-6/9)	Introduction to Syllabus and Introduction to Personality Assessment	Review Course and Syllabus Carefully	
Week 2 (6/10-6/16)	Neuroscience	Pliszka, Chapters 1-4 Stahl, Chapters 1-3 Pliszka, Chapters 6-8	Group Project 1
Week 3 (6/17-6/23)	Depression	Child and Adolescent, Chapters 1 and 2	Quiz 1

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		Preston & Johnson, Chapter 2	
Week 4 (6/24-6/30)	Mood Disorders and Bipolar	Child and Adolescent, Chapter 3 Preston & Johnson, Chapter 3 Stahl, Chapters 5-7	Group Project 2 Quiz 2
Week 5 (7/1-7/7)	Anxiety Disorders	Child and Adolescent, Chapter 4 Preston & Johnson, Chapter 4 Stahl, Chapter 8 Pliszka, Chapter 11	Group Project 3 Quiz 3
Week 6 (7/8-7/14)	Psychosis, Schizophrenia, and Others	Stahl, Chapter 4 Child and Adolescent, Chapters 5 and 9 Preston & Johnson, Chapter 6 Pliszka, Chapter 12	Quiz 4 Research Paper
Week 7 (7/15-7/21)	Attention- Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	Stahl, Chapter 11 Pliszka, Chapters 7 and 9 Child and Adolescent, Chapter 6	Quiz 5
Week 8 (7/22-7/28)	Impulsivity and Addiction	Stahl, Chapter 13 Pliszka, Chapter 10	Quiz 6 Group Project 4
Week 9 (7/29-8/4)	Autism Spectrum	Child and Adolescent, Chapter 7 Pliszka, Chapter 13	

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Appendix A: Research Paper

Students are required to submit a 4–6-page research paper (not including title and reference pages) about a psychiatric drug (e.g., Adderall, Zoloft, Prozac, Ativan, Wellbutrin, etc.). This paper must be submitted according to APA 7th edition style and formatting and will have a minimum of four (4) references *in addition* to any textbooks that you use for your paper.

Here is an outline for this paper:

Title Page (Name, Course Information, University)

Introduction to the Drug

History of the Drug

Clinical Use of the Drug

Diagnosis

Dosage

Administration

Physical/Behavioral Effects of the Drug

Pharmacokinetics and/or Pharmacodynamics

Tolerance, Dependence, Addiction Risks, and Withdrawal Aspects

Critiques and Concerns with the Medication

Benefits of the Medication

Importance of the Medication to Psychological/Counseling Professionals

Conclusion

References

Appendix B: Research Paper Rubric

Research Paper Rubric

	1 – Does Not Meet Expectations	2- Meets Expectations	3 – Exceeds Expectations
History, clinical use, behavioral effects, pharmacokinetics/ pharmacodynamics, tolerance/ dependance/ withdrawal. (45 points)	Did not explore all topics. Writing is shallow and lacks in-depth exploration of medication. Not representative of graduate level work	Discussed all topics at basic level, evidence of possessing knowledge about the medication, but missing one or two key points; representative of graduate level work	In-depth discussion of all topics; synthesis across sources; representative of graduate level work
Critique, benefits, importance to counselor/psychologist, and conclusion (45 points)	Did not address several topics. Writing is shallow and lacks in-depth exploration. No evidence of synthetization across multiple sources; did not write conclusion; not representative of graduate level work	Discussed all topics at basic level, evidence of possessing knowledge about the benefits, but missing one or two key points; conclusion present; representative of graduate level work	In-depth discussion of critique, benefits, and importance for clinicians; conclusion ties paper together; representative of graduate level work
APA 7th Edition Style and Formatting References (10 points)	Did not follow APA format in cover page, body of the paper and the reference page. Did not use four primary sources plus textbook. Sources are not related to the topic of paper	APA format was followed with one or two minor errors. Mostly original sources were used. Sources are related to the selected theories	APA format was followed with no errors on cover page, in body of the paper or reference page. All four original sources were used