

**Clinical Psychopharmacology- NRSC 4482**  
**Spring 2022**

Instructor: Samantha Fortin, PhD

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Meeting times: TR 12:00-1:29-4p

Room: TBD

Office hours: ad hoc

**Course Description**

Clinical psychopharmacology explores the action of drugs on the brain and the resulting changes in human physiology and behavior. During the semester we will use primary literature critiques, classroom discussions and individual presentations to examine the history, rationale, pharmacology, putative mechanism of action and effects of drugs that act on the brain. Students will gain a bench to bedside understanding of the treatment of psychiatric disorders and how drugs are used as probes to help researchers identify the neural substrates of behavior.

**Required Text**

There is no standard text. This course will utilize primary research articles and review articles that will be made available.

**Grading Policy**

Your grade will be based out of 100 points= 100%:

2 exams, each worth 15 points = 30 points

7 quizzes based on assigned primary literature readings, each worth 3 points= 21 points

One drug commercial = 15 points

One paper presentation = 15 points

One media assignment= 10 points

Participation = 9 points

There will be no extra credit opportunities. Quizzes and exams will be multiple choice, fill-in the blank and short-answer. The midterm and final exams are not cumulative. 10 pts/day will be deducted for late drug commercials and media assignments. Paper presentations can not be made up.

**Grading Scale**

93-100% A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

67-69 D+

63-66 D

60-62 D-

<60 F

## Academic Accommodations

I am committed to partnering with you on your academic and intellectual journey. I also recognize that your ability to thrive academically can be impacted by your personal well-being and that stressors may impact you over the course of the semester. If the stressors are academic, I welcome the opportunity to discuss and address those stressors with you in order to find solutions together. If you are experiencing challenges or questions related to emotional health, finances, physical health, relationships, learning strategies or differences, or other potential stressors, I hope you will consider reaching out to the many resources available on campus. Additionally, Penn is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body and providing equal access to students with a disability. If you have (or think you have) a learning difference or disability – including mental health, medical, or physical impairment – please contact the Student Disability Services office.

## Etiquette

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to uphold the University of Pennsylvania's Code of Academic Integrity (<https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity>). Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaborating, lying and stealing will not be tolerated.

**Inclusive climate:** We should all be working to provide an environment where everyone feels safe and welcome. This class will cover topics which may be uncomfortable to some given the diversity of our individual beliefs, backgrounds and personal experiences. I encourage you all to contribute to the in-class discussions and learn from each others' perspectives. Respect is mandatory.

**Attendance:** I expect that you listen to posted materials and actively participate in the discussion board. Lectures will cover material beyond what is explicitly presented in posted slides and you will be tested on this material.

**Communication:** All communication should be done professionally via email. Please check your email account regularly. Expect email responses from me at my earliest convenience and no later than the following business day (M-F, 9am-5pm).

**Semester Schedule-** The following is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

**(\\$)- Drug commercial due via email (5pm EST)**

**(\*) – Media Assignment due via email (5pm EST)**

Week 1	18-Jan	Intro and Refresher
Week 2	23-Jan	Intro and Refresher
	25-Jan	From Bench
Week 3	30-Jan	To Bedside
	1-Feb	Sex differences in Psychopharmacology
Week 4	6-Jan	Special Populations in Psychopharmacology
	8-Jan	Precision Medicine
Week 5	13-Jan	Non-pharmacological Approaches to Treating Psychiatric Disorders
	15-Jan	<b>Exam 1</b>
Week 6	20-Jan	The Placebo Effect and Nootropics ( <b>\\$</b> )
	22-Jan	<a href="#">Ethnopharmacology Commercial Viewing</a>
Week 7	27-Jan	Peptides and Hormones as Pharmacotherapies
	29-Jan	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 8	5-Mar	<b>No Class</b>
	7-Mar	<b>No Class</b>
Week 9	12-Mar	Pain and Nausea Medications as Pharmacotherapies
	14-Mar	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 10	19-Mar	Antipsychotics and Mood Stabilizers as Pharmacotherapies
	21-Mar	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 11	26-Mar	Antidepressants as Pharmacotherapies
	28-Mar	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 12	2-Apr	Anxiolytics and Hypnotics as Pharmacotherapies
	4-Apr	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 13	9-Apr	Psychopharmacology of Abused Drugs
	11-Apr	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 14	16-Apr	Treatments for Substance Abuse Disorders
	18-Apr	<b>Quiz and paper presentation</b>
Week 15	23-Apr	Illicit Drugs as Pharmacotherapies
	25-Apr	<a href="#">In-class Viewing and Conversation</a>
Week 16	30-Apr	Ethical and Legal Issues in Psychopharmacology ( <b>\\$</b> )
Finals	TBD	<b>Exam 2</b>