Molloy College  
Division of Social Sciences  
Department of Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  

COURSE SYLLABUS  
MHC 5460: PSYCHOpharmacology FOR THE  
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR  
SEMESTER

Instructor:  
Office:  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Office Hours:  
Class Room:  
Class Dates:  
Class Times:  
Website:

Note: The Instructor will add the above information each semester.

Catalog Description, Credit Hours and Prerequisites of Course:
The course will provide students with an introduction to psychopharmacology, summarizing the basic concepts of the functions of the organs and systems of the human body and brain. This course will provide students with the knowledge necessary to identify and assess the actions, effects, uses and abuses of legal and illegal drugs. (3) This course is an elective.

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing and Permission of the Instructor.

Required Texts:
Specific textbook(s) will be selected by the course instructor.

Supplementary Readings:  
You will be responsible for any additional notes, articles, or book chapters that are assigned as additional readings.
Course Objectives:

A. Demonstrate knowledge and skills concerning the role of psychopharmacology in assessment, treatment, and outcome aspects of clinical mental health counseling.
B. Demonstrate knowledge in understanding basic classifications of commonly prescribed psychotropic medications.
C. Demonstrate knowledge in identifying effective doses, side effects, indications and contraindications of psychopharmacological medications.
D. Demonstrate knowledge in the application of psychopharmacology to clinical case studies.
E. Demonstrate knowledge and skills of strategies and interventions for working with diverse populations.

Course Outline:

I. Introduction to Psychopharmacology
   A. Psychopharmacology and Counseling
   B. History of Psychopharmacology
   C. Legal and Ethical Concerns
   D. The role of the counselor and psychopharmacology

II. Basic Neurobiology
   A. Neurons and Neural Communication
   B. Chemical Properties of Neural Transmission
   C. Neurotransmitters of Emotion and Behavior

III. Psychopharmacology and Pharmacokinetics
   A. Routes of Drug Administration
   B. Drug Absorption, Distribution, and Metabolism
   C. Basic Psychokinetic Principles
   D. Prescription and Pharmacy Terms

IV. Treatment and Psycho-education of Common Mental Health Conditions
   A. Unipolar and Bipolar Depression
   B. Anxiety Disorders
   C. Psychotic Disorders
   D. Disorders of Attention
   E. Personality Disorders

V. Community
   A. Consultation
   B. Psycho-education

VI. Current Research
   A. Intervention
   B. Treatment

Course Schedule
Note: The specific course schedule will be added each semester by the instructor.
Methods of instruction
The instructor will utilize a combination of:
A. Classroom lectures and discussions
B. Classroom experiential exercises
C. Web-assisted instructions and tests/exams

Grading:
Grades will be assigned on the basis of:
A. Written examinations (40%)
B. Write up of treatment plans from mock case studies (30%)
C. Presentation of Case Studies (30%)

Grading Policy

The following grading system is used in the Graduate Programs at Molloy College:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Point Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0–100 Superior</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0–92.9 Excellent</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.0–89.9 Very Good</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0–86.9 Good</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0–82.9 Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.0–79.9 Not accepted for credit toward degree requirements.</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73.0–76.9 Not accepted for credit toward degree requirements.</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to Molloy College Graduate Course Catalogue for further grading details.

Reading Assignments:
Lectures and supplementary material will be posted online. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings and assignments before class meetings.

Examinations:
There will be written exams to evaluate the student’s grasp of the material. Exams will be based on required readings from books, articles, and lecture materials. All exams will be announced; therefore it will be the student’s responsibility to be present. Makeup exams, including their content and style, will be at the discretion of the professor.

Written Treatment Plans of Case Studies:
Students will be presented a series of mock case studies by the instructor depicting the common client diagnoses encountered in clinical mental health settings. These diagnoses may include: anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, attention deficit-hyperactivity
disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and phobias, etc. Students will develop a treatment plan for each case study, including the psychopharmacological implications (e.g., specific medications, dosages, side-effects), and adjustments in psychopharmacological treatment should they be warranted. Further instructions will be given in class.

Class Presentation of Research Paper:
Students will be expected to present their case studies to the class. Further instructions will be given in class.

**Note:** Course assignments and the exact final letter grade are at the discretion of the instructor. Each instructor will include assignment information and grading procedure in this section in the specific course syllabus handed out at the beginning of each semester.

**Course Expectations**

**Academic Honesty**
The college maintains and affirms a strong policy of academic honesty. Academic integrity is the responsibility of the entire Molloy College community. Members of the academic community have a duty neither to cheat nor condone cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitation of academic dishonesty. Academic infractions are subject to disciplinary action as described in the Student Handbook.

**Academic Writing**
Students are expected to write in a professional and clear manner. Some assignments must be written in accordance with the APA Publication Manual (6th edition). Specific APA requirements will be outlined within each assignment. Please refer to the APA Publication Manual for additional information regarding writing in APA style. Students may also seek writing support at the Molloy College Writing Center.

**Attendance**
As stated in the college catalogue, “students are expected to attend classes regularly and punctually.” It is the accepted practice at Molloy College that faculty take attendance in all courses. Students should notify faculty if an absence if necessary as the result of a serious situation. Failure to attend class for two (2) consecutive weeks at any point in the semester, without notification of extenuating circumstances, will result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. Administrative withdrawal results in removal from the course with a grade of "WA" or "WF" determined by the point in the term and the academic performance. Students should consult the College catalog for complete details regarding withdrawals and the potential financial implications of a withdrawal.

**Civility, Respect, and Sensitivity in the Classroom**
We will be dealing with a number of sensitive issues in this class. All of us are responsible for creating an environment in which we feel comfortable and respected, and one to which we can all contribute. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance when
dealing with sensitive matters. It is essential that all of us are respectful of each other, even when we disagree, so that a healthy discourse can unfold. Molloy College strives to offer learning experiences and opportunities designed to help students think effectively, develop the capacity to communicate, and differentiate values. To do this successfully, many times multiple perspectives will be presented; some of which may represent points of view on which everyone will not agree. We need to foster a safe educational experience in which there is a shared sense of respect among and between the students, the instructor and various points of view. Further, it is to be expected that the instructor will treat all students with dignity and respect – it is also expected that the students will treat both the instructor and other students with this same respect. In order to facilitate this process more effectively, students are asked to do the following: 1) turn off all cell phones before class; 2) refrain from text messaging during class; 3) avoid distracting behavior (e.g., popping gum, noisy eating, excessively pungent foods); 4) minimize side conversations, and; 5) maintain respectful interactions. Finally, personal harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

Communicating across the Curriculum Requirement
This requirement is met as the course encompasses all areas of the language arts through the achievement of its objectives, both stated and implied. The course engages students to read, write, listen, and speak through opportunities embedded in various class assignments. See “Grading” section for specific breakdown for this course.

Counselor Dispositions
The counselor dispositions are assessed and guided by the counselor education framework. Students in the MS in CMHC program at Molloy College are assessed by following the beliefs and attitudes related to the areas of competence, reflection and caring. As students progress through the program they will be assessed on the major areas in counselor education stemming from these core principles. All students are expected to exhibit the professional dispositions outlined by the ACA Code of Ethics (2014). This includes, but is not limited to, being in class on time, accepting feedback, conducting oneself professionally and ethically, and maintaining confidentiality. Students who do not uphold these dispositions will lose points for this course and will be encouraged to meet with their instructor and program director. See Student Handbook for further details.

Late Assignments
Assignment due dates are clearly indicated in this syllabus. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Failure to submit assignments by their due date may result in a significant point deductions or a failing grade for the assignment. If extenuating circumstances arise, be sure to speak to the instructor as soon as possible and before the due date of the assignment.

Students with Disabilities Statement
If a student has a special need addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) please notify the instructor at the beginning of the course. You must register as a student with a disability in the Office of Disability Support Services. It is located in the Casey Building, Room 011. This should be done as early as possible in the semester so that
appropriate accommodations may be implemented as soon as possible. Contact: Cari Rose-Tomo, MS, Coordinator, phone: 516.323.3315 and email: crosetomo@molloy.edu or dss@molloy.edu. Please note, no accommodations can be provided without coordination and documentation from the Office of Disability Support Services.

Technology
Technology is ubiquitous within education. Throughout the semester, technology is likely to be used within and outside of the classroom. However, the use of technology for purposes other than explicit course content during class time is strictly prohibited. This can include but is not limited to using cellphones, tablets, or computers and laptops.

**MHC 546 - Homework Assignments and Related Instructional Activities:**
The requirements of this course include participation in classroom activities, as well as reading to prepare for class discussions, research, and out of class activities. Please note, these are estimates and some students may require more time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Estimated Time (minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Read assigned material to prepare for class lectures</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Study and prepare for exams</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Activities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment Plan Write-ups</td>
<td>Students will learn the proper format to write-up a treatment plan based on several case histories provided by the instructor; write up of treatment plans</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation of Case Studies</td>
<td>Students will prepare and practice how to present a case history to the class</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>TOPIC</td>
<td>ASSIGNMENTS DUE*</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; syllabus review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 2</td>
<td>History of psychopharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Legal and ethical concerns in psychopharmacology and counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>The role of the counselor and psychopharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 5</td>
<td>Introduction to neurobiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Understanding chemical properties in neural transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 7</td>
<td>Neurobiology, emotion, and behaviors</td>
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<td>Class 8</td>
<td>Mid-semester exam/project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 9</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology and pharmacokinetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 10</td>
<td>Terminology in psychopharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 11</td>
<td>Unipolar and bipolar depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 12</td>
<td>Anxiety disorders and trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 13</td>
<td>Psychotic disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 14</td>
<td>Disruptive and behavioral disorders; personality disorders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 15</td>
<td>Final exam/project</td>
<td></td>
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*In addition to the readings herein, please refer to CANVAS for additional and supplementary readings and content.