N529 Psychopharmacotherapeutics Across the Lifespan
Credits: 3 (lecture)
Semester Offered: Summer
Pre-requisites: N517

Course Description: In this course students will learn psychopharmacotherapeutic interventions for managing mental health problems and psychiatric disorders across the life span.

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss pharmacokinetics and physiological factors that alter/predict drug actions in individuals.
2. Demonstrate skills consistent with advanced practice roles when managing pharmacological interventions for mental health problems or psychiatric disorders.
3. Discuss commonly encountered adverse drug reactions and their appropriate management for individuals with mental health problems or psychiatric disorders.
4. Discuss potential interactions of psychiatric medications with other commonly prescribed medications, commonly used complementary alternative medicine (CAM), and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs used by individuals with mental health problems or psychiatric disorders.
5. Apply legal and ethical principles inherent in the pharmacological interventions with individuals with mental health problems or psychiatric disorders.
6. Apply principles of client education and health promotion regarding pharmacotherapy for individuals with mental health problems or psychiatric disorders.

Suggested Course Content:

1. Special pharmacologic considerations for pediatric, pregnant, elderly and patients with co-morbid medical conditions
2. Antidepressant drugs
3. Anti-anxiety
4. Mood stabilizing drugs
5. Antipsychotic drugs
6. Cognitive enhancing drugs
7. Stimulants
8. Sedative-hypnotic and sleep drugs
9. Addiction treatment
10. Complementary and alternative pharmacological treatments

Examples of learning activities:
- Clinical work with preceptors in the prescription and management of medications
- Lecture
- Readings
• Discussion
• Written exams
• Written, self-reflective activities
• Case studies
• Case presentations and analysis

Approved by GAAC: April, 2008
Approved by Faculty: August, 2008