

Psychopharmacology & Geriatrics

<p>Instructor: Dr. Bita Sharifzadeh, OPQ # 10884-07</p> <p>Email: info.elite@dbn.life</p>	<p>Class Instruction:</p> <p>Online at the student's own pace.</p> <p>Students can expect to devote 2 hours of personal time (e.g. course readings, exam prep, research) for every 1 hour of in-class work.</p>
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Important Notes:

Please verify that the course satisfies the requirements that you require to receive your psychotherapy permit.

Course Description

The Psychopharmacology and Geriatrics course (15 hours or 1 credit) is designed for students wishing to gain an in-depth knowledge of a variety of mental health disorders and the use of psychotropic medication in their treatment, specifically as it pertains to the elderly population. Students will become acquainted with the primary symptoms that encompass several disorders frequently seen in geriatric clients, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, delirium, dementia, schizophrenia and substance-use disorders. Etiologies and risk factors will be discussed as well as the differential diagnoses that one must be aware of when assessing an elderly client. Finally, students will learn the primary psychotropic medications used in the treatment of these disorders and possible side effects that mental health clinicians must be aware of when working with elderly clients.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

1. Identify the mental health disorders commonly observed in geriatric clients, such as delirium, dementia, schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and substance use disorders.
2. Define the circumstances and considerations unique to the treatment of mental health in the elderly population.
3. Identify the primary psychotropic medications used to treat mental health disorders in the elderly population.

Course Format:

The course lecture will be available online [DBN Elite](#). Students will be assessed twice throughout the course. They will be asked to complete a case study assignment and complete a final exam.

Course Evaluation

The course is pass/fail, no numeric grade will be provided, however, a passing grade is 75%.

-Assignment (60%): You will be asked to submit a case study assignment after the completion of the lecture. Assignment instructions and rubric will be posted on the DBN Elite website.

The assignment will consist of 3 clinical cases for which you have to demonstrate your knowledge. Your response to each case should be 500 words and should draw upon the material presented in the lecture and the required readings.

Each response should be structured in the following manner:

- Briefly introduce the case
- Provide a diagnosis supported by an analysis of the client's presentation. Include any differential diagnoses as well
- A treatment plan, with mention of the possible risks associated with the psychotropic medication(s) you suggest

****Note** that for each case, you will be provided with questions that should be answered in your responses. This information will be available to you as you are completing the assignment.

Other guidelines to follow:

- Use the required textbooks to support your analysis. Quotes are not required, however, you should summarize and apply key concepts
- You will not be required to use additional resources, however, any reference made to the textbook should be cited in accordance with APA standards

-Final Exam (40%): The course evaluation will be a cumulative exam that consists of 35 multiple-choice and true or false questions designed to assess your knowledge of

psychopharmacology. The final exam will be available to you once you have completed the lecture. A passing grade is 75% or 27 correct questions.

Course Schedule

<i>Topics Covered</i>	<i>Required Reading(s)</i>
Physiological changes in the elderly and pharmacology	Blazer et al.: pages 17-82
Delirium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 83-98 American Psychiatric Association: pages 596-601
Dementia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 99-123 American Psychiatric Association: pages 591-643
Schizophrenia and paranoid disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 159-173 American Psychiatric Association: pages 87-122
Mood disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 175-192 American Psychiatric Association: pages 189-233
Anxiety disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 211-234 American Psychiatric Association: pages 481-589 Simoni-Wastila & Yang: 380-394
Substance use disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk factors - Differential diagnosis - Treatment 	Blazer et al.: pages 193-210 American Psychiatric Association: pages 378-383, 410-413, 362-368
Sleep disorders	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Risk factors- Differential diagnosis- Treatment	
Segment 6: Pre-recorded Q&A Exercise	This exercise is to be done as in-class work and should take students up to 5 hours to complete.

Suggested Readings

American Psychiatric Association, (2017) *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders:*

DSM-5. Arlington, VA

Blazer, D.G., Thakur, M.E., Steffens, D.C., (2014) *Clinical Manual of Geriatric Psychiatry*.
Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association.

Bullock, R., Curran, S. (2018) *Practical old age psychopharmacology*. London, England: CRC
Press

Hooley, J. M., Butcher, J., Knock, M., & Mineka, S. (2016). *Abnormal psychology*. Essex,
England: Pearson Education Limited.

Simoni-Wastila, L., Yang, H.K. (2006). Psychoactive Drug Abuse in Older Adults, *The American Journal of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy*, 4, (4), pages 280-294.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjopharm.2006.10.002>

Sunderland, T., Zubenko, G.S., (2010). Geriatric Psychopharmacology: Why Does Age Matter?.
Harvard Review of Psychiatry, 7, (6), pages 311-333. DOI: 10.3109/hrp.7.6.311

Hours Breakdown

In-Class

Task	Number of Hours
Lecture Time	3 hours
Lecture Readings	11.5 hours
Final Exam	1.5 hours
TOTAL IN-CLASS TIME	15 hours

Outside of Class

Task	Number of Hours
Assignment	7 hours
Textbook Readings	13 hours
Final Exam Prep	10 hours
TOTAL OUT OF CLASS TIME	30 HOURS

TOTAL COURSE	45 HOURS
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