



C-ID Descriptor

Pharmacology of Alcohol and Other Drugs

Descriptor Details

- **Descriptor Title:** Pharmacology of Alcohol and Other Drugs
- **C-ID Number:** 140
- **Suffix:**
 - Community College Use Only (X)
- **Units:** 3.0
- **Hours:** 0000
- **Date of Last Revision:** 10/12/2017 11:44:14 PM GMT+0000

General Description

This course provides an overview of the neurochemical, physical, and mental effects of commonly used addictive substances. Emphasis is placed on the pharmacology of addictive substances, the medical consequences of use, and therapeutic approaches for managing withdrawal, overdose, and substance use disorder.

Prerequisites

No information provided

Corequisites

No information provided

Advisories

C-ID ADS 110; English, one level below transfer [i.e., eligibility for English composition (C-ID ENGL 100)] and reading (a course with an exiting skill of ability to read a college level text).

Content

1. Neurochemistry – mechanisms of drug action
2. Pharmacology of specific addictive substances
 - a. Stimulants (including cocaine and amphetamine)
 - b. Depressants (including alcohol and opiates)
 - c. Hallucinogens
 - d. Dissociatives (e.g., PCP, ketamine)
 - e. Inhalants
 - f. Anabolic steroids
3. Medical consequences of use
4. Treatment of withdrawal, overdose, and substance use disorder.

Lab Activities

No information provided

Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe neurotransmission and how specific addictive substances alter neurotransmission.
2. Explain fundamental concepts of pharmacology such as tolerance, tissue dependence, and withdrawal.
3. Identify hazards associated with specific routes of administration.
4. Describe symptoms of intoxication, overdose, and withdrawal for specific addictive substances.
5. Explain the various treatments of withdrawal, overdose, and addiction for specific addictive substances.
6. Identify chronic physical effects of addictive substances, as well as medical complications of use.
7. Describe the mechanism of action of commonly-used mental health agents such as antidepressants, mood stabilizers and antipsychotic medications.
8. Describe and evaluate current trends in the treatment of substance use disorder and addiction including addiction pharmacotherapy.

Evaluation Methods

- A. Exams
- B. Written assignments
- C. Class participation

Textbooks

“Uppers, Downers, All Arounders”, Inaba/Cohen

“A Primer of drug action”, Julian

“Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior: The Pharmacology of Drug Use Disorders”,
Brick/Erickson

“Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical
Applications”, Stahl