

Course Description

Pharmacology 626 is an introduction to principles of pharmacology and therapeutic uses of drugs. The material is presented primarily in lectures. Blackboard will be used extensively, to post PowerPoint slides, additional study materials, and announcements. We encourage any of you to contact us to discuss any questions that may arise as you read or study the course materials. You are welcome to come to our offices and laboratories, or, of course, to e-mail or telephone us. The office and phone number of each faculty member are listed on the last page, and each of us has a GroupWise e-mail account.

Time Requirements

Seventy-two hours are scheduled for presentations and examinations. Additional time outside of class will be required for reading, reviewing presented material, and other study efforts. It is difficult to estimate the number of hours required outside the classroom for each individual student to master the material, because of the wide range of studying habits and learning styles. However, mastery of pharmacology requires that one know mechanisms of action of drugs and drug names and classes, which will probably, at least initially, necessitate some degree of memorization; this means that a part of students' effort in studying involves learning the names of drugs and drug classes.

Examinations

Hourly exams. This course will have four examinations; students are permitted one hour and fifty minutes to complete each exam. Each of these exams will cover between 14 and 16 hours of lecture material, and will consist of 60-70 questions.

Final exam. The final examination will be a comprehensive exam and will consist of 70 questions; students are permitted one hour and fifty minutes to complete the final exam. The questions will be evenly spread over the entire course and reflect the general and important concepts in pharmacology and toxicology. **ANY STUDENT WHOSE AVERAGE IS 70 OR HIGHER WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE FINAL.** Any student who wishes to may take the final exam; the score on the final exam will only be counted toward the final grade if it would improve a student's grade.

Questions will generally follow National Dental Board formats.

The four hourly exams will be weighted equally, for students who take only the four. For grades that include the final exam, each of the four hourly exams will contribute 18% to the final grade, with the final exam contributing 28%.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Attendance at 80 percent of the scheduled classes is a minimum requirement; students who are absent from more than 20 percent of the scheduled classes will not receive credit for the course. For this course, students may be absent from **NO MORE THAN** twelve classes. Students who miss thirteen or more of the scheduled classes will not receive credit for the course. A student may, at the discretion of the course coordinator, be allowed to make up any course work that was missed due to absence. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the course coordinator if absence from a class is unavoidable.

General Objectives

1. Use pharmacokinetic parameters of drugs to determine appropriate doses and dose schedules.
2. Use dose-response curves to determine relative efficacies and potencies of drugs.
3. For each drug or drug class, explain the mechanism through which it exerts a therapeutic effect.
4. For each drug or drug class, identify the major side effect(s).
5. Identify the preferred agent for treating a particular medical disorder or disease;
6. Identify drugs or drug classes that have harmful interactions with a given drug.
7. Identify situations (such as specific diseases) in which a given drug is contraindicated.
8. Identify the unknown drug from a given list of drugs on the basis of information provided with a graph or diagram illustrating the physiological effects of the drug to be identified.
9. Identify the toxic compound or drug which is responsible for a single or multiple toxic sign(s) or effect(s).

Related Competencies

- 3.3 The new graduate must be able to understand the etiology of dental emergencies to prevent and manage acute dental disease.

2008 – 2009 COURSE DIRECTOR

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