**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Master’s Degree Program in Clinical Psychopharmacology**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course # & Title**: Class #23 – Day 1:

Chronic Pain, Medical Illness and Prescribing Psychologists

(1/2 day)

Drug Groups for Chronic Illnesses (1/2 day)

**Location:**  **NMSU: 1220 Stewart St, Las Cruces, NM**

**O’Donnell Hall, Rm # 027**

**Class Meeting Date**: July 23, 2016 - Saturday

**Instructor(s)**: Lia Billington, Ph.D.

Mitchell Simson, M.D.

**Required Text(s)**:

* Ferrardo et al, (2010) Review pgs. 3-39; Read pgs. 39-78; 502-525

Use rest of text as a reference

**Program Overview**: The program will begin with an orientation and overview of the didactic and practicum components required for graduation. Throughout the ten didactic courses that make up the Master’s Degree Program students will have opportunities to apply principles learned to clinical cases through experiential assignments that increase in complexity as the students’ knowledge of psychopharmacology and the biopsychosocial model becomes more sophisticated.  Some of these experiential assignments will be based upon students’ existing patient populations.  Others will involve role-playing activities in classes.  Still others will involve the observation of actual clinical protocols.  Students will be given written exercises based upon these experiences that will be compiled into a clinical notebook of clinical based studies.  These assignments will be averaged with the students’ scores on objective tests to determine their grades for each class.

**Course Description**: This course will provide an understanding of the prescribing psychologist’s role working with medical practitioners in the treatment of the chronically medically ill and/or pain patients. In order to successfully understand this topic, students will review basic principles of pharmacology.

**Objectives:**

Students will:

1. Increase their knowledge about common medical illnesses that are comorbid with mental disorders.
2. Will gain an understanding of the basic mechanisms of action of drugs used to treat major illness of the organ systems.
3. Become aware of important, dangerous drug interactions when treating chronically ill patients with psychotropics.
4. Be able to discuss the appropriate balance to reach when treating pain disorders between managing pain and minimizing addiction.
5. Gain a clearer understanding of a prescribing psychologist’s role in assisting the medically ill and pain patients.
6. Increase their understanding of somatoform disorders and how psychotropic intervention can be of assistance or can create iatrogenic effects.

**Homework:**  See Class #23 – Day 2

**Evaluation**: There will be a test (multiple choice, short answer or true/false) which will be given at the end of the weekend. Most questions will be taken from the lecture; 5 additional questions will be taken from the readings. The answers will be reviewed in class. Students’ case analyses will be graded on pass/fail with the expectation for a demonstration of a high level competence of the biopsychosocial model of care.  The grades on the standardized tests will constitute two-thirds of the grade and the grade on the case studies one-third of the grade for the weekend.

***Grading***

***Assignments Points Possible***

***Tests (5 @ 12 pts ea, 90% = 12 pts, 80% =11 pts, 70% = 10 pts) 60 pts.***

***Experiential case studies (30 pts) 30 pts.***

***Course grades-***

***70 pts total = “A” course grade***

***60 pts total = “B” course grade***

***50 pts total = “C” course grade***

***Students with Disabilities: If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Office for Services for Students with Disabilities, located at Garcia Annex (telephone: 646-6840). Appropriate accommodations may then be provided for you. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of Disabled Student Programs. If you have questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), call 646-3635.***