

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 33325
Name: Psychopharmacology
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 4.5
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1319 - Degree in Psychology	Facultat de Psicologia i Logopèdia	4	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1319 - Degree in Psychology	Psychopharmacology	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

RODRIGUEZ ARIAS MARTA

SUMMARY

The subject Psychopharmacology is compulsory. It is developed in six major areas such as history, concept and methodology of psychopharmacology, the biological bases and psychopharmacological treatment of mood and anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, cognitive disorders and attention deficit disorder, as well as substance abuse disorders.

It relates to other subjects such as "Fundamentos de Psicobiología", "Psicología Fisiológica" and "Psicoendocrinología" that provide the basis for understanding Psychopharmacology.

Finally, the three non-compulsory subjects in the field of Psychobiology also require the basic knowledge and skills developed in Psychopharmacology. In addition, during this subject, students acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful in other subjects during their Psychology degree, as it provides a psychopharmacological basis which can be useful and necessary in order to understand different aspects of treatment for mental disorders in other subjects addressed in the grade.

This subject is clearly connected to different professional fields such as clinical, evolutionary development, social intervention or research activity.



PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students must have a basic knowledge of the Biology subject of the bachelor's degree in health sciences. They also need computer skills at user level. It is also advisable to have passed the subject "Fundamentos de Psicobiología" and have basic knowledge of the subjects "Psicología Fisiológica I and II".

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1319 - Degree in Psychology

Be able to describe and measure variables (personality, intelligence, attitudes, aptitudes, etc.) and cognitive, emotional, psychobiological and behavioural processes.

Be able to guide the pharmacological treatment of specific clinical cases.

Be able to prepare oral and written reports.

Be able to recognise the type of psycho-drug that a specific substance belongs to.

Know and comply with professional ethics of Psychology.

Know the different groups of psycho-drugs and their use in different mental disorders.

Know the methodology used for developing psycho-drugs and the methods to verify their therapeutic effectiveness.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. History, concept and methodology of psychopharmacology.

In this first unit, the history and concept of psychopharmacology will be studied, along with research methodology in psychopharmacology, basic concepts, neurotransmitters and their receptors, and finally, an introduction to the neurobiology of mental illnesses.



2. Biological basis and psychopharmacological treatment of mood disorders.

In the second unit, the neurobiological foundations of depression and bipolar disorder will be studied, along with antidepressants and the main mood stabilizers.

3. Biological basis and psychopharmacological treatment of anxiety disorders.

The third unit will focus on the study of the neurobiological foundations of anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder. This unit will also cover benzodiazepines and hypnotics.

4. Biological basis and psychopharmacological treatment of psychotic disorders

In the fourth unit, the neurobiological foundations of schizophrenia and psychosis in general will be studied, along with typical and atypical antipsychotics.

5. Biological bases and psychopharmacological treatment of substance abuse disorders, cognitive disorders, and attention deficit disorder.

In this final unit, the neurobiological foundations of substance use disorders and the main available pharmacological treatments will be studied. Finally, the neurobiological foundations of attention deficit disorder and dementias will also be examined, along with a review of their pharmacological treatment.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	45,00
Total hours	45,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	2,00
Individual or group project	10,00
Independent study and work	20,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	8,50
Resolution of case studies	7,00
Total hours	67,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY



- Lectures with audiovisual support.
- Practical sessions aimed at applied aspects of psychopharmacology, as can be, Vademecum, familiarity with technical data, presentation of drugs and focus of clinical cases of several mental disorders.
- Carrying out practical work on theoretical and applied aspects of psychopharmacology.
- Scheduled tutorials.

EVALUATION

1- Performance tests on the level of theoretical and practical knowledge acquired by the students, through a multiple-choice exam that will account for 80% of the final grade.

2- The remaining 20% of the grade will be assessed through a practical performance test that will evaluate the students' ability to solve scenarios and practical cases related to psychopharmacological treatment, demonstrating the acquisition of knowledge, understanding, and application competencies regarding the subject's content.

This section can be retaken during the second exam session, with the possibility of taking the practical performance test on its official date.

In the second exam session, both the theoretical performance test and the practical performance test can be retaken.

Minimum requirements:

To pass the course, both in the first and second exam sessions, it is necessary to obtain at least 4 out of 10 in both the theoretical performance test and the practical performance test, with a final grade of at least 5 out of 10.

Honors distinctions will be awarded strictly based on the final grade ranking. In the case of a tie, the optional essay question included in the exam will be used as a tiebreaker.

Course evaluation and any appeals of the final grade will be subject to the Regulations on Evaluation and Grading of the University of Valencia for undergraduate and master's degrees (ACGUV 108/2017, May 30, 2017). http://www.uv.es/graus/normatives/2017_108_reglament_avaluacio_qualificacio.pdf

Clear cases of copying or plagiarism in any assessment task will result in failure of the course and may lead to appropriate disciplinary actions.

It should be noted that, according to Article 13.d of the University Student Statute (Royal Decree 1791/2010,



December 30), students are obliged to abstain from using or collaborating in fraudulent practices during assessments, assignments, or official documentation.

In cases of fraudulent conduct, action will be taken in accordance with the Protocol for Handling Fraudulent Practices at the University of Valencia (ACGUV 123/2020): <https://www.uv.es/sgeneral/Protocols/C83.pdf>

Faculty may require individual or small-group interviews to verify each student's participation and achievement of the learning outcomes associated with any task. Refusal to attend such verification will result in failure of the corresponding task.

REFERENCES

BASIC REFERENCES

Stahl, S.M. (2023). *Psicofarmacología esencial* 5ª Edición: *Bases neurocientíficas y aplicaciones prácticas*, Editorial: Aula Médica. ISBN 9788478856985

Manzanedo C., y Rodríguez-Arias M. (coordinadoras) (2023). *Psicofarmacología para estudiantes de Psicología*. Ángeles Carrillo Baeza. Valencia. Versión Castellano, inglés y valenciano.

Goldberg, J. y Stahl, S. (2023). *Psicofarmacología práctica* 1/Ed. *Trasladando los hallazgos de los estudios basados en la evidencia a la práctica clínica*. Editorial: Aula Médica. ISBN 9788478857043

SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

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Colado, M. Farré, M. Leza, J. Lizasoain, I. (2023) *Drogodependencias*. Ed. Panamericana. Madrid. ISBN 9788491107064.

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Moya-Albiol, L (2012). *Material d'estudi de Psicofarmacologia*. Colecció Psicologia RODERIC respositori de contingut lliure. Universitat de Valencia. <http://roderic.uv.es/handle/10550/25135>

Sanjuan J (2016) *¿Tratar la mente o tratar el cerebro? Hacia una integración entre psicofármacos y psicoterapia*. Ed.



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Redolar D. (2008) *Cerebro y Adicción*. Ed. UOC. Barcelona.

Puig A., Prat i Vigué G. (2011) *Psicofarmacología: de los mecanismos de acción a las estrategias terapéuticas*. Ed. Merge.

Salazar M., Peralta C., Pastor F.J. (2009) *Tratado de Psicofarmacología. Bases y Aplicación Clínica*. Ed. Médica Panamericana.