



PH723: MECHANISMS OF DRUG ACTION

Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
Wednesdays 1:05-3:00

Course Description: Mechanisms of Drug Action is a graduate course in general pharmacology and toxicology designed to complement and add greater depth of understanding of the mechanisms of actions of the drugs addressed in the Introduction to Pharmacology & Therapeutics (PH620/722). It is taught by several faculty members and comprises a combination of reading, both assigned and self-directed, lecture, discussion, student presentations, and writing assignments. Practice of critical thinking and spoken and written scientific communication are also goals.

Credit Hours: 4 hours/semester; 8 total

Course Prerequisites: Concomitant enrollment in or previous successful completion of Introduction to Pharmacology & Therapeutics (PH620/722).

Course Dates: Fall & Spring Semesters; syllabus attached.

Class Location; Times: G301; Wednesday 1:00-3:00 + time as needed to complete assignments; the day may change to accommodate conflicts with the Medical Pharmacology Course.

Attendance is compulsory for all enrolled students. Contact the course director and scheduled lecturer about an absence as soon as possible. This is a discussion class, thus very difficult to make-up.

Text and Other Learning Resources: There is no required text, however the unabridged Goodman & Gilman is an excellent resource and is available in our e-library as <http://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com/Book.aspx?bookid=1613>. Pertinent reviews and primary scientific articles may be assigned for each topic, but it is the responsibility of the student to use texts and peer-reviewed sources for supplementary information as needed.

Course Director:

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Course Overview:

1. Class format will be dictated by each lecturer. It will comprise an assignment provided by Friday of the week before class, lectures by faculty and/or students, and discussion of the material. Typically an hour of each class will focus on an overview of mechanisms of drug actions; another hour will focus on a participatory discussion of the topic.
2. Information related to this course, including assignments, will be relayed verbally or in writing, usually electronically through UMMC e-mail.
3. Exams will comprise essay questions answered in class on personal lap tops. The student will be expected to integrate the information from this course with that of the 'Introduction to Medical Pharmacology & Toxicology' and 'Methods in Pharmacology' courses.

Essay answers should be succinct and will be graded on the knowledge, clarity, and ability to focus on the question asked. Information that is irrelevant to the question and poor grammar and syntax that makes the answer difficult to read will be counted against the final score.

Grading Policy and Rubric. The final grade in this course will be based on active participation, written assignment(s) and oral presentation(s). Although the specifics might vary from instance to instance, a general grading scheme might be as follows:

| Component of Grade | Percentage of Grade |
|---|---------------------|
| Participation | |
| a. contribution to discussion | 20 |
| b. apparent depth of knowledge, analysis, critical thinking | 20 |
| Presentations (clarity, depth, analysis, interpretation, within the time allowed) | 30 |
| Examinations (clarity, knowledge, analysis, interpretation) | 30 |