

PSYCHIATRY

Total credits:

11

Theory credits:

5

Practical credits:

6

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

To provide students with a basic level of competence – knowledge, skills and attitudes – that will allow them to recognize and manage psychopathological conditions – both primary and consecutive to other somatic disorders – that they are likely to encounter in future patients and detect risk situations associated with the relevant pathology.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

At the end of the training process, students should:

a) *understand and identify the **psychopathological traits** that a patient may present, specifically in disorders of:*

1. Consciousness.
2. Attention and orientation.
3. Memory.
4. Sensory perception.
5. Psychomotility.
6. Impulsiveness. Instinctiveness.
7. Thought (form and content) and language.
8. Intelligence.
9. Emotion.
10. Personality.
11. Behavior.

b) *know the theoretical bases of the **diagnostic methods** in mental pathology, specifically in:*

1. Psychiatric interview.
2. Psychopathological examination.
3. Collection of anamnestic and situational data.
4. Psychometric techniques.
5. Somatic examinations: important analytical tests, psychophysiological tests, neuroimaging techniques.

c) *know the diagnosis, prevention – primary and secondary – and therapeutic strategy for the most frequent psychic pathologies, including psychic disorders secondary to common, medical or surgical diseases. These specific objectives are divided into the following categories:*

1. Organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders.
2. Mental and behavioral disorders caused by psychotropic substances.
3. Schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and delusional disorders.
4. Mood (affective) disorders.
5. Neurotic disorders secondary to stressful and somatomorphic situations.
6. Behavioral disorders associated with physiological dysfunctions and somatic factors.
7. Personality and behavioral disorders in adults.
8. Disorders of psychological development.
9. Behavioral and emotional disorders commonly arising during childhood and adolescence.

d) *have acquired the following **skills**:*

1. Ability to detect psychopathological traits even in individuals unaware of exhibiting them.
2. Ability to identify such traits.
3. Ability to maintain a patient interview and use it to carry out an appropriate psychopathological examination.
4. Ability to prepare a correct anamnesis and case history of the patient.
5. Ability to establish a diagnosis (at least syndromic) that will determine the decisions taken in the following point.
6. Ability to decide on the most appropriate of the following options:
 - Deal with the case personally.
 - Request the opinion of a specialist (inter-consultation).
 - Refer the patient to a psychiatrist.

PROGRAMME

Introduction to the study of psychiatry

Concept. Biological, psychological and social foundations of psychiatry. Concepts of *normality* and *abnormality* in psychiatry. Psychiatric nosology.

A) Identification of problems

1. Mood (affective) disorders.

Identify and assess alterations in state of mind (mood) in somatic patients (acute, chronic, terminal) and in individuals subjected to situations of emotional or physical stress. Identification of genuine psychiatric affective disorders: mania, depression, bipolar disorder and dysthymia.

2. Anxiety disorders (distress).

Identify and assess states of anxiety in somatic patients or individuals subjected to stressful situations. Identification of genuine psychiatric anxiety disorders: panic attack, phobic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder.

3. Psychophysiological disorders.

Identify somatoform, dissociative and adaptive disorders.

4. Psychotic disorders.

Identify and assess schizothymic, schizophrenic, schizoaffective disorders and other types of delusional behavior.

5. Organic mental disorders.

Identify the psychopathology of dementia, organic amnesia, *delusion* and other disorders caused by cerebral injury or dysfunction or by somatic disease.

6. Behavioral disorders associated with physiological dysfunctions and somatic factors.

Identify eating disorders, nonorganic sleep disorders, nonorganic sexual dysfunction, non-addictive substance abuse and other disorders associated with physiological dysfunctions.

7. Abuse and addictive behavior.

Identify mental and behavioral disorders caused by substance abuse and other types of addictive behavior.

8. Personality and behavioral disorders in adults.

Identify specific personality disorders, habit disorder and impulse control; disorders of sexual identity, inclination, orientation and behavior and other behavioral disorders in adults.

9. Disorders of psychological development.

Identify specific disorders of speech and language, learning, psychomotor development and other disorders of psychological development.

10. Behavioral and emotional disorders arising during childhood and adolescence.

Identify hyperkinetic, antisocial, emotional and social behavior disorders in children and adolescents.

11. Problems arising from mental disorders.

Identify and make a preliminary assessment – often simply in the form of advice or referral – of the potential care, family, work, social, administrative, legal and administrative problems posed by mental disorders.

B) Theoretical bases of diagnostic methods for mental disorders

1. Psychiatric examination.

Theoretical bases of the psychiatric interview and psychopathological examination: using these techniques to assess psychic functions. Methodology for anamnesis and collection of situational data.

2. Theoretical bases of psychometric examination.

Tests, assessment scales and questionnaires of potential use in psychiatric diagnosis.

3. Neuropsychological and psychophysiological techniques.

Theoretical bases of the assessment of higher cerebral functions. Biological indicators and diagnostic markers.

4. Neuroimaging techniques.

Structural neuroimaging (radiography, arteriography, computerized axial tomography, magnetic resonance) and functional neuroimaging (PET, SPECT).

5. Epistemological bases of psychiatric diagnosis.

Syndromic diagnosis. Diagnosis of mental state (CHAM). Standard statistical diagnostic criteria (DSM-IV; CIE-10).

TEACHING METHODOLOGIES AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Teaching methodology

Division into theoretical and practical content is essentially an artificial approach, at least in a clinical subject. All clinical problems must be approached as real theoretical-practical situations; there must be certain conceptual bases – etiopathogenic, nosological, therapeutic – that provide a framework in which to develop the observational, evaluation, management and decision-making skills that represent the essence of *praxis*. Each topic in the teaching programme – with the exception of epistemological and methodological subjects – will therefore be followed by corresponding clinical training based on relevant cases.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to study the course in Psychiatry are required to have a satisfactory understanding of the following previous courses: Psychological bases of Health and Illness, Pharmacology, General Semiology and Clinical Propedeutics, Diseases of the Nervous System.