

Psychoactive Drugs (PSY 383)

University of Oregon
September Experience 2005

Instructor: **Dr. Jagdeep Kaur-Bala**

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Office Hours: 12 -1 pm Tuesday/Thursday
(& by appointment)

Classroom: [Esslinger 105](#)

Time: 8:00 -11:50am MUWHF

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> **PSY 383 (Summer 2005; 43431), Psychoactive Drugs**

General Course Description: In this course, we will examine many aspects of psychoactive drugs including neuroscience, pharmacology, medical consequences, behavioral consequences, social consequences, legal consequences, addiction, abuse prevention and treatment. The use of drugs in psychiatry will also be an important part of the course. Each of the non-lecture parts of the course (discussions, texts, papers, presentations, movies) are designed to reinforce ideas and augment concepts presented in lectures. Questions are encouraged in all parts of the course and students are welcome to stop by my office for questions and/or discussions during my office hours or additional appointments. Questions/clarifications via emails are also encouraged at all times (emails received *before 9:00 pm will be answered the same day!*). It is my hope that by the end of this course you will have a new appreciation for psychoactive drugs, their uses and potentials for abuse.

We have only two weeks to cover a broad range of material. The class will be fast-paced and will be quite a lot of work. Please keep this in mind when scheduling other classes and activities.

Recommended Texts and Reading sources:

- 1) Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior, by O. Ray & C. Ksir; 10th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers, 1995. Comprehensive text with focus on social aspects of psychoactive drug use.
- 2) Drugs & behavior by Fred Leavitt Sage Publishers, 1995. Detailed text with focus on psychopharmacology.
- 3) ANNUAL EDITIONS : Drugs, Society, & Behavior, Twentieth Edition

Course Website: The official course website is on **Blackboard** (<http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>, **PSY 383 (Summer 2005; 43431), Psychoactive Drugs**).

Please notify me if you have difficulty logging into the site. This site will provide supplemental information for the course (course outline, reading assignments and discussion topics, copies of lecture slides, due dates, grades, etc.).

Course Format: The material in this course will be presented through a combination of assigned readings from the texts, class lectures, in-class discussions, and self-study reading topics. Lecture material and readings will have some overlap, but will not be replications of each other; some lecture material will not be covered in the readings and vice versa. You are expected to do the assigned reading **before** the class period in which it is due.

Grading: Grading will be based on the combined scores of the quizzes (20%), reading responses (20%), Discussion groups (10%), class presentations (20%) and exam (final 30%), with a possible 5 points of extra credit added to the final sum. Letter grades will be determined as follows: A (90-105% of total possible points), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-60%). However, the instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion, depending on the actual distribution of grades (graduate students will be curved differently, or not at all).

Quizzes (20% of final grade): Short quizzes will be given in the first 15 minutes of scheduled classes. Quizzes will contain 5 multiple choice questions or a couple of short answer questions that pertain to the most recently presented lecture material and the readings from the text. Questions will occasionally be drawn from readings that have been assigned but have not yet been discussed in lecture (even those due the day of the quiz); however, these questions will be of a more general nature and should be easily answered if you have read the material.

The quizzes are designed to serve as quick reviews of recently covered materials as well as to help you keep up with the reading assignments. Of the 6 quizzes, the 2 **with the lowest scores will be dropped**, with the average score of the remaining four yielding 20% of the final grade. **No make-up quizzes** will be offered; if you miss a quiz, that grade will be one of the two that will be dropped.

Final Exam (30%): The exam will be **part multiple choice, part fill-in-the-blank and part short answer/short essay**. The final exam will contain questions drawn from the entire course. ***No make-up exams will be given without evidence of a valid excuse, and the final cannot be taken earlier or later than the time listed in the University final exam schedule – if you know in advance that you cannot take all exams on the appointed dates (see the course schedule below), do not take this course!*** If unforeseen circumstances during the term prevent you from taking an exam, notify the instructor immediately.

Homework assignments (20%): Readings will be assigned in each class from the relevant topics. The current reading calendar will be posted on blackboard. Please check frequently to keep up with readings. One homework assignment will be handed out at the start of each week so that you may work on some of the content of the course at your own convenience. In completing the homework assignments, you are encouraged to research the topic, write a 2-4 page reading response and be prepared to discuss the same in class on the day that the assignment is due (usually the last day of the week).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with according to official University policy (see section on Academic Honesty below).

What about extra credit? You can earn up to 5 points in extra credit in various ways (see below). These points will be **added to your final grade** at the end of the class. So, if you get an 80% with all of your work, and you do 4 points of extra credit, your final score will be 84%. You may choose one or more of the following:

- Students can prepare for the class a **10 minute demonstration of a psychological phenomenon** that fits within the topics of discussion in the course. These demos can be either high-tech (e.g., computer programs, edited videos, etc.) or decidedly low-tech (e.g., an ice cube and duct tape), and they must be accompanied by an informal one-page written description of the phenomenon and its relation to the information presented in the lecture and reading materials [**5 points**].
- Students can prepare a **10 minute presentation on a recent news item** (i.e., one reported during the term) related to the topics discussed in the course. For optimal success in this type of presentation, you must do more than simply relate the information that was presented in the newspaper article or news program – this may involve a web search to find pictures/video to accompany your presentation, a dig in the scientific literature to find relevant details and hard data, etc. These presentations must also be accompanied by an informal one-page written description of the phenomenon and its relation to the information presented in the lecture and reading materials [**5 points**].

Those wishing to create a presentation should confer with the instructor before beginning (latest by **Thursday, Sep 8th**)– if two or more students have the same idea for a presentation, the one that informs me first (in person, by phone, or by email) will have exclusive rights to the idea. Final topics and times for the presentations will be assigned in class on **Friday, September 9th**. The instructor reserves the right to keep copies of the presentation for use in future courses.

Due Dates: Due dates for the homework assignments are contained in the course outline. **Assignments are due by the start of lecture on the appropriate date**, and can be turned in to me during class or during office hours *the day before it is due*. An assignment turned in after its deadline will be marked down 10% for each day late.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor as soon as possible. Please note that our classroom is wheelchair accessible and contains a wheelchair desk if needed. Books- and notes-on tape can be prepared. Please contact instructor a week before beginning of term if necessary. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Hillary Gerdes, hgerdes@oregon.uoregon.edu, tel. 346-3211, TTY 346-1083) send a letter verifying your disability.

Students for whom English is a Second Language: If you are a non-native English speaker and think you may have trouble in this course due of language difficulties, please see me as soon as possible to make special arrangements.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~conduct/>).

Course Outline: This is only a working draft of the course outline; it will be revised as the term progresses. ***Dates on which particular topics are to be presented in lecture are subject to change, as are reading assignment due dates; however, I will not change the dates of quizzes and exams unless absolutely necessary.*** The official updated version of the outline will reside on the Blackboard web site. Updated print versions can also be obtained from me during normal office hours.

Date	Topics	Assignments/Quizzes
Tues. Sep 6 th	Drug use and potential abuse; Dependence & Addiction	
Wed, Sep 7 th	Introduction to Nervous system; How drugs affect the nervous system; Tolerance & withdrawal	Quiz # 1; Video – <i>Psychoactive Drugs and Brain</i>
Thurs, Sep 8 th	Alcohol- epidemiology & pharmacology;	Quiz # 2; Video – <i>The teenage brain</i> Class presentation plan due
Fri, Sep 9 st	Stimulants – Tobacco and Caffeine; Discussion RR#1	Reading response # 1 due;
Mon, Sep 12 th	Midterm Exam ; Stimulants – Cocaine and amphetamines	Quiz # 3; Class presentations – set 1
Tues, Sep 13 th	Depressants – Barbiturates and benzodiazepines	Quiz # 4; Class presentations – set 2
Wed, Sep 14 th	Restricted Drugs; Performance enhancing drugs	Quiz # 5; Class presentations – set 3
Thurs, Sep 15 th	Prevention and Treatment Discussion RR#2	Quiz # 6; Class presentations – set 4; Reading response # 2 due
Fri, Sep. 16 st	Final exam – Cumulative.	

Class Etiquette and norms: Please Do:

- Come to class on time, and stay for the whole class
- Treat your fellow students and your professor with respect
- Bring food and drink if you need to, and eat and drink quietly
- Leave and return quietly if you need to visit the restroom between breaks
- Ask questions and speak up during class
- Hang out and ask me questions during breaks
- Stop by and see me after class (or make appointment if that time doesn't work). Please ask me questions before class **only once you see that I'm finished with my preparations** Otherwise I'll be distracted. **Thanks!**