

Psychoactive Drugs (Psy 383)

Fall Term, 2011; University of Oregon

The Instructor:

Dr. Peter Sparks (psparks@uoregon.edu) Office Hours: MW, 4-5:10pm (Rm. 326 in Straub)

The Teaching Assistant:

Jason Dooley (jdooley1@uoregon.edu) Office hours: By Appointment Only (STB 477)

The Meeting Time:

MW, 5:30-6:50pm 100 Willamette Hall

The Textbook:

C. Hart and C. Ksir *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior* (14th ed.) McGraw Hill Pub.

Welcome to Psychoactive Drugs! This course is meant to be an introduction to biological, psychological and sociological issues related to the use of the most popular legal and illegal drugs (such as alcohol, nicotine, stimulants, narcotics, hallucinogens, as well as psychotherapeutic drugs and supplements). More specifically, this course will introduce you to the basic pharmacology and neuroscience of drug effects, the clinical effects of drugs including addiction and therapy, and finally a sociological account of drug use such as describing who uses drugs and why, discussing issues related to crime and legalization within a historical context. This course is meant to provide you with a basic understanding of the issues relating to drug use so that you can make informed decisions about your own behavior. Just say "Know"!

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understand basic pharmacological and neurological concepts and as related to drug use
2. Understand the clinical effects of the most popular legal and illegal drugs including the health concerns
3. Recognize, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives used to explain drug use and addiction.
4. Identify and critically discuss different points of view of legal and social issues related to drug use
5. Identify historical and present-day governmental regulations of drug use
6. Apply critical thinking to assumptions, claims, and common sense ideas about drug use.

To achieve these goals, there are a number of topics which I hope we will cover this term. I emphasize the word "hope" since no one can never predict the future. What we do cover depends entirely on the time it takes to cover certain topics, the pace of the lectures and the interest of the students. In addition, this "Drugs" field is always changing with new and interesting twists occurring all of the time. I am very open to discussing something at the spur of the moment. Covering all of these topics would be great, but may not happen. Thus, the description of the course presented below could change. The best thing is to simply come to class, and pay attention to the announcements in the Blackboard component of class. **The exam dates will not change.** Therefore, the exams will only concern what material we have covered in class since the last exam. Detailed subject outlines will be handed out at the start of a new topic, which will help you follow along with the lecture and keep track of details such as definitions.

Course Website: (accessed via <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>) All handouts, homework announcements, grades, copies of lecture power points, lecture worksheets, and other materials, will be posted in Blackboard. Nothing will be handed out in class (on paper) except the exams.

Readings and Lecture Schedule: Presented below is the lecture and readings schedule. Please be aware that there will be other readings as handed out by me via Blackboard. These additional readings will be announced in class and via Blackboard. Often they will be associated with a homework assignment.

Subject Matter**Book Chapter****Week 1 (September 26, 28)**

Introduction:

Chapter 1 (p1-7)

The Basics:

Neuroscience

Chapter 4

Pharmacology

Chapter 5

Week 2 (October 3, 5)

The Basics: (Continued)

Pharmacology

Chapter 5

The Drugs:

Alcohol

Chapter 9

Week 3 (October 10, 12)

The Drugs: Tobacco

Chapter 10

The Drugs: Caffeine

Chapter 11

Week 4 (October 17, 19) Exam 1 Monday

Narcotics

Chapter 13

Week 5 (October 24, 26)

The Drugs: Stimulants

Chapter 6

The Drugs: Tranquilizers

Chapter 7

Week 6 (October 31, November 2)

The Drugs: Cannabis

Chapter 15

Hallucinogens

Chapter 14

Week 7 (November 7, 9) Exam 2 on Wednesday

The Drugs: Psychotherapeutic Drugs

Chapter 8

Supplements and Performance Drugs

Chapter 12, 16

Week 8 (November 14, 16)

Why do we do drugs?

Chapter 1 (p7-22)

Who is doing them?

Toxicity and Addiction

Chapter 2

Therapy and Prevention

Chapter 17-18

Week 9 (November 21, 23)

Drug Culture and ritual

History of Government Control

Chapter 3

Week 10 (November 28, 30)

Crime and the Economy

Legalization?

Course Summary

Week 11 (December 5, 7) Final Exam Week!!!**Our exam is scheduled for Monday, December 5 at 7pm (1900hours): Make note of this different time!!!!**

During this time, we will take our 3rd exam. It will only cover the material covered after the second exam, and therefore is NOT an all comprehensive exam.

Evaluation

Homework: There will be about 6-8 homework assignments this term. The purpose of these is to get you to think a little bit more about the material discussed in class or tangential material that we didn't get into during lecture. The homework assignments will be posted on the announced in class and posted in Blackboard at various times throughout the term and will be worth 10-20 pts each. They will mostly consist of reading articles and reflecting on them in essay format. In some cases, there may be a discussion board component where students work in groups to distill a position which becomes posted in a discussion board (via Blackboard). **All homework needs to be typed and turned in during class (i.e. A Hardcopy). Submission via email is not desired, but possible with a dire circumstance (it needs to be in DOC or RFT formats).**

Any assignment that has excessive spelling errors or very poor grammar will automatically be deducted 2 pts (or more). Use your spell and grammar check. I am not perfect myself in this respect, but frankly the work of some of my past students work has become that bad. Take pride in your work.

Lecture Worksheets: There will be worksheets for each drug lecture ("The Drugs") to help you focus your note taking and studying. The questions on these worksheets will follow the lecture for each drug pretty closely and they should be answered. When all of the drug lectures are complete (after week 7, ending with 'Supplements'), they will need to be packaged together (in a folder) and submitted. They will not be graded for accuracy but for completeness and effort. They are worth 5 pts each, and if you answered all of the questions, you will earn your 5 points. IF the answers are incomplete or missing, you will not get all of the points for that worksheet.

Exams: There will be 3 exams this term. Each will be worth 100 pts and will only cover the material presented since the last exam; this includes the final or last exam. All exams will be composed of short answer questions and multiple choice questions. The material tested will come MOSTLY from my lectures, but items not covered in lecture, but part of your assigned readings, could make it on the exam as well. I will try to keep that situation to a minimum. Certainly, if it is in my lecture AND in the readings, you ABSOLUTELY will find it on the test. The point is that the book is there to help you and guide you, but come to the classes!!!! Those that come to class will do well, and those that do not, will not do well. **Also, a green "Scan Tron" is required; so be prepared!**

As we get closer to an exam, I will be able to tell you exactly what topics will be on the exam.

Final grade: The final grade will be determined by assessing the number of points that you get from the homework assignments and exams out of the total number of points possible. It is very likely that the exams will constitute 60-70% of your grade and the other assignments will make up the rest. Letter grades will be applied as follows:

93-100%= A	(4.0)	77-79.99%= C+	(2.3-2.5)	60-62.99%= D-	(0.7-0.9)
90-92.99%= A-	(3.6-3.9)	73-76.99%= C	(2.0-2.2)	59.99%-below= F	(0.0-0.6)
87-89.99%= B+	(3.3-3.5)	70-72.99%= C-	(1.7-1.9)		
83-86.99%= B	(3.0-3.2)	67-69.99%= D+	(1.3-1.6)		
80-82.99%= B-	(2.6-2.9)	63-66.99%= D	(1.0-1.2)		

A grade less than a 60% will be a failing grade. Do not fail this class. I will try to explain the material to the best that I can, but it is up to you to read the text book and to come to me if there is something that doesn't make sense or that you need help with. I can't help you if I don't know there is a problem. The homework assignments are a good assessment. If you do not recognize or understand the homework, come and see me as soon as possible!!!!!!

Summary of Important dates

It is important to understand that there are many Academic deadlines this term. Be aware of them! While I tend to be pretty flexible is someone wants to withdrawal or change from decimal grading to Pass-No Pass, there are deadlines for such actions. [Click here to see the Academic Schedule.](#)

Final points:

How to study: Let me give some pointers on how to study for this course. The biggest issue for most students is that they do not understand how much effort it takes to do well. I expect my students to not only understand, but to

remember the facts, terms, and concepts presented in this course. My tests are fair, but challenging. It takes a lot of effort to do well in this course. Studying a few hours the night before the exam will not work out so well for you. The main reason for this is simply that we will be covering a lot of information; it is not difficult to understand, but it is a lot. Start studying a week in advance! Organize your notes, compare them with the handouts and the book. Re-write them, it really helps. Outline the chapter, don't just read it. Then when you have stumbled on something which you don't understand, you can ask me and I will explain it to you. I am here solely to help you learn the material. If you start studying ahead of time, you will be able to take advantage of me. This really, REALLY helps. Clearly this advice is very brief. I have created an extended in-depth description of techniques that can be used and have posted it on my website. Please look it over. If you are not doing well, come and talk with me as soon as you can. Take responsibility for your efforts and do not expect the same strategy to lead to a better grade on the next exam. If you are not doing well, change your strategy!!!!!!

Late Work/Make up Policy: Homework and other assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. If the work is late, a point will automatically be docked for every day late. In the end, missing an assignment will be devastating to your grade, so turn them in! Because of the essay part of the exam, there will be little flexibility in terms of changing your exam date. You will need to have a fantastic excuse to make up an exam or to postpone an exam. I will be even more resistant to letting people take exams early.

Attendance Policy: Come to class! Your attendance will not affect your final grade directly, but I cannot overemphasize the fact that those who miss class WILL NOT do well. If you miss class, do not simply ask what we covered (and to give an impromptu lecture). I am an absent-minded professor and will not remember exactly what we did. Your job is to get the notes from a classmate, and if you need to, bring them to me and I can explain/go over them with you. You should get to know someone in class and get their phone number in case you miss a class.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Do not do these things. Cheating and Plagiarism are serious offenses and will be dealt with severely! This could mean failing the test or assignment, failing the class or being excused from this college. I have little to no patience with cheating and will deal with the issue with the most severe action at my disposal. It is always better to simply work hard and learn the material. If you are having a problem learning the material, come see me. I have plenty of time to help you. Do not resort to cheating!

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. 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.

Finally: It is important that you do well and learn the material. So feel free to email me anytime with questions. I understand that many questions will come when you are studying at night. Get on the email or phone and leave a message, I will respond. Also, feel free to catch me after class or before class and ask me anything. I am there to help you learn and understand the material as much as I can. So use me!

Finally, Finally: If you are not doing well on the exams (D or less), you MUST come and see me so that we can talk about changing things so that you do better.