

PSY 383 Psychoactive Drugs

University of Oregon

Summer 2011

Instructor: **Jenny Mendoza**

Straub Hall 353

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm (and by appointment)

Classroom: Straub Hall 142

Time: MTWR 12:00-1:50pm

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>

Check this site for important information regarding this course
(Syllabus, grades, PowerPoint slides, readings, assignments, etc.)

Course description: In this course, we will examine many aspects of psychoactive drugs, such as the neuroscience, pharmacology, addition, abuse, prevention, and treatment. We will explore these concepts and their implications in medical, behavioral, social, and legal contexts. Lectures will be complimented with discussions, texts, articles, and movies designed to reinforce the main concepts and enhance the learning experience.

Required Text: ***Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior***

Carl Hart and Charles Ksir; 14th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers

Course Requirements:

Participation (10% of final grade)

Participation will be based on *attendance and discussion*. On certain, unspecified days throughout the course, you will be asked to reply to questions about the lecture by writing your responses on index cards. On these days, the index cards will be collected at the end of class. Your responses to these questions will also be evaluated, and they should reflect that you have been actively engaged in the course material. The index cards will also serve as proof that you attended class that day

In addition, asking questions, raising issues, making connections, etc. during class are *highly* encouraged!

Weekly Quizzes (50% of final grade – 12.5% each)

There will be a quiz given at the beginning of class on the *last day* of each week. Quizzes will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. Quizzes will pertain to material presented in the lectures and the assigned readings for each week. Each quiz will only cover the material from that particular week (e.g. Quiz 2 will only relate to Week 2). In other words, quizzes will *not* be comprehensive.

*Please note: there will be no midterm exam and no final exam!

Small-Group Discussion Assignments (40% of final grade - 10% each)

You will form small groups of 5-6 people for discussion. On Monday of each week, we will spend the last part of class discussing a controversial topic related to psychoactive drugs. The in-class discussion time will provide you with the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion with your classmates about the topic and its related issues. This discussion should help you generate ideas for the assignment.

The small-group discussion assignment (SDGA) is a 1-2 page response paper (12 pt. font; 1"-margins; double-spaced) in which you should present your opinion about the topic. This paper should demonstrate that you understand the topic and the related issues, it should reflect what you discussed in your small group, and it should also present your own ideas and opinions. ***This assignment must be completed independently from your other group members.***

Assignments will be due by 9pm on Tuesday of each week. Please send them to me via email, jmendoz4@uoregon.edu.

Grading:

Letter grades are determined as follows:

- A = 90-103% of total possible points
- B = 80-89.99%
- C = 70-79.99%
- D = 60-69.99%
- F = 0-60%

In addition, a plus or minus will be appended to letter grades for scores in the upper and lower third of each grade range, respectively.

Extra Credit (up to 3% EC): Research Participation + RER

Option 1: Participate in studies plus response paper – up to 3 credits/hours

You may participate in real research experiments through the Psychology and Linguistics Departments' Human Subject Pool. Researchers conduct many experiments on varied topics (e.g., attention, social interaction). Through participating, you will gain an understanding of how research is conducted. Sign up to participate here: <http://uopsych.sona-systems.com>.

There will be an option for you to request a username and password. Once logged in, you will find a list of studies and their locations that are available to you. After participating in a study, you will be electronically credited for the time allotted for that study.

For further information, email the Human Subjects Coordinator: hscoord@uoregon.edu with questions.

Option 2: Article reading plus response paper – up to 3 articles

You may also fulfill all or part of the research participation requirement by reading research articles. Each article you read will count as 1 credit and take about one hour to read thoroughly. By reading about empirical research, you will gain knowledge of the methodology used in psychology studies.

Research Experiment Reports (RERs): In order to ensure that you understand the researchers' topics and hypotheses, you will need to complete a RER electronically on Blackboard after participating in either option, above.

NOTE: In order to receive Extra Credit for research participation, all RERs MUST be submitted on Blackboard on **Tuesday, August 9, 2011 by 9pm**

1 credit/hour participation + RER = 1 article + RER = 1% EC

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.

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 to language difficulties, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Please note that you may NOT use dictionaries/translators during tests without discussing arrangements with the instructor at the beginning of the term.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign, which is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to submit your work to SafeAssign.

If your responses on assignments are suspected of plagiarism or if the instructor has any reason to be concerned about your conduct during a quiz, you may be asked to move seats, have your quiz confiscated, and/or given an "F" on the quiz/assignment. All violations will be taken seriously and noted on student disciplinary records. If you have questions regarding any aspect of these issues, please consult with the instructor before you complete any relevant requirements for this course.

For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at:

<http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisc/onduct/tabid/70/Default.aspx>

Cheating will NOT be tolerated in any form in this class!

Course Outline

Date	Topic	Readings*	Quizzes/ Assignments
Week 5			
M 7/18	Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs		
T 7/19	Drugs and Society	Ch. 1, pp. 2-13; Ch. 2, pp. 32-44	SGDA 1 due by 9pm
W 7/20	Neuroanatomy and Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4	
Th 7/21	Neuropharmacology	Ch. 5	Quiz 1
Week 6			
M 7/25	Schizophrenia; Affective Disorders	Ch. 8; Bhangoo (2003)	
T 7/26	Anxiety Disorders	Walkup (2001); Ch. 18, pp. 591-624 (Primer of Drug Action)	SGDA 2 due by 9pm
W 7/27	Drugs and Development	Ch. 18, pp. 591-624 (Primer of Drug Action)	
Th 7/28	Stimulants	Ch. 6	Quiz 2
Week 7			
M 8/1	Nicotine and Caffeine	Ch. 10 & 11	
T 8/2	Depressants and Inhalants	Ch. 7	SGDA 3 due by 9pm
W 8/3	Alcohol	Ch. 9	
Th 8/4	Marijuana	Ch. 15	Quiz 3
Week 8			
M 8/8	Opioids and Hallucinogens	Ch. 13 & 14	
T 8/9	Performance Enhancing Drugs	Ch. 16	RERs & SGDA 4 due by 9pm
W 8/10	Legal Issues	Current Events Assignment	Quiz 4

*Readings should be completed prior to the relevant lecture (e.g. read Ch. 2 *before* coming to class on Tuesday 7/19). Chapters refer to *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior* (Hart & Ksir, 14thed), unless otherwise specified. Additional readings, such as articles and chapters from other texts, will be posted on Blackboard.