

**Psychoactive Drugs (PSY 383)**  
**University of Oregon**  
**Winter 2012**

Instructor: **Dr. Jagdeep Kaur-Bala**  
307 Straub Hall  
346-4953  
[jagdeep@uoregon.edu](mailto:jagdeep@uoregon.edu)

Classroom: **101 Living Learning Center South**  
Time: **8:30- 9:50am TR**

Office Hours: **10:00am – 11:30am Tue/Thurs** (& by appointment)

Teaching assistant: **Jennifer Mendoza**, 353 Straub Hall, [jmendoza4@uoregon.edu](mailto:jmendoza4@uoregon.edu)  
Office Hours: **1:00pm – 2:30 pm Fridays & by appointment**

**Course website:** <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> This site will provide supplemental information for the course (syllabus, course schedule, grades, copies of overheads, assignments, etc.).

**General Course Description:** In this course, we will examine many aspects of psychoactive drugs. We will study the neuroscience and pharmacology of psychoactive drugs as well as addiction, abuse, prevention and treatment in the context of medical, behavioral, social, and legal consequences of drug use and abuse. The use of drugs in psychiatry will also be discussed. 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. 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.

**Required Text:**

**Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior**, by Carl Hart and Charles Ksir; 14th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers. This is a comprehensive text for the class. Two copies of the textbook are available on reserve at the Knight Library.

**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 (30%), discussion group reading responses (15%), midterm (25%) and final exams (30%), with a possible 4 points of extra-credit added to the final grade. Letter grades will be determined as follows: A (90-104% of total possible points), B (80-89.99%), C (70-79.99%), D (60-69.99%), F (0-60%). However, the instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion, depending on the actual distribution of grades. 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.

**Quizzes (30% of final grade):** Short quizzes will be given in the first 10 minutes of scheduled classes. Quizzes will contain 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 8 quizzes, the **2 with the lowest scores will be dropped**, with the average score of the remaining six yielding 30% 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. Reaching class on time will always be appreciated, but it is particularly critical on quiz days, lest you miss the quiz.

**Midterm (25%) and Final (30%) Exams:** The exams will be **part multiple choice, part fill-in-the-blank and part short answer**. All exams are comprehensive i.e. each exam will contain questions drawn from the entire course. However, a greater focus on material covered after the previous exam is typical. ***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. Allowable excused absences are medical emergencies, athletic events such as away games for student athletes and executive orders/court orders. All such occasions must be accompanied by official documentation. Make-up exams may be different in format in both type and number of questions.

**Study-group Reading Response assignments (15%): Study group discussion responses:** We will form 5-6 member study groups in order to have some contact time outside the class in which course work may be discussed and small assignments completed as a group. The study groups will be expected to meet once a week and 5 discussion reports will be due during the term (see outline for due dates). For each report, I will give you assignments and will be looking for timely responses (via Blackboard). Only one response is required from each group for each of the assignments. All members of the group will receive the same grade for the assignment. **Note:** Sometimes, group members feel that not everyone in the group is working to their best and so it is not fair for everyone in the group to receive the same grade for an assignment. If such is the case for your group, you can choose (as a group) to award individual grades for the report. *If the group decides that it is not fair that every person receives the same grade for a particular report, I will let the group decide on grades for each member. For example, if the group grade on a particular assignment is 85 and there are 5 members in the group, the group will have a total of 425 points (85 times 5) to spread among its members. The group can then negotiate with all members and spread out the total points to all members in any way the group sees fits, as long as all members agree to the point spread. The only requirement is that the group negotiates who gets what grade and that all members of the group give me a written agreement to the point spread. It will be the responsibility of the group to notify me of the point spread if they wish to use this alternative.*

**What about extra credit?** You can earn **up to 4 points** in extra credit for **Class Participation**. *Extra-credit will be awarded for class participation and occasional in-class assignments/group work/discussions.* These points will be **added to your final grade** at the end of the term. So, if

you get an 80% with all of your tests and assignments, and you earn 4 points of extra credit, your final score will be 84%. **Participation** is based on **attendance and discussion**. Attendance will be taken during some (random) class periods. All students who sign attendance during that class will be awarded EC points. In addition, the instructor will, at other times, award extra-credit for participation in class activities / discussions. It is important that you come to class. Many of the exam questions come from lecture content that is not in the assigned readings. If you miss a class, please try to get a copy of the lecture notes from a classmate.

**Due Dates:** Due dates for the term paper are contained in the course outline. **Assignments are due by the start of lecture on the appropriate date.** As per guidelines for each assignment, you may need to submit responses on Blackboard, turn them 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. Also, please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Keith Miller = [kmiller@uoregon.edu](mailto:kmiller@uoregon.edu) or Molly Sirois- [sirois@uoregon.edu](mailto:sirois@uoregon.edu), tel. 346-1155, TTY 346-1083) send a letter verifying your disability. For a list of resources provided by the Office of Disability Services, please see [http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS\\_Pages/DS\\_AccessServ.html](http://ds.uoregon.edu/DS_Pages/DS_AccessServ.html)

**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 the instructor as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Please note that you may NOT use electronic dictionaries/translators during exams/quizzes. However, if necessary, please discuss the need for a paper dictionary/translator at the beginning of the term with the instructor and appropriate arrangements will be made.

**Academic Honesty:** All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may be required to submit writing assignments to SafeAssign. SafeAssign is a software tool designed to help students avoid plagiarism and improper citation. For more information on SafeAssign refer to guidelines on Blackboard. By enrolling in this course you grant the instructor permission to submit your work to SafeAssign or some other plagiarism program analysis and detection program.

**Cheating will NOT be tolerated in any form in this class.** All work submitted in this course must be your own. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. If your responses on assignments are suspected of plagiarism or if a proctor has any reason to be uncomfortable about your conduct during a test, they may ask you to move seats, confiscate your test and/or mark an "F" for that test/assignment. All 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 instructors 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.

**Version Updated: 12/30/2011 10:24 AM**

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments/Due Dates/Quizzes
10 - Jan	Syllabus and Overview	Ch. 1	
12 - Jan	Introduction to psychoactive drugs	Ch. 1	
17 - Jan	Drugs and Society	<i>Class Notes**</i> (Ch. 2 & 3 for reference)	
19 - Jan	Drugs and the brain	Ch. 4 <i>Additional Class Notes**</i>	Quiz 1; <i>SGR 1 due</i>
24 - Jan	Drugs and Neurotransmitters	Ch. 4 <i>Additional Class Notes**</i>	Quiz 2
26 - Jan	Pharmacology	Ch. 5	
31 - Jan	Stimulants	Ch. 6	Quiz 3
2 - Feb	Depressants and Inhalants		<i>SGR 2 due</i>
7 - Feb	Alcohol	Ch. 7	Quiz 4
9 - Feb	Antipsychotics	<i>Class Notes**</i> (Ch. 8 for reference)	
14 - Feb	<i>Midterm Exam</i>		
16 - Feb	Tobacco	Ch. 10	
21 - Feb	Caffeine	Ch. 11	Quiz 5
23 - Feb	Dietary supplements and OTCs	Ch. 12	<i>SGR 3 due</i>
28 - Feb	Opioids	Ch. 13	Quiz 6
1 - Mar	Hallucinogens	Ch. 14	
6 - Mar	Marijuana	Ch. 15	Quiz 7
8 - Mar	Performance Enhancing drugs	Ch. 16	<i>SGR 4 due</i>
13 - Mar	Prevention and treatment of abuse	<i>Class Notes**</i> (Ch. 17/18 for reference)	Quiz 8
15 - Mar	Prevention and treatment of abuse		<i>SGR 5 due</i>
20 - Mar	<i>FINAL EXAM : Tuesday, 8:00am – 10:00am</i>		