

Psychoactive Drugs (Psy 383)

Spring Term, 2013; University of Oregon

The Meeting Time:

Tuesday and Thursday (TR), 2:00-3:20pm

129 McKensie Hall (MCK; [Map](#))

The Instructor:

Dr. Peter Sparks (psparks@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours: TTH, 3:45-4:45 (Rm. 341, Straub)
~Or by appointment!!!

The Teaching Assistant:

Jordan Livingston (jlivings@uoregon.edu)

Office hours: By Appointment Only (via email)

The Textbook:

Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society* (8th 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.

<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Book Chapter</u>
Week 1 (April 1-6) Introduction: Pharmacology Neuroscience	Chapter 1 (2) Chapter 2 (3) My Lecture
Week 2 (April 7-13) The Basics: (Continued) Neuroscience The Drugs: Alcohol and Tobacco	 Chapter 7 (10)
Week 3 (April 14-20) The Drugs: Tobacco (continued) The Drugs: Caffeine	 My Lecture
Week 4 (April 21-27) Exam 1 Monday (April 22) Narcotics	Chapter 10 (13)
Week 5 (April 28 – May 4) The Drugs: Stimulants	Chapter 9 (12)
Week 6 (May 5-11) The Drugs: Cannabis and Hallucinogens The Drugs: Pharmaceutical Drugs Sedatives, Hypnotics etc.	Chapter 8 (11) Chapter 11 (14)
Week 7 (May 12-18) Exam 2 Wednesday (May 15) The Drugs: Pharmaceutical Drugs (Continued)	
Week 8 (May 19-25): Why do we do drugs? How do we measure trends? Who is doing them? Why do people use them? Addiction Therapy and Prevention	Chapter 4 (6) Chapter 5 (7) Chapter 6 (8) Chapter 2 (3) and My Lecture Chapter 15 (19)
Week 9 (May 26-June 1): Monday is Memorial Day Drug Culture and ritual History of Government Control	 Chapter 12 (16)
Week 10 (June 2-9) Crime and the Economy Legalization?	Chapter 13, 14 (17, 18) Chapter 16 (20)
Week 11 (Dec. 2-8) Final Exam Week!! Our exam is <u>scheduled</u> for <u>Tuesday, June 11th</u>, at 1pm. Make note of the different time!!!! <i>During this time, we will take our 3rd exam. It will only cover the material covered after the second exam, and therefore is <u>NOT</u> an all comprehensive exam.</i>	

Evaluation

Homework: There will be homework assignments this term, but they need to be timed with and announced in alignment with the topics we cover in class. Thus, the "Assignments" folder in Blackboard starts off the term as hidden. It will appear soon! The purpose of these assignments 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 5-10pts each (or more). They will mostly consist of reading articles and reflecting on them in essay format. In some cases, there may be some data to analyze (compile and interpret) or include a discussion board component where students work in groups to distill a position which becomes posted in a discussion board (via Blackboard).

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'), you will then packaged them together (in a folder) and submit them. Do **NOT** submit them one at a time. They will not be graded for accuracy but for completeness and effort. They are worth 3 pts each (18-21 pts total), 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. You should work on each worksheet as we cover that drug in class. Waiting till the package needs to be turned in is not a good use of your time and will not facilitate the learning of this material.

Papers/Poster: (Group Project)

Since many of the topics covered in this class would be important information for your fellow students, I want you to create a learning experience for your peers. For this project, you will need to get into groups (3-4 people), choose a topic to research, and research it. The product will be an 5 page paper (details will come later). THEN the group needs to create a one page graphic (advertisement? miniature poster?), which graphically (with some text) illustrates/explains/teachings this concept in a efficient and creative way. This graphic can be created on a simple 8x11 inch paper but should resemble an advertisement or FYI commercial. The graphic from each group will then be posted on a discussion board where they will be judged by the rest of the class in terms of its ease in explaining the concept and creativity. The top 5 posters which gain votes will earn 5 pts extra credit!!!! The paper will be worth 15 pts, and the poster/graphic will be worth 10 pts (there may be more points allotted here).

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.

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

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 70% of your grade and the other assignments will make up the rest. Letter grades will be applied as follows:

97-100%= A+	83-86.99%= B	70-72.99%= C-	59.99-below= F
93-96.99%= A	80-82.99%= B-	67-69.99%= D+	
90-92.99%= A-	77-79.99%= C+	63-66.99%= D	
87-89.99%= B+	73-76.99%= C	60-62.99%= D-	

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 withdraw 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 let me know if there is anything I can do to help. If you think there is something "going on" which is inhibiting your ability to learn, please contact the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](#) either by email (uoaec@uoregon.edu) or by phone (1-541-346-1155) or come and talk with me. Don't be shy; I have had numerous students come to me after failing an exam and casually mention that they thought they were ADHD, Dyslexic, learning disabled or had anxiety issues. Support through the AEC is not special treatment, but is there to help you be the best that you can be. Let us help before the exam.

The GTF: It is fantastic that we have a GTF to help with this course. For the most part, he will be helping with the grading. He does not have a regular office hour, but will set up appointments as needed. Just give him an email. If you have questions about how the exam was graded, then set up an appointment with him first to go over the exam.

IF you have further questions, please come and see me. Also, it is unlikely that he will be available during the final exam week. So make sure that you talk to him about any issue before that time. Any questions during exam week should be presented to me.

The final exam: The final exam has been scheduled by the university. I am extremely resistant to changing the time for the exam; either giving it early or later. If I even get 4-5 students who are given such leeway, it becomes a logistical nightmare. I will only consider giving someone a different time if their situation is an emergency and unexpected. If you need to leave to go home for the summer early because that is when your ride is leaving, or because it fits in with your families vacation plans or because you have a doctor's appointment back home, then don't take this course. College is important; treat it as such.

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!

In addition, the UO has numerous resources to help you become the best that you can be as well. Please consult the [Learning Services website](#). Performing poorly is more due to unrefined academic skills and effort than some inherent trait within the student. 99% of us need to work hard to learn the material; let us help you perform at your best.

Finally, Finally: There is plenty of time to discuss your grade for the course, or grades for each assignment or exam during the course. When the course is over, do not email me begging for a re-evaluation. It is not going to happen. While I am flexible (to some extent) during the term and independently for each assignment, I try really hard not to second guess the final grade. That grade is the result of a mathematical formula based on 100's of points which you could have earned. Missing at grade level by a percentage point is painful, but I am unlikely to change it. I know this sounds very...well...fascist of me, but when you have a few hundred students in a term, it is amazing how just a few percent becomes quite a large number of students. Essentially, focus on doing your best on each assignment/exam, and your final grade will take care of itself.