

Psychoactive Drugs (PSY 383)
Spring 2015 CRN: 36158
University of Oregon

Instructor: **Dr. Jagdeep Kaur-Bala**
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Classroom: **123 Global Scholars Hall**
Time: **8:30- 9:50am TR**

Office Hours: **10:30am – 11:30am Tuesdays/Thursdays** (& by appointment)

Teaching assistant: **Stephanie Kramer**, srk@uoregon.edu

Off. Hrs. **4:00pm-5:00pm Mondays/ Wednesdays & by appointment** 117 LISB, Phone: 346-4272

Course website: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> This course is managed via blackboard. This site will provide supplemental information for the course (syllabus, course schedule, grades, copies of overheads, assignments, etc.). Please be sure to check for announcements and updates often.

Course Objectives: One goal of this course is to familiarize you with the different aspects of psychoactive drug use and abuse. Students will get familiar with the neuroscience and pharmacology of psychoactive drugs and as the basis of understanding dependence, abuse, prevention and treatment. We will study different categories of psychoactive substances 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. Readings and discussions will be driven by research findings and methodological approaches in the field. Each of the non-lecture parts of the course (discussions, debates, papers, presentations, movies) are designed to reinforce ideas and augment concepts presented in lectures with descriptions of empirical research. As such, evaluation of research findings, developing independent study skills, applying critical thinking, and generating informed opinions is an important goal for students taking this course.

Required Text: **Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior**, by Carl Hart and Charles Ksir; 16th edition, McGraw Hill Publishers. This is a comprehensive text for the class. One copy of the textbook is 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. Please note that some class materials (videos, demos, etc.) will not be available outside of class due to copyright and intellectual property laws. You are expected to do the assigned reading **before** the class period in which it is due. Questions are encouraged in all parts of the course and students are welcome to stop by my office or the GTF's for questions and/or discussions or via 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 and approaches to study, and develop intervention and treatment methods. This is a fast paced class and you should plan on scheduling regular intervals of time for studying and assignments outside of class.

GRADING POLICY

Final grades are based on consistent performance through the term. Final grading will be based on the combined weighted scores on quizzes, discussion group responses, participation, midterm and final exams. In addition, some opportunities for extra-credit will be available to all.

- **Midterm Exam** – 25% of final grade
- **Final Exam** – 30% of final grade
- **Quizzes** – 6 highest- scoring of 8 quizzes form 25% of final grade
- **Study group discussion responses** – 12.5% of final grade
- **Participation** – 7.5% of final grade
- **Extra-credit (optional)** - up to 3 points added to final grade

Letter grades will be determined as follows: A (90-103% of total possible points), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (0-59%). Scores in the upper and lower third of each grade range will be awarded a 'plus' or a 'minus' respectively. Typically, grades are not curved, However, the instructor reserves the right to relax (but not stiffen) this criterion for final grade assignments, depending on the actual distribution of scores.

Quizzes (25% 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 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 cumulative score of the remaining six yielding 25% 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 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**, part fill-in-the-blank, match-the-following and part **free response**. The final exam will contain questions drawn from the entire course. All exams are somewhat 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. Student athletes should notify me of their away schedule early in the term and make arrangements for taking missed tests on the road, when possible. Format of make-up exams may be different in type of questions and/or choices.

Study-group Reading Response assignments (12.5%): 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.*

Participation (2.5%) is based on **attendance and discussion**. Attendance will be taken during some (random!) class periods and after specific class activities. This can be at any point during the class period. (see blackboard for classroom response system (CRS) instructions). It is important that you come to class. Many of the exam questions are derived from lecture content that is not in the assigned readings. Other class materials, like videos are not available online and non-lecture parts of class e.g. discussions and

group activities can't be made up after the class for credit. If you miss a class, please try to get a copy of the lecture notes from a classmate. Discussion during class and on Blackboard discussion boards helps learning and concept clarification and is encouraged during all parts of this course.

What about extra credit? *Extra-credit will be awarded for participation and occasional in-class assignments/group work/discussions.* All students who participate in the activity and sign attendance at that time will be awarded EC points. You can earn **up to 3 points** in extra credit. These points will be **added to your final grade** at the end of the class. So, if you score an 80% with tests and assignments, and you earn 3 points of extra credit, your final score will be 83%.

Due Dates: **Assignments are due by the start of lecture on the appropriate date.** Due dates are contained in the course outline. *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 Special needs: 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. *The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the **Accessible Education Center** (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu* Also, please request that an AEC adviser to send a letter verifying your disability and accommodation needs. For a list of resources provided by the Accessible Education Center, please see <http://aec.uoregon.edu/about/index.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 may be made.

Academic Honesty: **Cheating will NOT be tolerated in any form in this class.** Any attempt to get a reward/score for yourself or another student in this course that puts others at a disadvantage is considered cheating. All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may be required to submit writing assignments to **SafeAssign**. 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 analysis and detection program. For consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. 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 instructor before you complete any relevant requirements of the course. (For more information, see the UO web site regarding academic honesty at: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx>

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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: 03/25/2015 11:55 AM

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments/Due Dates/Quizzes
31 - Mar	Syllabus and Overview	Ch. 1	
2 - Apr	Introduction to psychoactive drugs	Ch. 1	
7 - Apr	Studying Drug Use	Ch. 2	
9 - Apr	Drugs and Society	Class Notes** (Ch. 3 for reference)	Quiz 1
14 - Apr	Drugs in the Brain	Ch. 4 Additional Class Notes**	SGR 1 due
16 - Apr	Drugs in the Body	Ch. 5	Quiz 2
21 - Apr	Drug Physiology	Ch. 5	
23 - Apr	Stimulants	Ch. 6	Quiz 3
28 - Apr	Depressants and Inhalants	Ch. 7	SGR 2 due
30 - Apr	Alcohol	Ch. 9	Quiz 4
5 - May	Midterm Exam		
7 - May	Tobacco	Ch. 10	
12 - May	Caffeine	Ch. 11	
14 - May	Opioids	Ch. 13	Quiz 5
19 - May	Hallucinogens	Ch. 14	SGR 3 due
21 - May	Marijuana	Ch. 15	Quiz 6
26 - May	Psychopharmaceuticals	Class Notes** (Ch. 8 for reference)	
28 - May	Other psychoactive substances	Class Notes**	Quiz 7
2 - Jun	Prevention and treatment of abuse	Class Notes** (Ch. 17 & 18 for reference)	SGR 4 due
4 - Jun	Prevention and treatment of abuse		Quiz 8
9 - Jun	FINAL EXAM : Tuesday, 8:00am – 10:00am SGR 5 due		