

Psychology 3740: Drugs and Behavior

Fall 2012

MWF 10:30 - 11:20 AM

SS 347

Professor's Name: Dr. Lauren A. Fowler

Professor's Email: lfowler@weber.edu or email tool on Canvas

**(this is by FAR the best way to get in touch with me!)

Professor's Office Phone: 801-626-7620 (answering machine)

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 8:30-9:30 AM; also by appointment

Office Location: SS 379b (located off of the south stairwell)

Web Site: <http://canvas.weber.edu>

I. Required Materials

- A. Textbook: Meyer, J. & Quenzer, L. (2005). *Psychopharmacology: Drugs, The Brain, and Behavior*. Sinauer Associates: Sunderland, MA.
- B. Additional readings (provided electronically)
- C. #2 Pencils for Taking Exams
- D. \$ 0.40 for Taking Exams (10 cents for each scan-tron)
- E. Some background in the biological sciences. This should NOT be your first class which covers the brain!
- F. Your brain in HIGH gear!

II. Course Objectives

- A. Students will learn basic neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neuroendocrinology related to drug actions.
- B. Students will learn about the nervous system activity that underlies drug action, including neurotransmitters and chemical neurotransmission.
- C. Students will learn basic principles (pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics) of drug action.
- D. Students will learn about the biological bases of mental disorders and about the classes of psychoactive drugs that are used to treat them.
- E. Students will learn about the commonly abused drugs and their mechanisms of action, as well as prevention and treatment for drug abuse.
- F. Students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of drug actions, drug use and abuse, and prevention and treatment of drug abuse in a community drug-education program.

III. Course Grade

No exams or homework assignments can be made up after the last day of Classes. There are no exceptions to this rule!

A. Examinations

1. Four written examinations (multiple choice, labeling, essay, and short answer) will be given during the semester (each will make up 16% of your grade). The fourth exam will be taken during finals week.
2. All exams will be taken in the Social Sciences Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Sciences Building. You will have 3 days to take each exam (you have more time for the final). Please note the testing center hours located at the end of the syllabus.

B. Make-up Examinations/Missing Exams/Missing or Late Assignments

If you miss an exam you will automatically be deducted 20% of the exam grade. You must contact me **IN WRITING** within 2 days of the last day of the exam period in order to schedule a make-up. You must make up the exam within 3 days week of the last day of the exam. If you do not make up the exam during that time, you will receive a grade of zero for that exam. You may take an exam a day early (at no penalty!) if you have a conflict with the exam schedule. Remember that you have 3 days to take an exam, and we do not have class during the exam period. Also remember that you **MUST** show up to the testing center during their hours of operation. They will **NOT** let you take an exam late! If you plan to take an exam early **OR** late, you must notify me in writing of your intentions. If you have an excused absence, you must notify me during the exam period with your explanation in order to schedule a make-up time for the exam. Failure to notify me within that period will result in a grade of zero. You may email or call to notify me of any problems.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. If an assignment is not turned in within the first 5 minutes of class on the due date, the assignment is considered late. Assignments turned in late will be deducted 5 percentage points per day (beginning on the due date), including weekends and holidays. Please do **NOT** turn an assignment in late!!!

C. Presentations and Papers

In addition to the 4 exams for this course, you will be required to complete the following assignments. The contribution of each assignment to your final

grade is listed next to each assignment. Additional information will be made available about these assignments after the first day of class.

- i. **Drug Fact Sheets (20%):** All students are required to submit two drug fact sheets. These fact sheets should include information on the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, dosage, general information, references, and street-wise information on the drug. A handout describing the specific requirements of the fact sheets will be distributed separately. The first fact sheet will be on a legal drug; the second fact sheet will contain information about an illegal drug. More information is available on the class website. You may sign up for your drug of choice on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each fact sheet is worth 12% of your grade.
- ii. **Class Presentations (12%):** Students will be expected to give a presentation and write a paper on a single subject chosen from a list of topics covered in the class. Six separate sessions will be devoted to the student presentations (2-3 presentations/session), in which each student/pair of students will be given approximately 15 minutes to present, followed by a few minutes for questions and discussion. Presentations should focus on one to two recently published basic or clinical research articles in the student's area of interest, and should include: introduction to the research area, discussion of methods, results and conclusions of each paper, as well as future directions. Students should provide a copy of one of their articles at LEAST one week prior to their presentation. Students not presenting will be expected to read the papers before coming to the class and to participate in discussions following presentations. A 2-3 page paper will be due on the day of the presentation, and it should be written in the style of a review article that summarizes the current state of knowledge and research in the student's area of interest. More information on the presentation and paper can be found on the course website.
- iii. **Class Participation (4%)**
During lecture, it is always beneficial for students to participate, ask questions, and contribute their knowledge to the discussion. In addition, during presentations and discussions, students will need to demonstrate that they have read the articles prior to class. Class participation will be graded on a scale of 0 -4, with 4 earning the full 4% participation credit, 3 earning 3%, etc.

D. Grading Scale

The course grade will be assigned according to the scale indicated below:

<u>Numeric Score</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90-100	A
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
60-66	D
Below 60	E

IV. Course Outline

This course will cover 15 chapters from the text, as well as other related material. There is an **enormous** amount of material that is not found in the textbook. Also, not all of each chapter is used. The following represents a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary.

<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
1, (8)	General Issues of Drugs and Behavior, Principles of Pharmacology; *Readings #1	9/13 - 9/15
Drug Fact Sheet #1 Due		10/1
(2), (3), 5, 6, 7 17, 9	(Neuroanatomy), Neurophysiology, Synaptic Transmission, Neurotransmitters, Anxiety Disorders and pharmacotherapy, Alcohol; *Readings #2	10/11 - 10/13
Drug Fact Sheet #2 Due		10/29
11, 12, 10, 13	CNS Stimulants: cocaine and amphetamines, caffeine, and nicotine; Opiates, Marijuana; *Readings #3	11/8-11/10
Presentations in Class		11/26 - 12/7

() Read this chapter for the exams, but it will not be covered in class. You are responsible for the material contained within these chapters.

*For a list of the readings to accompany each exam, please refer to the course website under the READINGS link.

V. Additional Information

A. Attendance

It is ***strongly*** recommended that you attend class. There will be a considerable amount of information that will be given **only** during class (i.e. not in the textbook), and the tests will concentrate heavily on that information. Attendance is not required, but the best way to be successful in this class is to attend. You will be tested over material covered during the class presentations, and attending is the only way to get that information. Class participation during the presentations is graded, and therefore attendance during that time period is especially important.

B. Class Courtesy

This is a large class, so please be courteous of others when coming late to class (or leaving early). Please refrain from talking during class lecture. Eating and drinking in class is allowed, as long as it is not disruptive to the learning environment. **PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES IN CLASS!! This means NO text messaging!!** It is rude and inappropriate to use your cell phone in class. Any disruptive behavior will be addressed immediately, and if the behavior does not cease, you will be asked to leave class.

Some topics to be discussed in this class are extremely sensitive. While other members of the class may have different opinions from yours, please respect every class member's right to share their opinion.

C. Grade Appeals

If, after receiving an exam back during class, you think a mistake has been made in the grading of your exam, please do not ask about this during class. Please email me what your questions are, provide reference to notes in class or specific pages from the book, or provide additional resources. You will receive a response, and any grade adjustment necessary, within 48 hours.

D. Plagiarism/Cheating

Whenever you try to pass off someone's work as your own, that is cheating. If you cheat on a homework assignment or exam, you will receive a grade of **E (Failing) for the course**. Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of infringements (including plagiarism) that constitute cheating.

<http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>.

Please refer to the PLAGIARISM link on the web site (HOW TO AVOID PLAGIARISM) for specifics about plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and any plagiarism (even unintentional) will result in a grade of E for the semester

WSU subscribes to TurnItIn.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require you to submit some or all of your assignments to it this semester, and documents submitted to TurnItIn.com are retained, anonymously, in their databases. Continued enrollment in this course constitutes an understanding of and agreement with this policy.

F. Students with Disabilities

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

G. Students' Rights and Responsibilities

Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of all WSU student rights and responsibilities.

<http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

H. Testing Center

All exams will be taken in the Social Sciences Testing Center, located in the basement of the Social Sciences building (SS 036). In order to take an exam, you must show up on the correct date at the appropriate times (listed below) with a form of picture ID. You will not be allowed to take the exam without a picture ID or if you show up after hours. Please see the Social Science Testing Center hours listed below.

<http://departments.weber.edu/testingcenter/hours.htm>

Monday - Thursday

7:30 AM - 9:00 PM (Must show up by 8:00 PM to take an exam)

Friday

7:30 AM - 5:30 PM (Must show up by 4:30 PM to take an exam)

Saturday

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (Must show up by 3:30 PM to take an exam)

VI. Grade Record

Please keep a record of the grades you receive on each exam and assignment. This will help insure that you are always aware of your academic progress in this class. You may always access your grades on the course web site. Remember, your grade is comprised of 4 exams (16% each), 2 fact sheets (10% each), class participation (4%), and a class presentation/paper (12%).

****The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. By continuing in the course after receiving the syllabus, you are consenting to the regulations set forth by the syllabus.**