



PSYC 475

Behavioural Pharmacology

Fall 2013

Instructor:	Simon Spanswick	Lecture Location:	SH 288
Phone:	403-220-3969	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 11:00-12:15
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Office:	A034		
Office Hours:	Email me to arrange a convenient time		

Course Description and Goals

The aim of this course is to provide an insight into the mechanisms whereby drugs exert their action on the central nervous system to influence biochemical, physiological and behavioural processes.

Prerequisites

Psychology 205 or Psychology 200 and 201- Principles of Psychology I & II

Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology

Psychology 375 – Brain and Behaviour

Required Text

Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior (2nd Edition), JS Meyer and LF Quenzer (2005), Sinauer. The text is available from the university bookstore.

Evaluation

Quizzes (6 total):	20%
Midterm (Oct 9 th):	25%
Research Proposal (Nov 14 th)	5%
Term Paper (Dec 5 th):	20%
Final Exam (to be scheduled by the registrar):	30%

There will be 6 quizzes spread throughout the course; **the marks from your best 5 will be used to calculate your total quiz grade.** Each quiz will be worth 4% of your final grade (for a total of 20%). **These quizzes will test you on the prior days' lecture/reading material,** and are designed to keep you up to date with the course material. **Quizzes will be done at the beginning of the lecture,** and will consist of 1 to 2 short answer questions. Please ensure that you have a writing utensil with you at the beginning of each class.

There are 2 exams for this course; the midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Questions will be drawn from lecture material, the assigned textbook chapters, and any supplementary reading materials. The midterm will be held on **October 24th** and is worth 25% of your final grade. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and is worth 30% of your final grade, it will include multiple choice and short answer questions, **the final exam will NOT be cumulative.**

Quizzes and exams will be graded using a similar format. Half marks will be given if it is clear that you know the general answer, but have omitted specific details or scientific terms. Full marks will be given to those that include specifics, and employ the correct terminology and concepts. **No books, notes, computers, calculators, or cellular phones will be allowed during exam/quiz writing.**

The research proposal is due on **November 14th** at the beginning of class, and is worth 5% of your final grade. **There will be a reduction of one letter grade (e.g. A to A-) for each 24h interval that the research proposal is late.** The research proposal should briefly discuss the topic that you have chosen for your term paper (see below). It should be written in 12-point font and be double-spaced. Your research proposal should be 1-2 pages in length (not including references), and include 3-5 references.

The term paper is to be written on a topic of your choosing within the field of behavioural pharmacology. It is due at the beginning of class on **December 5th**. As with the research proposal, **there will be a reduction of one letter grade (e.g. A to A-) for each 24h interval that the term paper is late.** It can be a maximum of 15 double spaced pages, not including references. As with the research proposal, it should be written in 12 point font, and include a reference section. The final paper will be graded according to two criteria:

1. **Content (70%):** The accuracy and comprehensive nature of information presented, in addition to the amount of research you have done, make up the available marks for this section of the term paper grade.
2. **Presentation (30%):** Grammar, organization of the paper (including references), clarity of writing, as well as other skills pertaining to written English will make up the available marks for this section of the term paper grade.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: *Exceptional Performance.* An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: *Excellent Performance*. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: *Good Performance*. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: *Satisfactory Performance*. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: *Marginally meets standards*. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met*. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
T Sep 10	Lecture begins. Introduction to the course.
R Sep 19	Quiz #1,
F Sep 20	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term) or Fall Term half courses after this date.
M Sep 23	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and Fall Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
F Sep 27	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
R Oct 3	Quiz #2,
M Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.

R Oct 17	Quiz #3,
R Oct 24	Midterm (25% of final grade).
T Nov 5	Quiz #4
M Nov 11	Remembrance Day (Observed). University Closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
Nov 9-12	Reading Days. No lectures.
R Nov 14	Research Proposal due at the beginning of class (5% of final grade).
T Nov 19	Quiz #5
T Dec 3	Quiz #6
R Dec 5	Fall Term Lectures End. Term paper due (20% of final grade).
F Dec 6	Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 9-19	Fall Term Exam Period.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a

test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **Dec 6, 2013**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 20, 2013**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 23, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 6, 2013**.