

PSYC 475 (01)
Drugs and Behaviour
Winter 2017

Instructor:	Dr. Simon Spanswick	Lecture Location:	SA 235
Phone:	403-220-4948	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 11:00 – 12:15
Email:	scspansw@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	A032		
Office Hours:	Email me to arrange a convenient time		

Course Description

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

Course Learning Outcomes

The Department of Psychology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. The table below lists the key learning outcomes for this course, the program-learning outcomes they facilitate (see psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/program-learning-outcomes), and the expected level of achievement.

Course Learning Outcomes	PLO(s)	Level(s)
Explain the mechanisms of drug action	1	I
Explain how different drugs interact with nervous system function and influence behaviour	1	I
Outline the theories and mechanisms of drug addiction and its treatment	1	I
Evaluate methods and findings from behavioural pharmacological studies	1,2,5,7	C
Summarize and critically evaluate information regarding behavioural pharmacology	1,2,3,4,5,7	A
Discuss the ethics of drug use/abuse	2,6	C
Evaluate the claims made in the media concerning drug use and drug action	1,2,3,4	A

Notes. PLOs = Program-Learning Outcomes: 1 = demonstrate knowledge of psychological sciences, 2 = think critically and solve problems, 3 = conduct research and analyze data, 4 = communicate effectively, 5 = demonstrate information literacy, 6 = understand and implement ethical principles, 7 = apply psychological knowledge and skills. Level of PLO achievement facilitated by this course: I = introductory, C = competency, A = advanced.

Prerequisites

Psychology 312 – Experimental Design and Quantitative Methods for Psychology
Psychology 375 – Brain and Behaviour

Required Text

Julien's Primer of Drug Action: A Comprehensive Guide to the Actions, Uses, and Side Effect of Psychoactive Drugs (13th Edition), Advokat CD, Comaty JE, Julien RM (2014), Worth Publishers. The text is available from the university bookstore.

Evaluation

Brief Reports (2 total):	15%
Midterm (Ch. 1-7; February 28 th)	30%
Research Proposal (March 21 st)	5%
Term Paper (April 11 th)	20%
Final Exam (Ch. 8-16; TBA)	30%

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 **February 28th** and is worth 30% of your final grade. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar and is worth 35% of your final grade, it will include multiple choice and short answer questions. **The final exam will NOT be cumulative.** Exams will be graded such that 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 writing.**

There are 2 brief reports to be completed during the term, each worth 7.5% of your final grade. The first will be assigned in class on January 19th and will be due at the beginning of class on **January 26th**. The second will be assigned in class on February 9th and will be due at the beginning of class on **February 16th**. Each brief report should be written in 12-point font and will require a maximum of 3 double-spaced pages, not including references. Further details regarding the brief reports will be provided in class and posted on D2L.

The research proposal is due on **March 21st** at the beginning of class, and is worth 5% of your final grade. 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 a maximum of 2 pages in length (not including your reference section), and include 3-5 pertinent 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 **April 11th**. It can be a maximum of 15 double-spaced pages, not including your reference section. As with the brief reports and research proposal, it should be double-spaced and written in 12-point font. Details regarding the term paper will be provided in class and posted on D2L.

All written assignments are to be handed at the beginning of class in paper format. There will be a reduction of one letter grade (e.g. A to A-) for each 24h interval that the given assignment is late, including weekends.

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 Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
T Jan 10	Introduction to the course. Pharmacokinetics (Chapter 2)
R Jan 12	Pharmacokinetics (Chapter 2)
T Jan 17	Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics (Chapter 2/3)
R Jan 19	Pharmacodynamics (Chapter 3)
F Jan 20	<i>Last day to drop Winter Term half-courses.</i>

M Jan 23	<i>Last day to add or swap Winter Term half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.</i>
T Jan 24	Pharmacodynamics (Chapter 3)
R Jan 26	Brief Report #1 due (7.5% of final grade) Addiction (Chapter 4)
T Jan 31	Addiction (Chapter 4)
R Feb 2	Addiction (Chapter 4)
T Feb 7	Alcohol (Chapter 5)
R Feb 9	Alcohol (Chapter 5)
T Feb 14	Alcohol/Inhalants (Chapter 5)
R Feb 16	Brief Report #2 due (7.5% of final grade) Inhalants (Chapter 5)
Feb 19-26	Reading Week. No lectures. University open (except Family Day). Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
M Feb 20	Alberta Family Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
T Feb 28	Midterm (30% of final grade)
R Mar 2	Caffeine/Nicotine (Chapter 6)
T Mar 7	Caffeine/Nicotine (Chapter 6)
R Mar 9	Caffeine/Nicotine (Chapter 6)
T Mar 14	Psychostimulants (Chapter 7)
R Mar 16	Psychostimulants (Chapter 7)
T Mar 21	Research Proposal due (5% of final grade) Psychostimulants (Chapter 7)
R Mar 23	Psychedelics (Chapter 8)
T Mar 28	Psychedelics (Chapter 8)
R Mar 30	Cannabis (Chapter 9)
T Apr 4	Cannabis (Chapter 9)
R Apr 6	Opioids (Chapter 10)
T Apr 11	Term paper due (20% of final grade) Opioids (Chapter 10)
W Apr 12	<i>Winter Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full courses and Winter Term half courses.</i>
F Apr 14	Good Friday. No Classes. University Closed
Apr 15-26	Winter Term Final Examinations.

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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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 up to 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 during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-review-and-makeup-exams>. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

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 by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

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 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 **April 12, 2017**.

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 130 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911 suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen 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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

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 **January 20, 2017**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **January 23, 2017**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **April 12, 2017**.