

# Biopsychology of Chemical Dependency: Drugs, Behavior, and Health

## Spring 2015, Section 8580

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**Office hours:** Mon: 3-5 PM / Wed 2:30-3:30 PM and by appointment

Please keep in mind that this syllabus is an approximation of the way the course will proceed & is subject to change.

Course Objective: This course will focus on the action of licit and illicit drugs on the body. Topics will include principles of drug action, physiology of the central nervous system and neurotransmitters, as well as how at least a dozen different drugs affect the body neurologically and physically.

**Required Text:** *Drugs and Society, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2014), by Hanson, Venturelli, & Fleckenstein

### Course Outcomes:

Integrate knowledge of licit and illicit drugs and effects on the brain and apply to addiction population.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered, to be prompt and to remain in class for the entire time. Instructors may drop a student from a class whenever a student is absent more hours than the number of hours the class meets per week. If you are absent more than ONE time, I have the right to drop you. If you leave class early or are tardy to the class more than 15 minutes, this will count as half an absence.

### Cell Phones

If you bring your cell-phone to class, be sure to have it in SILENT mode so that it will not disturb others. Do NOT text or take/make calls during class. If you have to answer an emergency phone call, please step out of the classroom. Do not have your phone visible during class time.

### Special Instructional Accommodation

To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services, SSB 320. (310) 287.4450.

### Standard of Student Conduct

Faculty members are charged with responsibility for building and maintaining a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. Disruptive, disrespectful, or obstructive behavior will be dealt with in terms specific to this syllabus and in accordance with the LACCD Standard of Student Conduct.

The following types of disciplinary action may be taken by an instructor:

- 1) Warning- A verbal or written notice, given to the student by an instructor. Continuation or repetition of the specified conduct may be cause for further disciplinary action.
- 2) Removal by Instructor - An instructor may remove (suspend) a student from his or her class for the day of the incident and the next class meeting. During this period of removal, the student shall not return to the class from which he or she was removed without the permission of the instructor of the class.

### **Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community:**

One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community such as the psychology profession. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, private messages, discussion groups, and chat rooms:

1. No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.
2. Please address everyone politely by their name.
3. Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.
4. Unless I specifically ask you to do so as part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information. Violators will be excluded from the course.

5. Please use common sense and common courtesy as if you are already a professional in the business community. This includes messages you send between each other and the instructor. I will not tolerate rude, condescending, or "challenging" emails.

If you choose to disregard these rules, there are college policies that I can follow that may eventually lead to you being dropped from this course. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. When there is evidence of cheating or plagiarism in classroom work, the instructor will assign a failing grade, "F," or zero points to the examination or assignment in which the alleged cheating or plagiarism occurred. The instructor will provide the student with supporting documentation of the plagiarism or cheating charge. Instructors have the authority to use plagiarism detecting instruments such as "Turn It In" to detect academic dishonesty.

#### **Forms of Behavior which Violate Academic Integrity**

- **Cheating.** Using any materials or devices or strategies, which provide undue advantage on any exam, assignment, activity or other method of assessment for a course. This includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student's exam, using phones or other communication systems to text message during exams, taking pictures or images of exams, talking with others during exams, using Internet to find information, or any other system of inappropriate "help." Exams are to be measures of what YOU, as an individual, have learned.
- **Collaboration.** Working together on projects, papers, exams or other forms of assessment which are to be completed individually.
- **Plagiarism.** Taking anyone else's work as one's own. Presenting another's words, ideas, forms of expression, materials, or labor without proper citation, referencing, and declaration that this material originated outside the student's own work.

### **Online Requirements:**

This is a hybrid course, so you must have daily access to a computer with the Internet. Please go to [www.wlac.edu/online](http://www.wlac.edu/online) and review the tabs on the left side of that page. Pay specific attention to "Course Login" and "Technical Requirements." This information is critical to helping you succeed as an online student. Please make sure your email address is correct in the school system!

### **Course Requirements:**

It is imperative that you are online regularly in order to do the work. If you have never taken an online class, you should spend time quickly getting familiar with the tabs on the left side of the home page of the class. We will be utilizing almost all of the tabs.

#### **Lecture/Readings**

Essentially, the lectures are going to take place during class time on Saturdays and also in the "Modules" tab of Etudes. Each week you will be responsible for reading several textbook chapters (see calendar below). You will need to read all of the modules associated with the assigned book chapters each week.

### **Discussion Questions**

Each week, you will need to answer a Discussion Question (DQ) related to your reading. These are due by Wednesday night each week at 11:45 PM.

After reading the modules and the textbook, you will go to the "Discussion and Private Messages" tab, then click on "Discussion Questions," then the appropriate DQ # for that week. After reading the question, you hit "post reply" and write your answer in the space provided (do not cut and paste from Word because it doesn't always transmit properly to Etudes). Your grade on these discussion questions will be dependent on how thoroughly and thoughtfully you answer them as well as if you properly cite your answer.

Important: DO NOT copy other classmates' work; answers are posted for everyone to see in this format, and I do not want you to receive NO CREDIT because your answer matches someone else's. The best way to avoid this is to answer your question, *then* read what other people wrote. Also, do not copy word-for-word from a website or your textbook - this will also result in NO CREDIT for your answer.

When you answer a DQ and use a source for your answer, such as the textbook, you **MUST** give that source credit for the information. If you don't, you are saying that the answer came from you, and that is plagiarism. This too will result in NO CREDIT for your answer. For further clarification, read the information in the research paper module on plagiarism (AGAIN, note that you can't use a "wiki" site for DQs or the research paper).

I will not grade DQs that are posted after 11:45 PM on Wednesday each week. You cannot answer or post DQs after they have closed. There are no make-up DQs.

Your classmates can see what you post in the discussion section as well as the "Chat Room." Please feel free to chat with each other as much as possible as this helps with the discussions, and you can ask each other for help, etc. You will see when others are in the chat room because a blue dot will appear by their name in the users list on the left side of the site page.

### Exams

There are three exams in this course, each composed of 40 multiple-choice questions and worth 80 points. They are based on the lectures, modules, and the textbook reading.

You will need to go into the "Assignments, Tests, and Surveys" tab to do the test the week it is due. Once you begin an exam, the timer will continue to run until time runs out, so please plan accordingly. You can NOT stop the timer and come back to the test later. Access to Exam 1 and 2 will be *closed on Friday night at midnight* the week they are due. The final exam will close on Saturday, March 28 at noon. You will not be able to go back to take an exam after it has closed. In other words, there are NO make-up exams. Note again that this is also true of the weekly discussion questions.

### Research Paper

A research paper is due on March 14. The paper will be 4 complete, double-spaced, typed pages. Each day it is late, points are automatically deducted. I do not accept papers via email. More information regarding the paper is in the "research paper" section under the "getting started" module in Etudes.

### Grades and Points:

Exam 1 = 80 points	A = 400 - 360 points
Exam 2 = 80 points	B = 359 - 320 points
Exam 3 = 80 points	C = 319 - 280 points
Weekly DQs = 60 points	D = 279 - 240 points
Research Paper = 100 points	F = less than 239 points
Total = 400 points	

### Calendar:

Week 1 - Feb 21:	Overview of Drugs and Society Chapter 4 Homeostatic Systems and Drugs Chapter 5 How and Why Drugs Work DQ 1 due by 2/25
Week 2 - Feb 28:	Chapter 5 cont'd and Chapter 6 CNS Depressants DQ 2 due by 3/4

**Exam 1:** Overview and Chapters 4, 5, 6 due by 3/6 at midnight

Week 3 - March 7:	Chapter 7 Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects Chapter 8 Alcohol: Behavioral Effects DQ 3 due by 3/11
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Week 4 - March 14:	<b>Paper Due at 9 AM</b> Chapter 9 Narcotics (Opioids) Chapter 10 Stimulants DQ 4 due by 3/18
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**Exam 2:** Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 due by 3/20 at midnight

Week 5 - March 21:	Chapter 11 Tobacco Chapter 12 Hallucinogens DQ 5 due by 3/25
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Week 6 - March 28:	Chapter 13 Marijuana Chapter 14 Inhalants DQ 6 due by 4/1
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Week 7 - April 3:	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b> due by midnight on April 3!
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