

Psychology 391--Psychopharmacology  
Professor Wilson--Spring 2008  
Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:50

Course Description:

This course is the study of behavioral pharmacology, e.g., the systematic study of the effects of drugs on behavior. The course deals with mechanisms involved in drug in the body and how and why drugs are both used and abused.

Objectives:

1. This course is designed to give the student a basic background in factors that determine drug action and effectiveness. Students will learn about the following phenomena:
  - a. modes of administration;
  - b. distribution factors;
  - c. metabolism and elimination;
  - d. tolerance and dependence;
  - e. dose response curves.
  
2. The course is designed to give the student a basic understanding of neurochemical systems. Included under this objective are the following concepts:
  - a. basic structural aspects of neurons;
  - b. drug terminating mechanisms;
  - c. specific neurotransmitter systems.

3. The course will give the student an understanding of specific drug classes (i.e., sedative hypnotics, stimulants, opiates, psychedelics, and antipsychotics) and will investigate the behavioral effects of the use and abuse of those drug classes.

Grade Policy: There will be four exams in this course and your grade will be determined by the total number of points accumulated on four of five classroom exams. If you miss an examination, you may take a make-up of that examination, but beware, you may take only one make-up exam during the semester. In addition, you may drop one exam grade for the computation of your final grade.

In the lecture section of this course, if you miss six classes, your final grade will drop by one letter grade. If you miss ten classes, your grade will drop by two letter grades. If you miss twelve classes, you will receive an F for the semester. Your grade will be based upon the following schema:

A = 360-400; B = 320-359; C = 280-319; D = 240-279; F = 000-239

## Syllabus

Text: Grilly, D. M. (2008), Drugs and Human Behavior, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Allyn and Bacon.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
January 17	Introduction to drug use	Chapter 1
January 22- January 29	Determinants of drug action Pharmacologic principles	Chapter 2 Chapter 3,6
<b>January 31</b>	<b>Test 1</b>	
February 5- February 7	Nervous system structure Neurochemical systems	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
February 12	Drug classification	Chapter 7
February 14- February 28	Sedative hypnotics Ethanol Minor Tranquilizers	Chapter 8
<b>March 4</b>	<b>Test 2</b>	
March 6	Stimulants	Chapter 9,13
<b>March 10- March 14</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
March 18- March 27	Tobacco and caffeine	Chapter 9
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Test 3</b>	
April 3- April 8	Opiates	Chapter 10
April 10- April 15	Marijuana	Chapter 11
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Test 4</b>	

April 22-  
May 1            Hallucinogens            Chapter 11

April 6-  
May 8            Antipsychotics            Chapter 12

**TBA            Final Exam**

Notice to a person with a disability:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no individual otherwise qualified shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor as soon as possible. This is so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired since there will be **no retroactive accommodation**.  
Thank you.

Study Tips: The best advice on how to study for this course is to read the material beforehand, listen attentively to the lecture, then review the material very soon after each class has ended. In addition, students with academic difficulty should contact the SAM Center.