**Introduction and Overview**

Welcome to Psychopharmacology! In this course we’ll cover the major classes of psychoactive drugs used both clinically and recreationally. The emphasis will be on how these compounds affect the nervous system, thought processes, and behavior. A principal theme of the course will be the concept of addiction, which will surface repeatedly throughout this term.

I do NOT intend to use this course as a forum for either anti-drug or pro-drug messages. I will do my best to be fair, and to present both the pros and cons of each category of agents. It's impossible, however, to be free of bias when presenting information of this nature; you don’t study a topic for several decades and fail to develop opinions. Invariably, my opinions will emerge, intentionally or unintentionally. However, what I hope to do is introduce you to a broad enough range of sources so that you can continue your investigations beyond this course. I want you to think of this class as a beginning, rather than an end.

My goal is to create an open forum in this class, one where no question or opinion is inappropriate or inadmissible. Historically, there has been an extremely wide range of opinion among people taking Psychopharmacology, and I don’t expect this class to be any different. Recognize that there will be those among you who believe that any recreational drug use is immoral, or at least, unwise. There will also be people in this class who are experienced recreational drug users and who are strong proponents of drug use. In addition, there will be people who have used or are using psychotropic agents under medical supervision. So I'm asking that you not assume anything about the viewpoints of your classmates or of their "drug histories."
It is also my goal to make this class more than just a review of psychoactive drugs and their effects. I want you to consider drug use from cultural, philosophical, and economic perspectives as well.

**Nuts and Bolts**

Besides the assigned texts, there will be a number of reserve articles (electronic reserve at the library under this course name OR available via Science Direct) that you'll be expected to have read for the class day on which they are assigned. Note that the amount of reading is uneven across the class days. It’s a good idea to plan ahead and read more on days when the reading assignments are relatively light.

**Class Papers and Projects**

You will have to write a short paper in which you recommend a course of antidepressant drug therapy for fictitious patients.

Also, everyone is required to do a short presentation on a topic of your choice. You can do an individual presentation or a group (up to 4 people) presentation with a speaking time of 5-10 minutes, regardless of whether you’re solo or in a group. I’ll provide a list of potential topics, but you may also propose your own. I will hand out a description of the specifications for these assignments in a couple of weeks.

**Evaluation**

In addition to your paper and class presentation, there will be two quizzes and two exams in this course (a midterm and a final). The quizzes will be multiple choice. The exams will have a varied format—multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay.

The breakdown of your grade is as follows:

- First Quiz 10%
- Second Quiz 10%
- Clinical Pharmacology Paper 15%
- Presentation 15%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%

You may self-schedule your final exam. You must let me know by the last day of classes if you plan to exercise this option.
### Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic and Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 4th</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6th</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Neural Basis of Drug Action I: Brain Structures</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9th</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Neural Basis of Drug Action II: Neurons &amp; Synapses</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Musto et al (1991)</td>
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<td>Jan. 13th</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapters 2 and 3</td>
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<td>Jan. 16th</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Sedative-Hypnotic Drugs and Anxiolytics I</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 13</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Weich et al (2014)</td>
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<td>*Martin Luther King Day</td>
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<td>Jan. 18th</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>QUIZ Number 1 + Anxiolytics II</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Clinical Handbook (Section on Hypnotics/Sedatives) + (Section on Anxiolytic Agents)</td>
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<td>Jan. 20th</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Inhalants of Abuse</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 5; Goldstein et al (2016); Salas-Gomez et al (2016); Willenbring (2013)</td>
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<td>Jan. 23rd</td>
<td>Mon.</td>
<td>Opiates &amp; Opioids</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 10 + Ryan et al (2016)</td>
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<td>Jan. 25th</td>
<td>Wed.</td>
<td>Cannabis</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 9; *Hall (2014); Rocchetti et al (2014); Schoeler et al (2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 27th</td>
<td>Fri.</td>
<td>Antipsychotics</td>
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<td>*Assignment: Julien, Chapter 11; Clinical Handbook (Section on Antipsychotics)(BRING HANDBOOKS TO CLASS TODAY; Citrome et al (2013); CONT.</td>
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Rohleder et al (2016)

Jan. 30th Mon. Drugs Used to Treat Bipolar Disorder
Clinical Handbook (Section on Mood Stabilizers)
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 14;
Seemuller et al (2012)

Feb. 1st Wed. MIDTERM EXAM

Feb. 3rd Fri. Antidepressants I
Assignment: Julien Chapter 12;
Cheung et al (2015); Read et al (2014)

Feb. 6th Mon. MIDTERM BREAK—NO CLASS

Feb. 8th Wed. Antidepressants II
Clinical Handbook (Section on Antidepressants);
Xu et al (2016)

Feb. 10th Fri. Caffeine & Nicotine
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 6
Barreto et al (2015); Borota et al (2014);
Sherman et al (2016)

Feb. 13th Mon. Stimulants I: Cocaine
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 7, pp. 201-212;

Feb. 15th Wed. Stimulants II: Amphetamines/MDMA(Ecstasy)
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 7, pp. 212-230;

Feb. 16th Thurs. Clinical Pharmacology Papers Due by 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 17th Fri. MDMA/Psychadelics
Assignment: Parrot (2013); Doblin (2014); Parrott (2014)

Feb. 20th Mon. Psychedelics
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 8; Tyls et al (2014); Pollan (2015); dos Santos et al (2016)
Presidents’ Day

Feb. 22nd Wed. Special Topic: Addiction
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 4;
Greenberg (2008); Koob et al (2014); Nestor (2016)
Feb. 24th  Fri. Special Topic: Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology
Assignment: Julien, Chapter 15; Fontanella et al (2014); Insel (2014)

Feb. 27th  Mon. QUIZ NUMBER 2

Mar. 1st  Wed. Class Presentations I
Ash Wednesday

Mar. 3rd  Fri. Class Presentations II

Mar. 6th  Mon. Class Presentations III

Mar. 8th  Wed. Class Presentations IV
International Women’s Day

Mar. 10th  Fri. Review for Final Exam

Mar. 14th  Tues. FINAL EXAM  8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
(Self-scheduled)

* indicates that the article is available on e-reserve; password is PSYC; all others are available via Science Direct or Web of Knowledge (follow prompt)

REFERENCES AND ASSIGNED JOURNAL ARTICLES


Cortet, P., Jaussent, I., Lopez-Castroman, J., & Gorwood, P. (2014). Poor Response to antidepressants predicts new suicidal ideas and behavior in
depressed outpatients. European Neuropsychopharmacology, 24, 1650-1658.


Rohleder, Muller, J. K., Lange, B., & Leweke, F. M. (2016). Cannabidiol as a


