

**Psychology of Drug Use and Abuse 3240**  
**Weber State University**  
**Summer 2014**

**Professor:** Peggy Smith, Ph.D.  
**Office Hours:** By appointment only  
**Class Location:** SLCC Miller Campus Rm. 275  
**Class Time:** 7:30 - 10:10 p.m.  
**Contact Information:** e-mail: margaretsmith@weber.edu  
Cell #: 801-618-6177

**Required Text:** Levinthal, C.F. *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society, 8th ed.* Pearson Education, 2013.

**I. Course Objectives**

- A.** To provide students with an understanding of the history of drugs and how drugs relate to and effect behavior, society, and culture today.
- B.** To familiarize students with the many illegal and legal drugs in our society today and understand their biological and psychological effects on the mind and body.
- C.** To provide an integrative view of research in the area of drug use and abuse and the relationship to behavior and physiological processes.
- D.** To discuss intervention and prevention strategies for drug use and abuse.
- E.** To provide a research based knowledge of the process of addiction and the psychological processes accompanying the abuse of illicit and licit drugs.

**II. Course Requirements**

- A. Exams:** each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions; exams will be worth a total of 70% of your grade; the exams will not be comprehensive, however they will consist of material from the text as well as classroom handouts, lectures, and assignments; makeup exams will not be given. If you know you will be missing an exam please talk to me before the date of the exam.
- B. Class Presentation/Drug Paper:** Each student will be required to teach the class about a drug and its effects. Topics will be available the second week of class and will be due throughout the semester depending on the topic chosen. The presentation must be at least 5 minutes and no longer than 7 minutes. In addition, a handout must be provided for each student in the class covering the topic with major points and information. A paper covering the specifics of the drug will also be due at the time of the presentation. The paper must be 3-5 pages long with references written in APA style. Specifics will be handed out the second week of class. The presentation and paper will be worth 20% of the final grade.
- C. In-Class Activities:** There will be in-class activities and assignments throughout the semester. These activities cannot be made up as they involve small groups and specific instructions that will only be completed during class time. These activities will be worth 5% of your grade.
- D. Class Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Exams, activities, and discussions will only be completed during class times, thus, missing a class may lower your overall

grade as certain activities and discussions cannot be made up. Attendance will be worth 5% of your grade.

### III. Course Schedule

DATE	EXAMS	CHAPTER / READINGS
May 14		Syllabus Review – Ch. 1 & 2 – Overview and history
May 21		Ch. 3- Brain Behavior/ Relationships to behavior
May 28**		Ch. 4 – Stimulants
June 4	Exam #1	
June 11**		Ch. 5 – Narcotics
June 18**		Ch. 6 – Hallucinogens
June 25**		Ch. 7 – Marijuana
July 2**		Ch. 8 & 9 – Alcohol
July 9	Exam #2	
July 16**		Ch. 10 – Nicotine/ Ch. 11 – Caffeine
July 23**		Ch. 12 – Performance Enhancing Drugs
July 30**		Ch. 13 & 15 – Antipsychotics
Aug 6		Ch. 16 & 17 – Treatment, Intervention & Prevention
Aug. 13	Exam #3	

\* \*- Presentation dates

### IV. Grading Scale

A = 93-100%  
 A- = 90-92%  
 B+ = 86-89%  
 B = 83-85%  
 B- = 80-82%  
 C+ = 76-79%

C = 73-75%  
 C- = 70-72%  
 D+ = 66-69%  
 D = 63-65%  
 D- = 60-62%  
 E = <60%

### V. Use of Electronic Media

Students may not use laptops during class, with the exception of using a laptop to take notes or to access Canvas for class materials. However, the professor reserves the right to ask the students to turn off any media during lectures, if the media interferes with the class discussions, lectures, or other presentations. If a student needs certain media due to a disability, please let the professor know at the beginning of the course and exceptions may be made.

This course requires the use of Canvas. If you do not have access to the internet please let the professor know and arrangements may be made. The professor also reserves the right to set specific class guidelines about the use of all electronic media during the class lectures. There will be no laptops, cell phones or other devices allowed during the tests.

## **VI. Cheating**

All students are expected to abide by Weber State University's cheating policies, codes, definitions, and sanctions. Please refer to the following website for a complete listing of infringements that constitute cheating: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

Students are also expected to refrain from any type of plagiarism, intentional or unintentional. Please see the website to review what constitutes plagiarism. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in this course.

## **VII. Student Services**

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Services Center. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials in alternate formats if necessary.

## **VIII. Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

If you have a question or concern about this class, exams, homework, or syllabus in general, please contact me. If you would like to appeal any graded work please provide a written response as to why you feel the grade is not appropriate.

Attendance is mandatory however, if you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to know the information covered, as tests are a combination of class material and the textbook. In addition, extreme tardiness or early dismissal from class may result in a loss of information that can only be learned in the class setting. It is your responsibility to know what you have missed. This syllabus constitutes a general guideline of the course. Changes may be made to the readings and exam schedule. It is your responsibility to attend class and be aware of these possible changes.

Please refer to the following web site for a complete listing of all WSU student rights and responsibilities: <http://documents.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm>

## **IX. Emergency Closure**

If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via e-mail and Canvas. Look for announcements in emails and on Canvas. Code Purple is a good way to be alerted to campus closures, and you are encouraged to sign up for it.

## **X. Core Beliefs**

According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to "[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student's core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student's request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student's beliefs."