

Psychology of Substance Abuse

Instructor: Fran Brolle

Phone: 304-268-5767 (Please, no calls after 9 PM)

Email: fbrolle@excite.com

Office Hours: by appointment only please call my home phone

Class Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Class Times: 8:10 AM-9:25 AM

Text: Charles F. Levinthal (2010). *Drugs, Behavior and Modern Society* (6th ed.). Allyn and Bacon.

Course Description: The use of drugs in our society presents a paradox of good vs. evil. The story of drugs goes back thousands of years. Present day issues regarding drugs are problems that society has had to deal with for ages. This class will educate you not only about illicit drugs, but also about legally available drugs. We will discuss issues regarding the decriminalization of drugs and other politicized issues. The *biopsychosocial* impact of both licit and illicit drugs on the user and society will be addressed.

Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of the biopsychosocial effects of drugs on the individual and society.
2. Define "substance abuse" and "substance dependence" as described in the DSM-IV-TR.
3. Explain the pharmacology of the major drugs of abuse.
4. Describe prevention strategies and evaluate their effectiveness.
5. List and describe alternative behaviors to drug use.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance: is required and a big part of your grade. Students are expected to be on time for all classes. A student who is more than 5 minutes late for class will be marked as absent. Attendance is worth 100 points toward the final grade. Students are expected to be prepared for and participate in group discussion and activities.
2. Classroom activities: class will include lecture, small group activities and student presentations. There may be guest lecturers and films.

Research:

- A. Reaction Papers. Students will be responsible for investigating 4 topics related to the psych of substance abuse and write a reaction paper for each topic. Investigation sources can include peer reviewed articles, newspapers (Wash. Post, NY Times etc.), magazines (Time, Newsweek, Health, Prevention), and scientific/medical websites (Harvard Newsletter, NIDA, NIAA). Format for the reaction paper will be discussed in class. Reaction papers are worth 25 points each

(totaling 100 points). Late papers will NOT be accepted. Papers **MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED via email.**

- B. Class Presentation: Students will select a topic of interest to present to class. A grading rubric is attached at the back of this syllabus. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Oral presentations will be between 15-20 minutes and should include power point, handouts, posters, and/or appropriate web sites. Presentations are worth 200 points.
- C. Research Papers: Students will select a topic of interest in collaboration with the instructor. A grading rubric is attached at the end of this syllabus. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Research papers are worth 100 points.

Exams: There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points. Exams will be multiple choice and short answer. Any student not able to attend class on an exam day **MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE UP PRIOR TO THE EXAM DATES.** There will be 5 quizzes, each worth 20 points, these cannot be made up.

Grading:

Attendance:	100 points
Reaction papers:	100 points
Presentation:	100 points
Research Paper:	100 points
Quizzes:	100 points
<u>Exams (3 exams):</u>	<u>300 points</u>
Total:	800

Grade Breakdown:	720-800=	A
	640-719=	B
	560-639=	C
	480-559=	D

Calendar:

Class Date	Student Assignments
1/11/11 Tuesday	Introductions; review syllabus; course requirements
1/13 Thursday	Chapter 1: Drugs and Behavior Today
1/18 Tuesday	Continue Chapter 1
1/20 Thursday	Chapter 2: Drug-Taking Behavior: The Personal and Social Concerns
1/25 Tuesday	Meet at Scarborough Library 8:10- Room 307---be there or be square
1/27 Thursday	Continue Chapter 2
2/1 Tuesday	Chapter 3: How Drugs Work in the Body and on the Mind

	First Reaction Paper due!!!!!!
2/3 Thursday	Continue Chapter 3
2/8 Tuesday	Chapter 4: The Major Stimulants: Cocaine and Amphetamines
2/10 Thursday	Exam 1
2/15 Tuesday	Chapter 5: Narcotics: Opium, Heroin, and Synthetic Opiates
2/17 Thursday	Chapter 6: LSD and other Hallucinogens
2/22 Tuesday	Chapter 7: Marijuana
2/24 Thursday	Presentations
3/1 Tuesday	Presentations Second Reaction Paper due!!!!
3/3 Thursday	Chapter 8: Performance-Enhancing Drugs and Drug Testing in Sports
3/8 Tuesday	Presentations
3/10	Presentations
3/15, 17 break!!!	Hurray!!!!!!
3/22 Tuesday	Chapter 9: Alcohol: Social Beverage/Social Drug
3/24 Thursday	Continue Chapter 9 Third Reaction Paper Due
3/29 Tuesday	Chapter 10: Chronic Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
3/31 Thursday	Exam 2
4/5 Tuesday	Chapter 11: Nicotine and Tobacco Use
4/7 Thursday	Presentations
4/12 Tuesday	Chapter 12: Caffeine Fourth Reaction Paper Due
4/14 Thursday	Chapter 14: Prescription Drugs, OTC Drugs and Dietary Supplements Chapter 15: Sedative-Hypnotics and Antianxiety Drugs
4/19 Tuesday	Chapter 16: Drugs for Treating Schizophrenia and Mood Disorders Research Paper Due
4/21 Thursday	Spring recess weekend
4/26 Tuesday	Chapter 17: Intervention and Treatment: Strategies for Change
4/28 Thursday	Chapter 18: Prevention and Education: Schools, Community, and Family
5/3 Tuesday	FINAL EXAM

Classroom behavior: Students are expected to be on time for all classes and to stay for the entire period. Missed classes cannot be made up. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or computers during class.