

Course Syllabus *there will be minor changes to schedule, which will be discussed

Drugs, Behavior and Society (PSYC 165)

Spring 2021

Category D GE (“Life Sciences”)

Instructor: John Monterosso

TAs: Katharine Galbraith, Sarah Hennessy, Jackson Trager, Tony Vacarro,

Lectures: Tue & Thur Zoomland 8-920am

[LAB SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED SEPARATELY]

FINAL EXAM: 8am May 12.

ZOOM LINK TO CLASS

Broad goal of course:

Drug use can be looked at from many perspectives. Although we will consider several, our emphasis will be on a psychological and physiological perspectives. Besides learning about drugs and their use, we hope you will learn how to critically evaluate scientific research. Our topic — psychoactive drugs—is fascinating. But our most important goal is to help you improve your thinking in ways that impact how you approach other topics as well.

Communication

Blackboard: for posting readings, grades, lecture slides and announcements.

Zoom: for remote login to class.

Packback: for class discussion.

USC technology rental program

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university’s equipment rental program. To apply, please [submit an application](#). The Student Basic Needs team will contact all applicants in early August and distribute equipment to eligible applicants prior to the start of the fall semester.

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom Help](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Required Materials

1) Drugs Mind, Body and Society, by Martha S Rosenthal. 2019 Oxford Press

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard [There are electronic copies that can be rented for around \$60. There may be cheaper options available online as well].

2) You will be required to sign-up for a Packback account which costs \$25 for the semester. If you have financial hardship, please let me know.

Evaluation

There are three main components to evaluation in this class:

1. **Lab Grade: 25% (10% lab attendance, 10% lab performance, 5% presentation)**
2. **Three Exams 65%: 20% (exam 1) + 20% (exam 2) + 25% (final exam)**
3. **Packback: 10% (8% based on automated score. 2% overall quality judgment)**

Lab Grade: Attendance is mandatory in lab. Performance grades will be based on your TA's overall assessment of your engagement throughout the semester, including on any lab assignments. Each student will be required to give one presentation during the semester for their lab. This will contribute to your lab grade. A few students that give outstanding presentations will be invited to present them to the class – if you are selected and choose to do this, then you will get a bonus on your final exam.

Exams: The exams will be short answer questions. The content of the exams will be drawn from lecture, readings, and labs.

Packback:

We will be using the service Packback. You will discuss this in labs. For every lab meeting (except the first) Packback participation will be required the night before you meet at midnight.

Grading Criteria: The grading in this class will use standard percent criteria, listed below.

There is no rounding. Cut-offs have to be somewhere!

93% - 100%	A	90% - 92.99%	A-		
87% - 89.99%	B+	83% - 86.99%	B	80% - 82.99%	B-
77% - 79.99%	C+	73% - 76.99%	C	70% - 72.99%	C-
67% - 69.99%	D+	63% - 66.99%	D	60% - 62.99%	D-
Below 60%	F				

Extra Credit: We offer a maximum of 3 points added onto your average (out of 100). There are multiple ways to get extra credit but you can't get more than 3 points in total. Here is how you can get it....

1. Participating in research at USC. This will be done through the "Sona" system. This will be explained in class and information will be posted on Blackboard. You will receive .5% toward your course grade for each hour of extra credit, to a maximum of 3% (6 hours). The Sona contact person info will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.
2. You may write an extra credit paper. The topic must be approved in advance by one of the instructors. We will assign credit based on the quality.

3. Participating in JEP throughout the semester.
4. Bonuses – you might get opportunities for x cred in section that can be used towards the 3.5 point maximum.

Attendance in your lab section is mandatory – you will lose points for missing.

If you have a good reason that you cannot attend your section during a particular week, you can ask permission to attend a different section – this requires that you contact both your TA and whatever TA teaches the section you would move to. The TAs involved will decide if switching for that 1 week is OK.

If you have a good excuse and cannot solve the issue by attending a different section (e.g., you have fri section and were sick) then you must contact your TA, and she/he will give you a writing assignment. You have 2 weeks from the time the assignment is given in which to complete to get credit for the missed section.

Labs

SECTION	TIME	DAYS	TA NAME
52442R	8:00-9:50am	Wednesday	Anthony Vaccaro
52444R	8:00-9:50am	Monday	Katherine Galbraith
52445R	6:00-7:50pm	Thursday	Katherine Galbraith
52446R	12:00-1:50pm	Monday	Sarah Hennessy
52447R	2:00-3:50pm	Friday	Sarah Hennessy
52448R	4:00-5:50pm	Thursday	Jackson Trager
52701R	12:00-1:50pm	Wednesday	Jackson Trager
52702R	10:00-11:50am	Monday	Anthony Vaccaro
52703R	10:00-11:50am	Friday	Jackson Trager
52706R	12:00-1:50pm	Friday	Jackson Trager

Office Hours and Contact Information

Katie Galbraith	katharig@usc.edu	Monday noon-1
Sarah Hennessey	hennesss@usc.edu	Tuesday 7–8 pm
John Monterosso	johnrmon@usc.edu	Wednesday 8–9am
Anthony Vaccaro	agvaccar@usc.edu	Wednesday 10–11am
Jackson Trager	jptrager@usc.edu	Monday 2-3pm

**UNIT 1 – DRUGS AND OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM:
(spotlight on Caffeine and Cocaine)**

1	1/19	Introduction + Natural Selection { Read Ch 1, just 1-10 }
2	1/21	Drug Potency and Effectiveness { Read remainder Ch 1 10-19 }
3	1/26	Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics { Ch 4 71 – 80 – stop at “Pharmacodynamics” }
4	1/28	{ Read Chapter 3 pg 46-53, stop at “The Central Nervous System” } THIS READING IS DIFFICULT. DON'T PANIC, WE WILL DISCUSS!
5	2/2	The Nervous system – spotlight on the neuron { 53-60 – Stop before “Neurotransmitters” }
6	2/4	Pharmacodynamics and neurons { Ch 4 80 – 90 }
7	2/9	Caffeine { Read Ch 11 254-262 }
8	2/11	Cocaine { Read Ch 5 just 93-100, stop at “Acute Effects of Cocaine” }
9	2/16	REVIEW
10	2/18	EXAM #1

**UNIT 2 – DRUGS AND ADDICTION
(Spotlight on Opioids)**

11	2/23	What is addiction? Read “Natalie’s Story” (posted)
12	2/25	Craving/ Wanting vs. Liking Read posted ch of “In the Realm of the Hungry Ghost
13	3/1	The role of immediacy in addiction { Read Ch 17 408-416 – stop at “Factors Underlying Drug Abuse and Addiction }
14	3/5	Opioids { Read Ch 7 144-154 only, stop at Mechanisms of Action }
15	3/9	Heritability and Behavioral Genetics { Posted reading on Behav Genetics }
16	3/11	Pharmacotherapies to treat addiction { SKIP to “Prevalence and Treatment for Alcohol and Drug Addiction” p442 - 447 (stop at self-help groups section) }
17	3/16	{ Reading posted summarizing 12-step VISITORS FROM HAVEN }
18	3/18	12 Step (Posted reading on dealing with distractions including smart phones)
19	3/23	WELLNESS DAY

20	3/25	Psychotherapy and mindfulness treatment {pg 447 -454}
21	3/30	Review Session
22	4/1	Exam # 2
UNIT 3 – DRUGS AND SOCIETY (Spotlight on Alcohol, Marijuana, Psychedelics)		
23	4/6	Societal responses to drugs: Regulation and Persuasion { Read Ch 2 21-30 stop at harm reduction policies }
24	4/8	Marijuana { Read remainder of Ch 2 }
25	4/13	Needle exchange (Guest: Nina and Maryanne No Reading)
26	4/15	Tobacco (Guest: Colin Ring. Read pg 226 – 238, stop at pharmacokinetics section)
27	4/20	Alcohol { Read Ch 12 274-284 }.
28	4/22	WELLNESS DAY
29	4/27	Performance Enhancing Drugs + anti-depressants (Read 348 – Drug to treat Attention... section to end of chapter)
30	4/29	Chapter 1 of Michael Pollan’s 2018 “How to Change your Mind”
Final: May12		

Illness, Athletics, etc. If you are seriously ill, you must keep your discussion section TA informed of your emergency and provide documentation so that we can contact your doctor to verify your illness. Likewise, if you have a death in your family and must miss a lab section or exam, inform us immediately and on your return provide us with documentation so that we can verify the validity of your absence.

If you are an athlete and will miss class because of a race, match, meet, or game you must inform us of this at the start of the semester. Likewise, if you must travel for another reason (academic conference, family wedding, etc.), you must inform us of this at the start of the semester. There will be no make-up exams for missed exams for reasons other than illness or death in the family if we are not informed of the date of the absence by the first two weeks of classes.

The date of the final is set by the Registrar and we may not change a student’s final date/time except for the reasons set out by the Registrar.

Reaching me: The best way to contact us is via email (johnrmon@usc.edu). I do not check phone messages left at our campus numbers when away from campus. When emailing, please put Psych-165 in the subject line – we will be more likely to read your email immediately if we know it is about the class.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A. **We will be using "Turn it in" to detect plagiarism.** Be warned, we had an incident of plagiarism last semester in a different course resulting in judicial action as well as failure. We will pursue this in order to maintain fairness for those who do their own work.

Statement on Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, IPV, & Stalking

Harassment, sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence, and stalking are not tolerated by the university. All faculty and most staff are considered Responsible Employees by the university and must forward all information they receive about these types of situations to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for assisting students with supportive accommodations, including academic accommodations, as well as investigating these incidents if the reporting student wants an investigation. If you need academic accommodations you may contact the Title IX Coordinator directly (titleix@usc.edu or 213-821-8298) without sharing any personal information with me. If you would like to speak with a confidential counselor, Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) provides 24/7 confidential support for students (213-740-4900; press 0 after hours).