

PSY 432: PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY, Fall 2017
Section 01: 4:00-5:15 PM, TTh 2119 Au Sable Hall

Instructor: Glenn R. Valdez, Ph.D.
Office: 1313 AuSable Hall
Office hours: TTh, 2:00-3:30 PM **and by appointment**
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Text: McKim, WA, Hancock, SD. (2013) Drugs and Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Pharmacology (7th edition).

Course Description:

This course will examine the interactions between psychoactive drugs, the central nervous system and behavior. Topics that will be covered include basic pharmacology, the nervous system and the effects of various classes of psychoactive drugs on behavior. Prerequisites: PSY 101 and PSY 300 or SS 300 or equivalent.

Course Homepage on Blackboard: <http://bb.gvsu.edu>. Pertinent information (e.g., announcements, syllabi, etc.) will be available on blackboard.

Office Hours: If you cannot make it to my regular office hours, please feel free to schedule an appointment at another time. I also keep an open door policy so feel free to stop in anytime my door is open.

Course Attendance: Roll will not be taken, except on discussion based class days (see below for more information), and attendance is not mandatory. **You are, however, responsible for all announcements and lecture materials presented in class. In addition, exams will include material that is covered in class and IS NOT in the textbook.** Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class.

Exams: There will be four, non-cumulative exams, that will be worth 100 points each. The exam format will be fill in the blank, short answer and essay questions and will be based on **what is covered in class. If you are unable to attend an exam due to an illness or family emergency, please notify me in writing before the exam or within 24 hours after the exam** and be prepared to provide documentation of the problem and promptly complete a make-up exam. **If you miss an exam and do not provide the appropriate documentation, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam.**

Quizzes: Following the completion of each course topic, an online quiz will be posted on blackboard based on that topic. The quizzes will consist of 10 multiple choice questions worth one point each. Quizzes must be completed by **11:59 PM on the due dates listed below** in order to receive credit.

Research Paper: You will be required to write a 5-8 page paper (not including the title page, abstract and references) on a relevant topic of your choice, similar to the types of short review articles that you would find in a scientific journal. Your paper should not simply review the scientific literature on your topic but also provide a critique of the research. See the end of the syllabus for more information.

Course Grades: Grades will be based on your performance on examinations, quizzes and the research paper as outlined below. **Dividing the total number of points earned by the total number of points available as listed in Blackboard WILL NOT accurately reflect your grade. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES WILL NOT BE LIKELY.**

Lowest Exam	10%
Exam	20%
Exam	20%
Exam	20%
Research Paper	20%
Quizzes	10%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale (final grades are rounded to the nearest whole number):

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	≤ 59%

Academic Integrity: The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. Grand Valley State University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, protect the validity of university grades. All academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Cheating and plagiarism are the two most obvious violations of academic honesty. In brief, plagiarism is borrowing ideas, words, organization, etc., from another source or person and claiming them as original. Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from the University. For further information, see the “Student Code.”

Accommodation for disability: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical or other disability, please contact the Disabilities Support Resources (DSR) Program in the Advising Resources and Special Programs Unit at 331-3588.

Tentative Course Schedule (Dates are subject to change):

Date	Topic	Reading	Quiz Due Date
8/29	Course Introduction		
8/31, 9/7	Neurons, Neurotransmitters, and Neuroanatomy	Chapter 4	9/12
9/5	Labor Day Recess, No Classes		
9/12, 9/14, 9/19	Basic Pharmacology	Chapter 1 Chapter 3	9/21
9/19	Paper Topic Due		
9/21	Drug Addiction	Chapter 5	9/25
9/21	Exam Review		
9/26	Exam 1		
9/28, 10/3	Alcohol	Chapter 6	10/5
10/5	Anxiolytics, Sedative Hypnotics, GABA	Chapter 7	10/10
10/5	Outline Due		
10/10	Nicotine & Acetylcholine	Chapter 8	10/12
10/12	Caffeine, Methylxanthines & Adenosine	Chapter 9	10/16
10/12	Exam Review		
10/17	Exam 2		
10/19, 10/24	Psychostimulants & Dopamine	Chapter 10	10/26
10/26, 10/31	Opiates & Opioids	Chapter 11	11/2
11/2, 11/7	Antipsychotics	Chapter 12	11/8
11/2	First Drafts Due		
11/7	Exam Review		
11/9	Exam 3		
11/14, 11/16	Antidepressants	Chapter 13	11/21
11/22-11/26	Thanksgiving Recess, No Classes		
11/21, 11/28	Psychedelics	Chapter 15	11/30

11/30, 12/5, 12/7	Cannabinoids	Chapter 14	12/11
12/5	Final Papers Due		
12/7	Exam Review		
FINAL EXAM	Thursday, December 14, 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm		

Research Paper

Topic Due Date: 9/19/17 before midnight by email
Outline Due Date: 10/5/17 before midnight by email
First Draft Due Date: 11/7/17 before midnight by email
Paper Due Date: 12/5/17, hardcopy must be turned in before the end of class

You will be required to write a 5-8 page paper on a relevant topic of your choice, similar to the types of short review articles that you would find in a scientific journal. The title page, abstract and references do not count towards the page requirement. Your paper should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins and standard 12-point font. I have posted a sample review paper and outline online for you to look over as an example. Your paper, however, does not need to be nearly as involved.

Your paper should not simply review the scientific literature on your topic but also **provide a critical stance involving your topic. In addition, it should not be a simple summary of the biological mechanisms of the drug or drug class you choose to research but also involve insight into a larger issue.**

Your paper should contain at least 10 academic sources (ex. peer-reviewed research articles, review papers, edited book chapters, etc.). You may also use any additional sources (ex. textbook, news articles, relevant websites, etc.) but these will not be included as part of the 10 sources. Your citations and references do not need to follow strict APA formatting. However, they do need to follow the format of an academic journal.

Sample topics include but are not limited to:

- Use of psychostimulants such as Ritalin and Adderall by college students as a study aid
 - o Are they as effective as students perceive?
 - o What are the benefits vs the dangers?
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- Overuse of Ritalin and Adderall in children
 - o What are the benefits vs the dangers?
 - o Are they really overprescribed and if so, is it really as dangerous as many may believe?
-
- Advances in drug treatments for Anxiety, Depression, Schizophrenia, OCD, etc.

- How do these newer treatments compare to traditional treatments?
-
- Medicinal marijuana
 - Is it more effective than traditional medications when treating certain diseases?
 - Benefits vs. side effects
-
- Legalized and recreational marijuana
 - Safety vs potential dangers?
 - Perception of safety
 - New health and societal concerns
-
- Overuse of psychiatric medications
 - Benefits vs. side effects
-
- Use of SSRI's to treat violent criminals
 - Are they really effective?
 - Ethical issues
-
- Psychedelics as an alternative treatment for depression
 - How do they compare to traditional antidepressants?
 - Benefits vs. side effects.

Your paper should include the following sections:

- 1) Title Page: Your title and name
- 2) Abstract: A summary of your paper
- 3) Introduction: This section should give background on your topic and discuss why it is an important problem. Also, what is your overall hypothesis?
- 4) Biological Mechanisms of Your Drug/Drug Class: How does this drug affect the central nervous system?
- 5) How are these biological mechanisms involved in the overall problem you are researching?
- 6) What are your overall conclusions regarding your topic?

I know many of you are more familiar with PsychINFO with regard to finding sources. However, this database will not be very helpful for this assignment. The top source to use to search for articles is PubMed: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed>

Late Submissions

Paper topic: After the due date, one point will be deducted from the topic portion of your paper grade per calendar day that the topic is handed in late

Outline: After the due date, two points will be deducted from the outline portion of your paper grade per calendar day that the outline is handed in late

First draft: After the due date, two points will be deducted from the first draft portion of your paper grade per calendar day that the first draft is handed in late

Final draft: Paper topic: After the due date, 10 points will be deducted from the overall grade per calendar day that the paper is handed in late

The paper will be graded on the following criteria:

Paper Topic:	5 pts
Outline:	10 pts
First Draft:	10 pts
References:	10 pts
Formatting:	5 pts
Spelling and Grammar:	15 pts
Content:	25 pts
Presentation:	20 pts