

PSYCG4440 TOPICS-NEUROBIOLOGY & BEHAVIOR (Spring 2013)

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**Course Description:** This seminar provides an overview of the neurobiological and behavioral effects of drugs. Special emphasis will be placed on the impact of marijuana use on human behavior because recently this drug has generated considerable attention in the popular and scientific literature. Students will obtain a basic working knowledge of the neural mechanisms that are thought to mediate some behavioral effects produced by drugs of abuse. We will survey drug-related effects in laboratory animals and humans. The degree to which there is agreement and inconsistency between data collected using laboratory animals and those obtained with humans will be a major focus of discussion in this seminar. Required readings will include seminal reviews in the area of substance use neurobiology, as well as primary empirical literature. Upon successful completion of this seminar, students will be able to think objectively about scientific questions relating to substance abuse and to evaluate relevant research data more critically.