

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSYC W2460: Drugs & Behavior
Meeting Time: Tues & Thurs 8:40-9:55 am, Room 501 Schermerhorn
Columbia University
Fall 2022

Instructors: Professor Carl L. Hart
Office hrs Location: Schermerhorn 416
Office Hours: Tues. 10:00-11:30 am
Email: clh42@columbia.edu

Teaching Assistants	Email	Office Hours
Chris Medina-Kirchner	Cmk2206@columbia.edu	Thu 10am-12pm in Schermerhorn 510
Grant Gonsalves	Gmg2176@columbia.edu	Fri 11am-1pm in Schermerhorn 510
Maria Weston Kuhn	Mwk2132@columbia.edu	Tue 4-5pm and Wed 10:30-11:30am in Sch510
Taylor Elizabeth Bhajji	Teb2135@columbia.edu	Tue at 1-3pm in Schermerhorn 510
Yaniv Abir	Ya2402@columbia.edu	Mon 9:15-11:15am 368 Schermerhorn Ext.
Zoë Heller	Zh2393@columbia.edu	Mon 1-3pm in Schermerhorn 510

***All TA office hours will be held in Schermerhorn 510 until further notice.**

Course Description. This course examines the use of psychoactive drugs. Importantly, we use this topic to explore human behavior, examining the interactions between chemicals and neurons to the psychological, behavioral, and physiological effects on the individual to the impact on society. We will touch on topics relating to biology, pharmacology, neuroscience, chemistry, anthropology, history, law, sociology, and political science. The effects of psychoactive drug use on the brain and on behavior will help us to understand human behavior in a biological context; the effects of psychoactive drug use on society will help us to understand the behavior of social and political groups and how they influence the individual.

Required Texts. *Drugs, Society, & Human Behavior* (2021), 18th Edition, by C.L. Hart and C. Ksir

Supplemental Readings. Although the textbook gives a general overview of topics discussed in class, scientific articles and chapters from other texts will also be assigned. These readings will focus on specific issues or present a particular theoretical perspective. Copies of articles will be posted online.

Classes and Examinations. This course will consist mainly of lectures, which will provide a more in-depth analysis of issues covered in the readings as well as information not covered in the readings. Lectures are divided into seven sections; there will be three exams consisting of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay questions. The first exam will cover sections 1 and 2 and associated readings and the second exam will cover sections 3 - 5 and associated readings. Although the final exam will focus primarily on sections 6 and 7 and associated readings, it will also cover materials cumulatively for the entire course.

	Percentage of grade
First and Second Exams	30% each
Cumulative Final Exam	40%

Grading Scale.

97-100% -	A+
93-96% -	A
90-92% -	A-
87-89% -	B+
83-86% -	B
80-82% -	B-
77-79% -	C+
73-76% -	C
70-72% -	C-
60-69.9% -	D
Below 60% -	F

Because of the size of this class, it will not be possible to schedule alternative exam times for students who have difficult examination schedules, travel plans, etc. An unexcused absence from any of the exams will result in a grade of F on that exam. To be excused from an exam you must personally notify Prof. Hart before the exam and must present some evidence certifying the legitimacy of your absence (e.g., doctor's note). Make-up exams will be completed no later than one week following the missed scheduled exam.

Academic Integrity. Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and assignments for this class and act in accordance with the [Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity](#) and [Honor Code](#) established by the students of Columbia College and the School of General Studies. Because any academic integrity violation undermines our intellectual community, students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or committed any other act of academic dishonesty can expect to receive a zero for the work in question and may be referred to the Dean's Discipline process.

It is students' responsibility to ensure their work maintains the standards expected and should you have any questions or concerns regarding your work, you can:

- a) talk with your TA;
- b) ask the instructor; and/or
- c) refer to the [Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity](#).

Class Schedule:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>
<i>Section 1: Drug use in modern society</i>		
9-6-22		Introduction
9-8-22	Text: Chapter 1 Brecher EM (1972). How to launch a nationwide drug menace. In: <i>The Consumers Union Report on Licit and Illicit Drugs</i> . Little Brown & Co, Boston, pp. 321-334.	Measuring the extent of drug use

9-13-22	Text: Chapter 2	Measuring the extent of drug overdoses
9-15-22	Text: Chapter 3 Earp BD, Lewis J, Hart CL, with Bioethicists and Allied Professionals for Drug Policy Reform (2021) Racial Justice Requires Ending the War on Drugs. <i>American Journal of Bioethics</i> 21, 4-19.	The war on drugs: winners and losers
Section 2: How drugs work		
9-20-22	Text: Chapter 4 Neuronal Comm. Handout	Dopamine pathways, nerve cells, and neurotransmission
9-22-22	Grifell M, Hart CL (2018) Is Drug Addiction a Brain Disease? This popular claim lacks evidence and leads to poor policy. <i>American Scientist</i>	Brain Imaging: What's in a pretty picture?
9-27-22	Text: Chapter 5	Pharmacokinetics:
9-29-22	EXAM 1	
10-4-22		Using behavioral analysis to understand drug use
Section 3: Uppers and Downers		
10-6-22	Text: Chapter 6	Crack Cocaine: Separating myth from reality
10-11-22		Novel Psychoactive Substances: A game of cat and mouse
10-13-22	O'Malley KY, Hart CL, Casey S, Downe LA (2022) Methamphetamine, amphetamine, and aggression in humans: A systematic review of drug administration studies. <i>Neurosci Biobehav Rev.</i>	Methamphetamine: Examining the link between its use and aggression
10-18-22	Text: Chapter 7	Sedatives and Hypnotics: Understanding their

		perils and popularity
10-20-22	Text: Chapter 8	Do antidepressant medications work?
Section 4: Alcohol		
10-25-22	Text: Chapter 9	Alcohol: environment, genetics, and pharmacology
Section 5: Familiar drugs		
10-27-22	Text: Chapter 10	The Tobacco Industry: Merchants of doubt
11-1-22	Text: Chapter 11 and 12	Caffeine and over-the-counter drugs
11-3-22	EXAM 2 (non-cumulative)	
Section 6: Restricted drugs		
11-8-22	ELECTION DAY University Holiday	
11-10-21	Text: Chapter 13	Opioids without the hyperbole
11-15-22	Text: Chapter 14	From hallucinogens to psychedelics
11-17-22	Text: Chapter 15 Ksir C, Hart CL (2016) Cannabis and psychosis: A critical overview of the relationship. <i>Curr Psychiatry Rep</i> 18: 12	Cannabis: basic behavioral pharmacology and reefer madness
11-22-22	Text: Chapter 16	Drug use by athletes
11-24-22	THANKSGIVING University Holiday	
Section 7: Prevention and Treatment		
11-29-22	Text: Chapter 17 and 18 Siegel Z (<i>Sept 2022</i>) A Hole in the Head: Can a brain implant treat drug addiction. <i>Harper's Magazine</i> p. 25-32	Treating Substance Use Disorders

12-1-22		Drug Policy: a global perspective
12-6-22	Torres CA, Medina-Kirchner C, O'Malley KY, Hart CL (2020) Totality of the evidence suggest prenatal cannabis exposure does not lead to cognitive impairments: a systematic and critical review. <i>Frontiers in Psychology</i> 11: 816 doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00816	Assessing the impact of drug use during pregnancy
12-8-22		TBA
12-16-22 (Friday) 4:10 – 7:00 pm	FINAL EXAM (cumulative)	

Note: Aspects of this course may be changed if unforeseen circumstances arise; these changes, however, will be announced before they are initiated.