

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSYC 2460: Drugs & Behavior

Meeting Time: Tuesday & Thursday 7:40-8:55 pm
Columbia University
Fall, 2019

Instructor: Ciara A. Torres, PhD
Office Hours: telephone appointment only (Friday nights or Saturday morning)
Email: cat2119@columbia.edu

Course Description: This course examines the use of psychoactive drugs, using this topic to explore human behavior: from the interactions between chemicals and neurons to the psychological 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.

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. In addition, there will be unannounced quizzes that will be completed during class. Quizzes will consist of short answer and essay questions based on the previous lecture and on the assigned reading(s). If you are not present at the time a quiz is given you will receive a zero on that quiz. To make up for this draconian policy, however, I will drop your two lowest quiz scores. Thus, if you miss a quiz, this zero will be dropped.

Percentage of Grade:

First exam 25%
Second exam 25%
Cumulative final exam 40%
Unannounced quizzes 10%

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. Torres before the exam and must present some evidence certifying the legitimacy of your absence (e.g., doctor's note). Make-up exams will be composed of short answer and essay questions primarily, and 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 refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity.

Students with Disabilities. In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations, students must first be registered with Disability Services (DS). More information on the DS registration process is available online at www.health.columbia.edu/ods. Prof. Torres must be notified of registered students' accommodations before accommodations will be provided. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability are invited to contact DS for a confidential discussion at (212) 854-2388 (Voice/TTY) or by email at disability@columbia.edu.

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

Class Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Readings</u>
2019-9-3 Tuesday	Class 1: Introduction Class 2: Measuring the extent of drug use	An overview of the course will be presented with emphasis being placed on the fact that the overwhelming majority of information presented throughout the semester will be evidence-based. For some, the phrase evidence-based implies objectivity and neutrality. We will see that this may not be the case when it comes to the study of recreational drugs. Chapter 1 Brecher (1972)
2019-9-5 Thursday	Class 2: Measuring the extent of drug use	Chapter 1 Brecher (1972)
2019-9-10 Tuesday	Class 3: Drug use as deviant behavior	Chapter 2 Supplemental material: Opioid epidemic leaving grandparents to raise grandchildren (2018) https://www.cbsnews.com/news/opioid-epidemic-leaving-grandparents-to-raise-grandchildren-60-minutes/
2019-9-12 Thursday	Class 4: Drug control – the War on Drugs I	Chapter 3 How the Myth of the “Negro Cocaine Fiend” Helped Shape American Drug Policy (2014)
2019-9-17 Tuesday	Class 5: Drug control – the War on Drugs II	Empty Slogans Real Problems (2015) Bangkok (2016)
2019-9-19 Thursday	Class 6: Dopamine	Griffell & Hart (2018)
2019-9-24 Tuesday	Class 7: Brain imaging – What’s in a Pretty Picture	Chapter 4 Gilman et al. (2014)

2019-9-26 Thursday	Class 8: Determining drug effects - Pharmacokinetics	Chapter 5 Reefer Madness, an Unfortunate Redux (2013)
2019-10-1 Tuesday	Class 9: Administering drugs to humans as part of research	Fischman & Johanson (1988)
2019-10-3 Thursday	Exam 1	Study guide made available
2019-10-8 Tuesday	Class 10: Environmental & psychosocial factors – Treatment implications	High Price Chapter 13 Hart et al. (2000)
2019-10-10 Thursday	Class 11: Crack Cocaine – A dangerous drug?	Chapter 6
2019-10-15 Tuesday	Class 12: Methamphetamine and Adderall – Are they the same?	Kirkpatrick et al. (2012)
2019-10-17 Thursday	Class 13: Sedatives and hypnotics	Chapter 7
2019-10-22 Tuesday	Class 14: Do antidepressant medications work?	Chapter 8 Cipriana et al. (2018)
2019-10-24 Thursday	Class 15: Alcohol – Environment, genetics and pharmacology	Chapter 9
2019-10-29 Tuesday	Class 16: Tobacco & Nicotine – Agricultural product or killer weed	Chapter 10
2019-10-31 Thursday	Class 17: Caffeine and supplements: How should they be regulated?	Chapter 11 & 12
2019-11-5 Tuesday	University holiday	
2019-11-7 Thursday	Exam 2	Study guide
2019-11-12 Tuesday	Class 19: Opioids – A crisis of ignorance	Chapter 13
2019-11-14 Thursday	Class 20: The resurgence of psychedelics	Chapter 14

		Mithoefer et al. (2018)
2019-11-19 Tuesday	Class 21: Cannabis – Basic behavioral pharmacology	Chapter 15
2019-11-21 Thursday	University holiday	
2019-11-26 Tuesday	Class 22: Drug use by athletes	Chapter 16
2019-11-28 Thursday	Class 23: Drug use by pregnant women	Torres & Hart (2017) Medina & Torres (2019)
2019-12-3 Tuesday	Class 24: Politics of cannabis use	Supplementary material: Reefer madness: Marijuana didn't kill Sandra Bland (2015) https://www.ebony.com/news-views/marijuana-didnt-kill-sandra-bland-504
2019-12-5 Thursday	Class 25: Rethinking drug policy – What works around the globe?	Chapter 17 & 18
2019-12-19 Thursday	Exam final	Study guide

Readings (available on Courseworks)