



## DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR



Fall 2015

f:Syll Drugs of Abuse & Beh Fall 2015

### COURSE INFORMATION

PSYC 3346 DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR CRN: 13471  
Instructor: Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A., Lecturer, Department of Psychology  
Office hours: Mon & Wed: 5:00 – 5:30; Tue & Thur: 2:30 – 3:00; and by appointment+  
Office: Psychology Bldg., Room 200 Telephone: 747-5864 E-mail: adolfoa@utep.edu

### TEXTBOOKS

Levinthal, C.F. (2014). *Drugs, behavior, and modern society*. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Pearson Education. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-95933-4. Paperback edition. This book will be referred to as the “main text” in the course calendar.

Moyers, W.C. with Ketcham, K. (2007). *Broken: My story of addiction & redemption*. New York: Penguin. ISBN-13: 978-0-14-311245. Paperback edition. This book will be referred to as *Broken* in your calendar. I left a copy of *Broken* at the Reserve Section of the Library’s Circulation Desk. The bookstore sells used copies of *Broken*.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES+

As indicated in UTEP’s catalogue, the “... course provides a basic understanding of how drugs produce their behavioral effects ... and the principles by which these substances modify and regulate behavior in the brain.” In addition, the course will provide an overall introduction to psychoactive drugs, their classification, the psychological and physical and effects on the user and the effects on family members, and evidence-based drug prevention programs and therapies. Specifically, you will learn about:

- 1) The definition, classification, origin, and history of psychoactive drugs;
- 2) The nervous system and the pharmacology of psychoactive drugs;
- 3) The diagnostic criteria of drug use disorders;
- 4) Stimulants;
- 5) Depressants;
- 6) Hallucinogens;
- 7) Support groups and evidenced-based drug prevention and treatments;
- 8) Crime and substance abuse; and
- 9) Testimonies from individuals with substance use disorders and from family members.

### ATTENDANCE OF SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

You will be required to attend one session of an **open** meeting of either Alcoholic Anonymous or of Al-Anon. You can get a schedule and locations of the AA and Al-Anon open meetings at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and at [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org). You will be required to adhere to the confidentiality rules of the group you attend, and of writing an essay about your experience of attending either group. However, you will not be allowed to take notes during the meeting nor mention specific names of individuals of such groups in your essay. Your essay is to be typed (font size 12), **single-spaced**, and at least one page long. The essay is worth a maximum of 25 points and is to be turned in **no later than Thursday, November 12**. No exceptions. I will provide you with more information about attendance to AA and to Al-Anon during class.

## OPINION ESSAYS

I have scheduled six guest speakers for the class. You will be required to write your **opinions** about each presentation. Do not write a summary of the presentation, as summaries will accrue zero points. The length of these essays is one **single-spaced** page and they will be **due one week after each presentation, during class**. No exceptions. Each opinion essay will be worth a maximum of five points. Points will be deducted if the essay is not one page long.

## EXAMS

There will be four non-comprehensive tests, each consisting of 40 to 60 multiple-choice questions. Each test will be worth 100% points. Please bring an 882-E (green) Scantron. The test questions will come from my lectures, textbooks, films, the guest speakers' presentations, and from the syllabus. The tests will start at 4:30. You will have 65 minutes for each test, with the exception of the final. After each test, I will review the exam to give you feedback on your test performance. No headwear is allowed during tests. **If you stay for the review, no cellular phones or electronic devices are allowed before or during the review.** I will keep the exams for two weeks in case you want to go over your answers+.

I will not ask you to memorize dates, names of individuals, or of statistics, unless I mention them in class or unless the textbook states something like: "The most common (important) ..."; "The number one cause of ... is ...". This syllabus contains important information about the course, its purpose, and your responsibilities, so it is important for you to read it. There will be a few questions about the syllabus on the exams. You will be tested on the information marked with a +.

Please go to the bathroom before the exam as you will not be permitted to leave the classroom once the exam has begun. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom once a student has finished an exam and has left the classroom.

### Grading of Exams

Grading for all four tests will be based on the following percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100%    B = 80 – 89%    C = 70 – 79%    D = 60 – 69%    F = 0 - 59%

### Accrual of Points

		<u>Total Points</u>
Exams:	100 points maximum for each exam	400
AA/Al-Anon essay:	25 points maximum	25
Guest speakers' opinion essays:	5 points maximum for each of six essays	<u>30</u>
	<u>Grand Total:</u>	455

Your final grade for the course will be based on a maximum of 455 points, provided none of the speakers cancel. If one guest speaker cancels, the maximum points for the course will be 450; if two speakers cancel, the maximum points will be 445; and so forth.

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Final grade = (Ex 1 + Ex 2 + Ex 3 + Ex 4 + AA/Al-Anon essay + speakers' opinion essays)/4.55 x 100.

The final grade will be based on the following point scale:

F = 0 – 272    D = 273 - 317    C = 318 - 363    B = 364 - 408    A = 409 - 455

## CALENDAR

The following schedule is tentative. I will inform you of any changes in class or through Blackboard.

- 1) Tue 8/25 Introduction to course
- 2) Thu 8/27 Definitions and classification systems (Ch. 1)
- 3) Tue 9/01 Diagnostic criteria (Ch. 2)
- 4) Thu 9/03 Drug Enforcement Agency guest speaker (Ch. 2)
- 5) Tue 9/08 Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) guest speakers.  
Read section on AA and Al-Anon in pp. 236-240.
- 6) Thu 9/10 Al-Anon guest speakers
- 7) Tue 9/15 Discussion of guest speakers' presentations
- 8) Thu 9/17 TEST 1** Main text Chs: 1, 2, aforementioned section on AA, Al-Anon;  
*Broken:* Prologue and Chs: 1 to 5; and syllabus

- 9) Tue 9/22 How drugs work in the body and on the mind (Ch. 3)
- 10) Thu 9/24 How drugs work in the body and on the mind
- 11) Tue 9/29 How drugs work in the body and on the mind
- 12) Thu 10/01 Stimulants (Ch. 4)
- 13) Tue 10/06 Stimulants
- 14) Thu 10/08 Tobacco (Ch. 10)
- 15) Tue 10/13 TEST 2** Main text Chs. 3, 4, 10; *Broken:* Chs. 6 to 8; and syllabus

- 16) Thu 10/15 Opioids (Ch. 5)
- 17) Tue 10/20 Alcohol (Ch. 8)
- 18) Thu 10/22 Alcohol (Ch. 9)
- 19) Tue 10/27 Depressants and Inhalants (Ch. 13)
- 20) Thu 10/29 Criminal offenders and illegal drugs
- 21) Tue 11/03 Prevention (Ch. 16)
- 22) Thu 11/05 Treatment (Ch. 17)
- 23) Tue 11/10 TEST 3** Main text Chs. 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17; *Broken:* Chs. 9 to 13; and syllabus

Wed 11/11 **Tour of federal half-way house.** 2:30 to 4:15

- 24) Thu 11/12 Federal Probation: Female criminal drug offenders  
**AA/Al-Anon essay due.**

- 25) Tue 11/17 Juvenile Probation's Challenge Academy juvenile offenders

Wed 11/18 **Tour of FCI La Tuna.** 12:00 to 3:30

- 26) Thu 11/19 Jason Harris: Presentation by ex-federal inmate
- 27) Tue 11/24 Discussion of guest speakers' presentations
- 28) Thu 11/26 Thanksgiving
- 29) Tue 12/01 LSD and other hallucinogens (Ch. 6)
- 30) Thu 12/03 Marijuana (Ch. 7)

- 31) Tue 12/08 FINAL EXAM at 4:30 p.m.** Main text Chs. 6, 7; *Broken:* Ch. 14 to Epilogue

\*\*\*Under no circumstances (unless you are deployed by the military or you have a documented medical emergency) will the final exam be given at another day or time.\*\*\*

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential to learn the course material, and because I will discuss some topics that are not in the textbook. You may be dropped from the class if you miss three classes+ or more before or by October 30. Thus, make sure you sign the attendance sheet, even if you are late to class. If you know you are going to be absent please notify me in advance via an e-mail. If you are absent, get the notes from a student.

## **TOURS OF LA TUNA FEDERAL PRISON AND OF DISMAS CHARITIES HALFWAY HOUSE**

The tours of La Tuna and of Dismas halfway house will be on a voluntary basis. A group of inmates who are participating in the Federal Bureau of Prison's Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) will give a presentation at La Tuna, and ex-inmates who completed RDAP will speak to us at Dismas. I will give more information about the tours during class. We will tour of Dismas (7011 Alameda) on Wednesday, November 11, from 2:30 to approximately 4:15 p.m. The tour of La Tuna (8500 Doniphan, Anthony, Tx.) will be on Wednesday, November 18, from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m.

## **WAIVER FORMS AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**

Students must sign a UTEP indemnification waiver form **prior** to attending AA or Al-Anon and for the visits to La Tuna and to Dismas. Students going to La Tuna will be required to complete a criminal background check prior to the visit. I will provide you with the forms, but you can print them from Blackboard under the titles of "AA Al-Anon Waiver," "La Tuna Waiver," "Dismas Halfway House Waiver," and "Criminal Background Form."

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS**

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class and during and after exams.

## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

UTEP is committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation. UTEP is dedicated to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities so they have equal access and opportunity to complete their education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit CASS' office at Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' staff are the only individuals who can validate and (if need be) authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY+**

Academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution.+ Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Cheating is defined as, but not limited to, copying answers from another student, looking in the direction of another student's test or Scantron, talking to students during exams, looking at or using cell phones or other devices during exams, looking at any type of notes or the textbook during exams.