



DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR



Fall 2014

f:Syll Drugs of Abuse & Beh Fall 2014

COURSE INFORMATION

PSYC 3346 DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR CRN: 13812
Instructor: Adolfo Alvarez, M.A., Lecturer, Department of Psychology
Office hours: Mon & Wed: 3 - 3:30; Tue & Thur: 12:30 – 1:00; and by appointment+
Office: Psychology Bldg., Room 200 Telephone: 747-5864 E-mail: adolfoa@utep.edu

TEXTBOOKS

Hart, C.L. & Ksir, C. (2013). *Drugs, society & human behavior* (15th Ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-352974-5. You can get either the 14th or the 15th 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. This book will be referred to as *Broken* in your calendar and for test purposes. ISBN 978-0-14-311245 (Paperback).

I have left copies of the main text and of *Broken* at the Reserve Section of the Library’s Circulation Desk. The bookstore has used copies of the main text and of *Broken*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES+

As indicated in UTEP’s catalogue, “(t)his 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: Caffeine, nicotine, cocaine, amphetamines and methamphetamines;
- 5) Depressants: Alcohol, inhalants, sedative-hypnotic, anxiolytics, and opioids;
- 6) Hallucinogens: LSD, peyote, magic mushrooms, MDMA;
- 7) Marijuana, Spice, PCP;
- 8) Co-occurring mental disorders;
- 9) Support groups and evidenced-based drug prevention and treatments;
- 10) Crime and substance abuse;
- 11) Testimonies from individuals with substance use disorders and from family members;
- 12) The experience of attending an open meeting of a support group.

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 and at www.al-anon.alateen.org. You will be required to adhere to the confidentiality rules of the group you attend. Also, you will be required to write 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 Wednesday, 11/19**. No exceptions. I will provide you with more information about attendance to AA and to Al-Anon and the essays during class.

OPINION ESSAYS

I have scheduled 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.

Both the AA/Al-Anon and the guest-speakers' opinion essays will be graded on grammar and on length. Late papers and papers submitted through e-mails will accrue zero points.

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, both textbooks, films, the guest speakers' presentations, and from this syllabus. You will have 60 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. **If you stay for the review, no cellular phones or electronic devices are allowed before or during the review.** No headwear is allowed during tests. 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"; "The number one cause of ... is"; or "The most important" This syllabus contains important information about the course, its purpose, and your responsibilities, so it is very important for you to read it. There will be several questions about the syllabus on the exams.

This syllabus contains important information about the course, its purpose, and your responsibilities, so it is very important for you to read it. You will be tested on the information marked with a +. There will be several questions about the syllabus on each test.

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 each test, including the final, 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 of four exams	400
AA/Al-Anon essay:	25 points maximum	25
Guest speakers' opinion essays:	5 points maximum for each of seven essays	<u>35</u>
	<u>Grand Total:</u>	460

Your final grade for the course will be based on a maximum of 460 points, provided none of the speakers cancel. If one guest speaker cancels, the maximum points for the entire course will be 455; if two speakers cancel, the maximum points will be 450; 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)/460 x 100

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

A = 414 – 460 B = 368 – 413 C = 322 – 367 D = 276 – 321 F = 0 – 275

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance is essential to learn the course material. Attendance is important also because I will discuss some topics that are not in the textbook. If you miss four classes+ or more, you may be dropped from the course. Thus, make sure you sign the attendance sheet, even if you are late to class. If you know that 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 as it is not my policy to give my Powerpoint presentations.

CALENDAR

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

- 1) M 8/25 Introduction to course
- 2) W 8/27 Definitions and Classification Systems of Drugs
(Read: "Sources and Names" and "Categories of Drugs." In Ch. 5)
- 3) M 9/01 Labor day. Read Ch. 1
- 4) W 9/03 Diagnostic criteria (Ch. 2)
- 5) M 9/08 Drug Enforcement Agency guest speaker (Ch. 3)
- 6) W 9/10 Drugs in El Paso. Guest speakers
- 7) M 9/15 Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) guest speakers (Section on AA in Ch. 18)
- 8) W 9/17 TEST 1** Main text Chs: 1, 2, 3, and aforementioned sections in Chs. 5 and 18;
Broken: Prologue and Chs: 1 to 5; & syllabus
- 9) M 9/22 Al-Anon guest speaker(s)
- 10) W 9/24 The Nervous System (Ch. 4)
- 11) M 9/29 The Actions of Drugs (Ch. 5)
- 12) W 10/01 Stimulants (Ch. 6)
- 13) M 10/06 Stimulants
- 14) W 10/08 Tobacco (Ch. 10)
- 15) M 10/13 Caffeine (Ch. 11)
- 16) W 10/15 TEST 2** Main text Chs. 4, 5, 6, 10, 11; *Broken:* Chs. 6 to 8; & Syllabus
- 17) M 10/20 Preventing Substance Abuse (Ch. 17)
- 18) W 10/22 Criminal offenders and substance abuse
Thu 10/23 **Tour of La Tuna.** 12 noon to 3:30 p.m., approximately (See below)
- 19) M 10/27 Treating Substance Use Disorders (Ch. 18)
- 20) W 10/29 Juvenile Probation's Challenge Academy guest speaker
Tour of La Tuna. 12 noon to 3:30 p.m., approximately (See below)
- 21) M 11/03 Federal Probation: Female criminal/drug offenders
- 22) W 11/05 Jason Harris: Presentation by ex-federal inmate
- 23) M 11/10 Depressants and Inhalants (Ch. 7)
- 24) W 11/12 TEST 3** Main text Chs. 7, 17, 18; *Broken:* Chs. 9 to 13; & syllabus
- 25) M 11/17 Alcohol (Ch. 9)
- 26) W 11/19 Discussion of AA/Al-Anon attendance. **AA or Al-Anon essay due**
- 27) M 11/24 Opioids (Ch. 13)
Tour of Dismas Charities halfway house. 7:15 to 8:30 p.m., approx.
- 28) W 11/26 Hallucinogens (Ch. 14) MDMA (Ecstasy)
- 29) M 12/01 MDMA and Marijuana (Ch. 15)
- 30) W 12/03 Marijuana and Co-Occurring Disorders (Ch. 8)
- 31) M 12/08 FINAL EXAM at 4 p.m.** Main text Chs. 8, 9, 13, 14, 15; &
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.

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

Visits to La Tuna and to Dismas halfway house have been scheduled. The visits will be on a voluntary basis. We will tour both institutions, and at La Tuna we will have a presentation by inmates who are participating in the Federal Bureau of Prison's Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP). Ex-inmates who completed RDAP will speak to us at Dismas. I will give more information about the tours during class. The tours of La Tuna (8500 Doniphan, Anthony, Tx.) will be on Thu. 10/23 and Wed. 10/29, from 12 noon to 3:30 p.m. The tour of Dismas (7011 Alameda) will be on Mon. 11/24, from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30.

WAIVER FORMS and CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Each student 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 and fill out the forms, which are posted in 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, or visit CASS' office at Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at 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 Dean of Students. 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.