



DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR
Spring 2014

f:Syll Drugs of Abuse & Beh Spring 2014

COURSE INFORMATION

PSYC 3346 DRUGS OF ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR CRN: 26505
Instructor: Adolfo Alvarez, M.A., Lecturer, Department of Psychology
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TEXTBOOKS

Main textbook:

Hart, C.L. & Ksir, C. (2011). *Drugs, society & human behavior*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
You can get either the 14th or the 15th edition. (I used the 14th edition last semester, so the bookstore might have used books.) This book will be referred to as “main text” in your calendar and for test purposes.

Supplementary textbook:

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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The objective of this course is to give you an overall introduction to psychoactive drugs, their classification, their physical and psychological effects, the effects of drug abuse on family members, and the evidence-based drug rehabilitation therapies. Specifically, you will learn about:

- 1) The definition and classification of drugs and of psychoactive drugs;
- 2) The nervous system and psychoactive drugs;
- 3) The diagnostic criteria of drug use disorders;
- 4) The origin and history of psychoactive drugs;
- 5) Co-occurring mental disorders;
- 6) Stimulants: Caffeine, nicotine, cocaine, amphetamines and methamphetamines;
- 7) Depressants: Alcohol, inhalants, sedatives, hypnotic-anxiolytics, and opioids;
- 8) Hallucinogens: LSD, peyote, magic mushrooms, MDMA;
- 9) Marijuana, PCP;
- 10) Evidenced-based treatments and support groups;
- 11) Crime and substance abuse;
- 12) The effects of drug abuse on family members;
- 13) Testimonies from individuals with substance abuse;
- 14) The experience of attending an open meeting of a support group.

EXAMS

There will be four tests, each consisting of 40 to 60 multiple-choice questions. Each test will be worth 100 points. The exams are not comprehensive. After each exam I will review the exam to give you immediate feedback on your test performance. The test questions will come from my lectures, textbook chapters, films, and from the presentations by the guest speakers. Be prepared to answer all-of-the-above and none-of-the above questions. You will have 60 minutes for each test, with the exception of the final. No headwear is allowed during tests. **If you stay for the review, no cellular phones are allowed before or during the review.**

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.

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 all exams.

Attendance to an Open Meeting of Support Groups

You will be required to attend one session of either an **open** meeting of Alcoholics 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 support group you attend and to act in a professional manner. 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 meetings nor mention specific names of individuals of such groups in your essay. Your essay is to be typed, double-spaced with font size 12 and must be at least one page long. The essay is to be turned in **no later than Thursday 4/24**. No exceptions. Late will accrue zero points. I will provide you with more information about attendance during class. I will discuss the essay during the first day of class.

Opinion Essays

I have scheduled guest speakers for the class. You will be required to write your **opinions** about each presenter. Do not write a summary, 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**. No exceptions. Late papers will accrue zero points. Each opinion essay will be worth five points.

Computation of Final Grade

Your final grade for the course will be based on a maximum of 480 points, provided none of the speakers cancel.

Final grade = (Ex 1 + Ex 2 + Ex 3 + Ex 4 + essay on support group + opinion essays)/4.8)

Grading for each test, including the final, will be based on the following scale:

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

Grading for the final grade will be based on the following scale:

A = 432 – 480 B = 384 - 431 C = 336 – 383 D = 288 – 335 F = 0 - 287

Tour of federal prison FCI La Tuna

A tour of FCI La Tuna is planned but a date has not been determined yet. The visit will be on a voluntary basis. We will tour the institution and have a presentation by inmates who are participating in the Federal Bureau of Prison’s Residential Drug Abuse Program.

For the attendance of AA or Al-Anon meeting and for the visit to La Tuna a UTEP each student must sign a waiver form prior to the trip. For the tour of La Tuna, a criminal background check is required. I will provide you with all the forms.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY DURING CLASS

Cell phones must be turned off during classes and exams.

CALENDAR

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

- 1) Tu 1/21 Introduction to course
- 2) Th 1/23
- 3) Tu 1/28 Drug terminology and classification of drugs
- 4) Th 1/30 Diagnostic criteria
- 5) Tu 2/04 Alcoholic Anonymous (AA). Read pages on AA in Ch. 6 (in main text)
- 6) Th 2/06 Drug enforcement: Drug Enforcement Administration. Chs. 2 and 3
- 7) Tu 2/11 Drugs in El Paso
- 8) Th 2/13 Adult Children of Alcoholics and Al-Anon
- 9) **Tu 2/18 TEST 1**
Main text Chs: 1, 2, and 3, and pp. 240-242. *Broken:* Prologue and Chs. 1 to 5
- 10) Th 2/20 The Nervous System and The Action of Drugs Chs. 4 and 5
- 11) Tu 2/25 Stimulants Ch. 6
- 12) Th 2/27 Stimulants
- 13) Tu 3/04 Depressants and Inhalants Ch. 7
- 14) Th 3/06 Alcohol Ch. 9
- 15) Tu 3/11 Spring Break Juvenile criminal offenders and drugs of abuse
- 16) Th 3/13 Spring Break Alcohol
- 17) **Tu 3/18 TEST 2**
Main text Chs. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9. *Broken:* Chs. 6 to 8
- 18) Th 3/20 Marijuana Ch.15
- 19) Tu 3/25 Opioids Ch. 13
- 20) Th 3/27 Opioids
- 21) Tu 4/01 Female criminal offenders and drug use: US Federal Probation
- 22) Th 4/03 Hallucinogens Ch. 14
- 23) **Tu 4/08 TEST 3**
Main text Chs. 13, 14, and 15. *Broken:* Chs. 9 to 13
- 24) Th 4/10 Presentation by ex-incarcerated offender
- 25) Tu 4/15 Tobacco and Caffeine Chs. 10 and 11
- 26) Th 4/17 Co-occurring disorders: Guest speaker
- 27) Tu 4/22 Co-occurring disorders Ch. 8
- 28) Th 4/24
AA or Al-Anon essay due
- 29) Tu 4/29 Treating Substance Abuse and Dependence Ch. 18
- 30) Th 5/01 Discussion of *Broken* and of attendance to AA and Al-Anon
- 31) Tu 5/06 Discussion of attendance to AA and Al-Anon
- 32) **Tu 5/13 FINAL EXAM At 1:00 p.m.**
Main text Chs. 8, 10, 11, and 18. *Broken:* Chs. 14 to Epilogue
For those of you who wish to know your final grade immediately after the final, I will review the final after all students have finished it.

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.

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. University policy states that the student is responsible for informing the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) of their disability, and for requesting

accommodations within two weeks of the start of each semester. The DSSO determines whether students need accommodation, and assists the instructor in providing accommodation. Please inform me if you will request special accommodations.

ACADEMIC DISHONEST

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.