

**PSYC 3346**  
**Drugs of Abuse and Behavior – Spring 2019**  
 10:30-11:50am, MW  
 Room: Liberal Arts 108

<b>Professor:</b>	Katherine Serafine, Ph.D.	TA:	TBD
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Office:	216B Psychology Building	Office:	TBD
Office Hours:	Tuesdays (email for appt)	Office Hours:	email for appt

**Required Text:**

Meyer & Quenzer (2018). *Psychopharmacology (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates.

\*note that the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this text is fine, but the 1<sup>st</sup> edition is not sufficient for this course as the material is outdated. \*\*also note that some chapters are renumbered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, so if you buy the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, you will have to pay close attention to which topic is being discussed (not which chapter number).

**Course Description:**

This course provides a basic understanding of how drugs produce their behavioral effects. Emphasis will be placed on drugs of abuse and the principles by which these substances modify and regulate behavior in the brain. The course begins with an introduction of pharmacological and neural principles that regulate neural transmission in the brain. We also cover current theories of drug addiction and how these theories apply to different abused substances. **Prerequisite: Psych 1301, 3201 and 3101 with a "C" or better. Prerequisites must be completed prior to taking this class, and cannot be taken concurrently.**

**Learning Objectives:**

The goal of the course is to provide an overview of the neuroscientific basis of drugs of abuse as well as drugs used for the treatment of clinical disorders. **This course is taught with a heavy focus on the biological underpinnings of behavior.** As such, special attention will be given to the pharmacodynamic principles of drugs. Economic, governmental, social and cultural perspectives will also be considered where appropriate. Students should leave the class with an understanding of how drugs impact the brain and behavior. Students will also be challenged to think critically about controversial topics regarding drug use in the United States. Lastly, students will engage in a literature search, and write a final paper based on peer-reviewed sources supporting their stance on one of these controversial topics.

**Accommodations and Support Services:**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). Individuals requiring more time for the exam through CASS must schedule their exam time with CASS to be completed no later than 5pm the same day the class takes the exam. You must notify me if you require accommodations via CASS no later than one week before the first exam.

**Blackboard:**

Everything you need for this class can be found on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard for announcements at least once per week. Blackboard is also where you will find online quizzes and other supplemental materials relevant to the course. Make sure you check your email regularly for updates from me via blackboard.

**Attendance:**

To do well in this course, you are encouraged to attend every class session, listen actively, take notes and ask questions. However, lecture slides (as an adobe PDF) will be made available on blackboard. I do not have a formal attendance policy; however, often there will be in class extra credit opportunities for those who are in attendance (see below). Note that in class pop quizzes cannot be made up, so it is recommended that you come to class in person as often as possible to maximize opportunities to get extra credit. Missing class on an exam day will result in an automatic zero for that exam grade (see below).

**Grades: up to 400 points total****Exams: 300 pts**

- There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points during the course of the semester (dates below).
- Combinations of multiple choice, short answer and/or essay, matching and labeling or fill in the blank questions will be included. Exams are not cumulative, but concepts in this course build off each other as the semester progresses.
- The majority of the exam will be focused on lecture material, but 10-20% will be from the book (and most of the book questions will be very similar to the blackboard quizzes).
- **Exams will only occur during class, and no additional time will be provided.** If you show up late on exam day, you only have until the end of class to complete the exam. If you need more time, please contact CASS for academic support accommodations prior to the first exam.
- If you show up late on exam day, and someone has already finished the exam, you will not be permitted to take it. Punctual attendance on exam day is strongly encouraged.
- **No make-up exams will be administered under any other circumstances, no matter how compelling.**

**Assignments: 100 pts** (see breakdown below). Late work will not be accepted (except where noted below), no matter the circumstance (including variable blackboard upload speeds). If it is late, even by a few seconds, it will be a zero. Do not wait until the last minute to upload your assignments to blackboard! Improper formatting will result in point deductions. Specific directions can be found in a document titled: **Final Paper Guidelines**, and there is also a second document called **Tips for Writing** with even more guidance, which are both available on blackboard. I am very strict on deducting points if the directions are not followed, so please read both documents very carefully.

1. **Paper topic (1pt)**. A word document must be uploaded no later than 11:59pm on February 10<sup>th</sup> identifying your paper topic. This must be uploaded via blackboard assignments.
2. **References (9pts)**. 3 peer-reviewed journal article references for your final paper must be uploaded (the full article saved as a PDF, not just a link or the abstract– you need to show me that you have been able to download and read the full article) via blackboard no later than 11:59pm on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Only one of these papers should be a “literature review” paper, which means the others must be original research. Your final paper should at a minimum have 3 peer-reviewed references total in the reference section. There are some rules about what will and won’t count as a reference, so please read the directions in the Final Paper Guidelines document on blackboard to ensure you do not lose points for incorrect submission. Each paper is worth 3 points.
3. **Reference worksheets (30pts)**. You must complete the worksheets on blackboard for your references. You must clearly articulate the hypothesis, rationale, and methods of each study. You must identify whether or not your paper is an empirical research article or a literature review/ meta-analysis paper. An example worksheet is provided on blackboard and a rubric is provided on the “final paper guidelines” document on blackboard. You will use these

worksheets to guide you in writing your final paper. Each worksheet is worth 10 points and you must complete 3. These should be uploaded via blackboard no later than 11:59pm on 3 consecutive Sundays (worksheet 1 is due March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 is due March 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 is due March 17<sup>th</sup>).

4. **Final Paper (60 pts).** Due by 11:59pm on April 28<sup>th</sup>, uploaded via blackboard assignments. Blackboard assignments does have a plagiarism checking feature (SafeAssign) and you will be able to see how much of your text is being flagged as potentially plagiarized. You can revise once you upload, and please be sure to use proper citations where appropriate. Direct quotes are not permitted. Paper must adhere to the guidelines provided in separate documents which also contain the grading rubric (see blackboard for *Final Paper Guidelines* and *Tips for Writing*). Late papers will receive a point deduction, described in detail in the *Final Paper Guidelines*.

#### Extra Credit:

- **Quizzes (5pts)**
  - A total of 10-13 quizzes will be available on blackboard throughout the semester. These will consist of multiple choice and true false questions. *Quiz questions will come from the reading assignments NOT from the lecture.* These quizzes are based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the text, not the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please keep this in mind if you choose to buy an older version of the book. Quizzes will only be available during the week corresponding to that reading assignment (so if you are supposed to read chapter 2 by the end of the first week, the chapter 2 quiz will expire on Friday of the first week of classes, etc). The quizzes will expire at 11:59pm each week on Fridays. Quizzes are not timed, but they do expire – so if you don't want to be rushed, do not wait to start it until close to the expiration time.
  - I will also provide a syllabus quiz, which will expire on census day (Feb 6<sup>th</sup>). If you take the syllabus quiz it will replace your lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.
  - Quiz bonus points will be calculated as follows: (points earned divided by points possible) multiplied by 5. The quiz total for each individual will be added to your total grade once the other 400 points have been completed (e.g., if you get all 400 and still earn 5 quiz points, your final grade will be 405/400).
- **Video Assignments (10 pts)**
  - At some point during the semester I will give you the link to watch an HBO documentary on your own time. Later in the semester there will be an additional "homework" video from National Geographic. You will be able to earn up to 5 points extra credit from questions that will show up on the exam that falls after each video link is provided. These points will be added as extra credit to the exam on which the questions appear. There will be a maximum of 5 points extra credit corresponding to each video, for 10 extra credit points total.
- **Final Paper Rough Draft (5pts)**
  - A rough draft of your paper (format as described on the final paper guidelines document) can be turned in to Dr. Serafine for extra credit. This is to encourage you to be proactive and to allow me to help you shape the paper so that you turn in your best possible effort. If you decide to do this, your rough draft is due no later than 11:59pm on Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> via email to me at kmserafine2@utep.edu. Don't forget the "2" in my email address, and do not reply to a blackboard email, or it will bounce back and you will not receive credit. If you fail to type my email address correctly, and miss the deadline you will not get credit. Drafts sent after 11:59pm on March 31<sup>st</sup> will not be graded for extra credit, and I will not have time to provide you with feedback on them.

See the *Final Paper Guidelines* document on blackboard for more details about the rough draft as well as a grading rubric.

- **University Writing Center (5pts)**
  - If you bring your paper to the University Writing Center *before* April 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm, and get proof of your visit (they will give you a form to turn into me) I will give you 5pts extra credit on the final paper. Do not lose the form, as it is your only way to prove that you went to the writing center for feedback, and without it I cannot assign the points. Writing Center forms dated *after* the final paper deadline will not count toward extra credit. You can go to the writing center as many times as you like, but only one form will count for extra credit. You can also go for the reference worksheets, but again only one form (total) will count for extra credit.
- **Exam Extra Credit (??)**
  - There are typically also 1-2 extra credit questions on each exam. These are extra, and if you get them wrong you will not be penalized, but answering them correctly will get you full or partial extra credit points. They are typically more difficult than the rest of the exam questions, which is why they are worth *extra* points. There will be between 2.5-5pts extra credit on each exam.
- **In Class Pop Quizzes (??)**
  - Occasionally I will have unannounced pop quizzes in class, and you will have the opportunity to earn extra credit based on performance on these quizzes. These quizzes are based on lecture material. These quizzes cannot be made up if you are absent, regardless of the circumstance. Typically, there will be 2.5-5pts possible via in class pop quizzes between each exam, and points will be added to the exam that follows the quiz. For example, a quiz occurring after Exam 1 will mean that any points earned get added to the Exam 2 grade.
- **Final Debate/Discussion (up to 10pts).** At the end of the semester, you can boost your grade by participating in an oral debate/discussion about your final paper topics during the final exam time (May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-12:45pm). **Attendance and participation are both required to earn full points.** This is a lot of points to earn, so in order to keep things fair, there are some rules...
  - Late attendance will result in point deduction (-1 point per minute late, up to 5 points. Anyone arriving more than 5 minutes late will still lose 5 points. **If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will not be able to participate in the debate, and you will not earn any of the 10 possible points).**
  - You must declare that you will participate in the debate no later than April 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. That is, you cannot decide the day of the debate that you want to participate. You must notify me in advance. To put in your “notice of intent” to participate you must answer a short quiz on blackboard no later than April 28<sup>th</sup> regarding your topic and position (pro/con).
  - If the debate teams are uneven by more than 1 extra person, volunteers will be sought to “switch sides” or “switch teams”. **Students who volunteer will have a more lenient grading rubric than those who do not.** Details about the grading are in the *Final Paper Guidelines* document on blackboard.
  - If there are insufficient volunteers, I will randomly assign some students to switch, in which case the stricter grading rubric will be used. In other words, volunteering could make the debate a little easier for you, and can be thought of as another type of “extra credit” though it will not come with “extra points” beyond the 10 already available for the debate.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

**Final Grade Calculation:** Final grades will be calculated as follows  $(\text{points earned} + \text{extra credit}/400) \times 100$ .

**Grading scale:**

A = 90.0-100.0%

B = 80.0-89.9%

C = 70.0-79.9%

D = 60-69.9%

F < 60.0%

Please note that grades will not be "rounded up". Therefore a 79.5% will be entered as a "C". That might sound frustrating, and you might be thinking – seriously? Why can't Dr. Serafine can't just "give" us the 0.5 points to make that a "B"? The thing is, it isn't 0.5 points. It is 0.5% of 400 points, which is really 2/400 points. 2 points could have been easily earned by taking the blackboard quizzes, or from the in-class pop quizzes. Part of Dr. Serafine's teaching philosophy is that grades are earned, they are not "given". The point of the extra credit opportunities (outlined above) is to make it easy for you to earn a better grade. **As such, "rounding up" will not occur in this class. No exceptions will be made.**

If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these in writing within ten days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error. I do not hand back exams, if you wish to see your exam after it has been graded, you must schedule an appointment to come meet with me or with the TA. Typically, the TA will meet with you first and if you have lingering questions, I can also meet with you. If you want to file a formal complaint about grading, please contact the UTEP Psychology Department Chair.

Exams and assignments are graded based on instructions provided (e.g., you must circle answers for multiple choice, and write answers in the appropriate place on the exams for short answers). The instructor and the TA will only grade answers that are written in the appropriate place (e.g., on lined paper provided, on the blanks for fill in the blanks, not in the margins of the exam). Please read and follow the instructions carefully.

If you have a problem with the grading policies outlined above, you are welcome to drop the course before the drop deadline which is April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. If you disagree with your final grade in this course, despite my clear outline above of the way grades are calculated, you are welcome to file a complaint to the Chair of the Psychology Department or the UTEP grievance committee. Note that there is already information about extra credit written above. Do not ask for additional extra credit opportunities beyond what is provided on the syllabus or in class to the entire group.

**Class Schedule:** Lecture title bold, reading (to be completed prior to class time italicized)

- 01/23      **Course overview**  
**Intro to the brain and behavior**  
*Chapter 2: Structure and Function of the Nervous System*
- 01/28      **The neuron**  
**The brain & nervous system**  
*Chapter 2: Structure and Function of the Nervous System*
- 01/30      **Introduction to Pharmacology: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics**  
*Chapter 1: Principles of Pharmacology*
- 02/04      **Pharmacology (continued)**  
**The action potential**  
**Neurochemistry: level of the synapse**  
*Chapter 1: Principles of Pharmacology*  
*Chapter 3: Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones*
- 02/06      **Neurochemistry: level of the synapse (continued)**  
**Neurotransmitter classification: Acetylcholine**  
*Chapter 3: Chemical Signaling by Neurotransmitters and Hormones*  
*Chapter 7: Acetylcholine*  
**\*census day – syllabus quiz will close at 11:59pm**
- 02/10      **Paper topic due via blackboard by 11:59pm**
- 02/11      **Workshop: How to find references for your final paper**  
**Acetylcholine (Continued)**  
*Chapter 7: Acetylcholine*
- 02/13      **Major excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters: Glutamate**  
*Chapter 8: Glutamate and GABA*
- 02/17      **Paper references (3) due via blackboard by 11:59pm**  
**\*must upload PDF of actual references, not abstract, and not a link or word document reference section for credit. See final paper guidelines document on blackboard for more details.**
- 02/18      **Major excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitter systems: GABA**  
**Monoamines: Catecholamines**  
*Chapter 8: Glutamate and GABA*  
*Chapter 5: Catecholamines*
- 02/20      **Monoamines: Catecholamines & Indolamines**  
*Chapter 5: Catecholamines*  
*Chapter 6: Serotonin*

- 02/25 Exam Review/Flex
- 02/27 **Exam 1: Chapters 1-3, 5-8**
- 03/03 **Reference 1 worksheet due via blackboard by 11:59pm**
- 03/04 **Methods of research**  
*Chapter 4: Methods of Research in Psychopharmacology*
- 03/06 **Addiction & the biology of reward**  
*Chapter 9: Drug Abuse & Addiction*
- 03/10 **Reference 2 worksheet due via blackboard by 11:59pm**
- 03/11 **The stimulants: cocaine & amphetamine**  
*Chapter 12: Psychomotor stimulants: cocaine and the amphetamines*
- 03/13 **The narcotics: opioids and pain**  
*Chapter 11: The Opioids*
- 03/17 **Reference 3 worksheet due via blackboard by 11:59pm**
- 03/18 Spring Break  
03/20 Spring Break
- 03/25 **The legal drugs: Alcohol**  
*Chapter 10: Alcohol*
- 03/27 **The legal drugs: Nicotine and Caffeine**  
*Chapter 13: Nicotine and Caffeine*
- 03/31 **(Extra credit) Rough Draft due via email to [kmserafine2@utep.edu](mailto:kmserafine2@utep.edu) by 11:59pm**
- 04/01 **The cannabinoids and the hallucinogens**  
*Chapter 14: Marijuana and the Cannabinoids*  
*Chapter 15: Hallucinogens, PCP, and Ketamine*
- 04/03 Exam Review/Flex
- 04/05 **Spring drop deadline – last day to drop courses**
- 04/08 **Exam 2 (chapter 9-15)**
- 04/10 **Introduction to pharmacotherapeutics**  
**Schizophrenia**  
*Chapter 19: Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs*

- 04/15            **Schizophrenia: Continued**  
*Chapter 19: Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs*
- 04/17            **Affective disorders: Major depressive and bipolar disorders**  
*Chapter 18: Affective Disorders: Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers*
- 04/22            **Affective disorders: Continued**  
*Chapter 18: Affective Disorders: Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers*
- 04/24            **Anxiety disorders: Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers**  
*Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs*
- 04/28            **Final Paper due via blackboard by 11:59pm**  
**Last day to "opt in" for Final Debate extra credit**  
**Last day to visit the University Writing Center for extra credit**
- 04/29            **Anxiety disorders: Continued**  
*Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs*
- 05/01            **Sleep disorders: Narcolepsy, Insomnia, Sleep Apnea and Hypersomnia**  
*Chapter 17: Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs*
- 05/06            Exam Review/Flex
- 05/08            Exam 3 (Chapters 18-20)
- 05/10            Dead Day
- 05/17            **10:00am-12:45pm FINAL EXAM** in class debate – paper topics. You cannot make this up if you miss it because it requires in class participation. \*note the earlier meeting time!

**\*\*Please note: The syllabus is subject to change during the semester. Please make sure I have your best email contact information, to insure you always have the most up to date version of the syllabus. I will also always post the most recent version to blackboard.**



### Classroom Courtesy

Please adhere to the following:

1. **Don't come late.** If you will be more than 10 minutes late to class, do not come that day. Late arrivals are disruptive. Please make sure your schedule doesn't prevent you from being on time to class.
2. **Don't leave early.** Plan to stay seated quietly for the entire class period—packing up early prevents others from hearing lecture and announcements. I generally end class at least 2-3 minutes before the official end time of the class, so you will have ample time to get where you are going. If your schedule prevents you from staying until the end of class, please change your schedule.
3. **No phones.** Do not use your cell phone or text messaging device during class— please turn these devices off.
4. **No surfing.** You are welcome to bring your laptop/iPad to take notes, but not for any other purpose. Using laptops to play movies or surf the web is extremely distracting to other students.
5. **No side conversations.** While I highly encourage students to ask questions during class, please refrain from side conversations not related to the larger class discussion. This is very disruptive—students frequently complain that they cannot hear the lecture/films because of other students' conversations.

If you engage in these activities, you are preventing your fellow students from learning. As such, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Don't let other students distract from your learning experience—if you see others engaging in these activities, please ask them to stop.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q: What happens if a personal medical emergency or family emergency occurs during the semester?**

A: If your personal or family circumstance limits your ability to perform in one or more courses, you can drop the course(s). If the emergency occurs after the drop deadline (April 5<sup>th</sup>), you can apply for a complete medical withdrawal through the registrar's office. If this occurs to you, please contact CASS first ([cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)) to determine how to proceed with medical paperwork. Under no circumstances should you share your personal medical or family situation with your professors. This is confidential, and as such all medical records/information should be discussed with CASS only, not your professors. It is the policy of the Department of Psychology not to permit selective withdrawals due to medical/family emergencies. In other words, if you want to withdraw from only Dr. Serafine's course, and not your other courses, due to a medical circumstance or family emergency, the request will likely be denied without clear justification. In extremely rare cases, students are eligible for an incomplete. If you believe you are experiencing one of those rare circumstances, please contact CASS first, and then your academic advisor before approaching the instructor about an incomplete.

**Q: What happens if I think someone in the course is engaging in academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc)?**

A: UTEP takes academic dishonesty very seriously. If you notice suspicious behavior during an exam or suspect academic dishonesty is occurring, please notify Dr. Serafine. Dr. Serafine might file a formal report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). If she does, you are welcome to remain anonymous in reporting the suspected offense. To remain anonymous, simply let Dr. Serafine know that you wish to remain anonymous when you report the behavior to her via email or in person.

**Q: The review sheets are really long. Is there anyway to get a shorter version?**

A: The review sheet is designed as a tool to help you focus your study efforts on the most important information. They need to be long in order to cover all possible information that might appear on an exam. If you don't want to do the review sheet, don't do it. However, completing the review sheet, and taking it like a practice test is the best way to study for the exams in this course.

**Q: I have to miss class on an exam day. Is there anyway to take the exam early?**

A: No. Exam dates are posted the first day of class, therefore you have plenty of notice to arrange your schedule around them. If you do not show up to class on an exam day, you will earn an automatic zero on that exam.

**Q: I have to miss class but it isn't an exam day. Do I need to notify Dr. Serafine?**

A: No. There is no attendance policy in this course. Therefore you can come and go as you please, and attend whenever you feel like it. However, in class pop quizzes cannot be made up if you are not in attendance and students who attend class tend to get better grades in this course than those who do not.

**Q: Can I use my laptop to take notes in class?**

A: Yes; however, research shows that when students bring laptops to class it not only hurts their ability to learn – but it also impairs the performance of the students sitting near them. Therefore you are encouraged to take notes on paper the old fashioned way (with a pen or pencil).

**Q: I know Dr. Serafine provides the slides as a PDF, but I want the powerpoint version so I can take notes in powerpoint. Can I get a powerpoint file?**

A: No. Dr. Serafine only provides a PDF to encourage you to take notes by hand instead of electronically. No powerpoint version will be provided under any circumstances.

**Q: I have a disability or medical condition that requires accommodation support. What options does Dr. Serafine provide for these circumstances?**

A: Dr. Serafine will work with CASS to determine appropriate accommodations for your specific needs. If you wish to get accommodations, you must enroll at CASS and have CASS notify Dr. Serafine at least 1 week before the first exam. Dr. Serafine will reply within 5 business days (to you and CASS) with a list of accommodations that can be offered based on your specific needs and the course.