



Brescia University College
LONDON CANADA

Psych 2020A, Section 530
Drugs & Behaviour
PROVISIONAL Outline - Fall 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of licit and illicit drugs. The course material will consist of the neurochemical mechanisms of action, methods of administration, and behavioural effects of the major classes of drugs. It will include a general introduction to the major classes of drugs as well as detailed examination of a selection of specific drugs. The course will also include material on the history and current patterns of drugs use and abuse in Canada, with a brief discussion of prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Prerequisites: None

Antirequisites: None

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Caroline Strang
Office: BR 40
E-mail: cstrang@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday 12 – 2pm

Time, Location of Classes: Tuesday: 10:30 – 11:30, BR-MRW152
Thursday: 9:30 – 11:30, BR-MRW152

Course Website: on Western Owl

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Describe the historical and current patterns of use and abuse of common licit and illicit drugs (e.g. alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, sedative, hallucinogens, prescription medications)
- Outline different methods of drug administration
- Describe the neurochemical basis for drug effects, both generally and pertaining to specific drugs discussed in the course.
- Identify major classes of drugs and outline their behavioural and health effects
- Discuss current topics of debate surrounding licit and illicit drug use in Canada

TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

Required: Levinthal, C.F., & Hamilton, T. (2015). *Drugs, Behaviour & Modern Society* (1st Canadian ed.)

CLASS SCHEDULE (tentative)

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept. 10	Introduction and Outline	Course outline Chapter 1
Sept. 15 & 17	Introduction cont. Drug taking behaviour Point/Counterpoint discussion I	Chapters 1 2
Sept. 22 & 24	How drugs work	Chapter 3
Sept. 29 & Oct. 1	Major Stimulants Point/Counterpoint discussion II	Chapter 4
Oct. 6 & 8	Opioids	Chapter 5
Oct. 13 15	Hallucinogens Marijuana	Chapter 6 7
Oct. 20	Marijuana Review	Chapter 7
Oct. 22	Midterm – In class	Chapters 1-7 Lecture material
Oct. 27	Alcohol	Chapter 8
Oct. 29	FALL BREAK	
Nov. 3 5	Alcohol Point/Counterpoint discussion III	Chapters 8 9
Nov. 10 & 12	Nicotine Caffeine	Chapters 10 11
Nov. 17 & 19	Enhancers Depressants	Chapters 12 13
Nov. 24 & 26	Prescriptions drugs Point/Counterpoint discussion IV	Chapters 14 15
Dec. 1 & 3	Substance abuse prevention & treatment Point/Counterpoint discussion V	Chapters 16 & 17

Dec. 8	REVIEW	
Dec. Exam Period (TBA)	FINAL EXAM	Dec. Exam Period (TBA)

Topics will be covered in the order given above. *Approximate* lecture dates are listed so that you can keep up with the readings. For chapters that are on the class schedule you are responsible for the entire reading, including sections that we do not cover in class, unless otherwise stated during lecture.

EVALUATION & EXAM SCHEDULE

Course Component	Date	Material	Weight
Thought Papers	Sept. 17 Oct. 1 Nov. 5 Nov. 26 Dec. 3	Point/counterpoint discussions I-V	15%
Midterm	Oct. 27	Chapters 1-7 Lecture Material	40%
Final Exam	Dec. exam period TBA	Chapters 8-17 Lecture Material	45%

The midterm & non-cumulative final exam will be primarily multiple choice, but will have a mixture of fill in the blanks, label the diagram and/or short answer written questions.

Midterm Exam:

Scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, in class. Questions will be based on reading and lecture material from topics covered from Sept. 10 – Oct. 20, inclusive. The midterm is worth 40% of your course mark.

Final Exam:

Scheduled during the December exam period, Dec. 11 - 22, (exact date TBA). Questions will be based on reading and lecture material from topics covered from Nov. 3 – Dec. 8, inclusive. The final exam is worth 45% of your course mark.

Tests are closed book and no aids or electronic devices are allowed. There will be no re-grading of written questions answered in pencil.

Thought Papers (15% of final grade)

There will be five in class discussions on the issues described in the Point/Counterpoint sections in the textbook. Students must complete thoughts papers for four of the Point/Counterpoint sections. Thought papers should include a brief description of the discussion topic and the student's thoughts/perspective. Thought papers must be no longer than 250 words and a hard copy must be handed in at the start of the class during which the Point/Counterpoint discussion will occur. The format of the thought papers can be informal, but all references must be in APA format. Each student's best 3/4 thought papers will count towards 15% of their final grade. If a student completes only three thought papers all three will count towards their final grade and

they will not have the benefit of dropping their lowest grade.

Point/Counterpoint discussion dates and topics:

Sept. 17: Drug legalization

Oct. 1: Cognitive performance-enhancing drug use by healthy people

Nov. 5: Disease model of alcoholism

Nov. 26: Prescription drug advertising

Dec. 3: Project D.A.R.E.

Late Thought Papers: All thought papers must be submitted at the start of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will not be accepted.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Students may be required to submit documentation to their academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

Please note that grades cannot be adjusted on the basis of need. Tests and exams cannot be re-written nor assignments re-submitted to obtain a higher mark.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under

the Medical Documentation heading of the following website:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill” is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting

for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.html> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.