
Psychology 475	Behavioural Pharmacology	Summer 2014
Instructor:	Dr. Shaona Acharjee	Lecture Location: SA245
Phone:	403-220-4497	Lecture Days/Time: MWF
Email:	acharjes@ucalgary.ca	14:30-16:20
Office:	HSC 2146, Foothills Campus	
Office Hours:	By appointment	

Course Description and Goals

The behavioural effects of drugs specifically employed to affect the nervous system, as seen in the treatment of mental disorders, behavioural disorders, and other conditions such as Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases. Neuropharmacologic agents will be discussed as they relate to the biochemistry and physiology of putative neurotransmitters.

Prerequisites

[Psychology 312](#) and [375](#), or consent of the Department.

Required Text

- Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain and Behavior (2nd ed.), Jerrold S. Meyer and Linda F. Quenzer (2013), Sinauer Associates, Inc.
- Textbook is available at the University Bookstore and online vendors.

Evaluation

1) Midterm: 35%

June 9, 2014

- Short/long answers, multiple choices
- Test materials covered in Chapters 1-14 and related class notes.

2) Term paper: 25%

Term paper due August 6, 2014 for peer review (hard copy to be given to the peers)

Peer review to be handed back by August 8, 2014 (you can scan the copy back to the peer)

Final copy due August 11, 2014. Hard copy and electronic copy must be submitted.

Students will be asked to choose a primary research article on a relevant topic (details will be given in the first lecture) and they will have to write a review on the article. Page limit 7 pages (excluding figures and references) with Times new Roman 12 points, double spaced, 2" margins.

Peer review will compromise 5% of the total grade. Copies that are not submitted in time for peer review will not be considered and therefore get no credit for that part.

Failure to submit the final copy by the due date will result in penalty. There will be a 25% deduction in score if submitted by August 13, 2014. No reports will be accepted after August 13.

3) Oral presentation: 10%

June 18-June 26

- 10-minute talk related to your term paper. Talk date and time will be determined in class.

4) Final exam: 30%

Scheduled by Registrar

- Short/long answers, multiple choices
- Test materials covered in Chapters 1-3, 17-21 and related class notes.

Department of Psychology Grade Distribution Policy

The distribution of grades in Psychology courses (the percentage of A grades, B grades, etc.) will be similar to the distribution of grades in other courses in the Faculty of Arts. The Department monitors the grade distributions of 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in the Faculty to ensure that the grade distributions in Psychology courses are comparable. Based on these reviews, students can expect that 1) up to 30% of grades in 200- and 300-level psychology courses will be "A" grades (A+, A, and A-), and 2) up to 40% of grades in 400-level psychology courses will be "A" grades.

Department of Psychology Criteria for Letter Grades

Psychology professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

A+ grade: Exceptional Performance. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: Excellent Performance. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student's thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: Good Performance. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: Satisfactory Performance. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: Marginally meets standards. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: *Course standards not met.* Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

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Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
W July 2	Summer Term Lecture begins. Pharmacology (Chapter 1)
F July 4	Overview: Neurotransmission Classes of neurotransmitters: Acetylcholine, Glutamate, GABA
M July 7	Classes of neurotransmitters: Serotonin and catecholamines **Topic for paper-approval deadline**
W July 9	Introduction to Drugs of Abuse (Guest Lecturer: Corey Baimal)
F July 11	Central nervous system depressants: Alcohol and Opiates
M July 14	Cocaine and amphetamines
W July 16	Nicotine and caffeine
F July 18	Environmental neurotoxicants and endocrine disruptors Review for midterm exam
M July 21	Midterm Examination
W July 23	Marijuana and cannabinoids
F July 25	Hallucinogens, PCP and Ketamine
M July 28	Anxiety Disorder and Affective disorder
W July 30	Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs
F August 1	Neurodegenerative diseases
M August 4	<i>University Closed Heritage Day</i>
W August 6	Presentations
F August 8	Presentations
M August 11	Presentations

W August 13	Presentations Review session for Final Exam
R August 14	<i>Summer Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full session Summer Term courses.</i>
August 15, 16 & 18	Final exam dates for full session Summer Term courses and Spring and Summer Multi-term courses.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test/Exam

Makeup tests/exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam.

Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered except under exceptional circumstances. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Course Credits for Research Participation (Max 2% of final grade)

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. **A maximum of two (2) credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to the student's final grade. Students earn 0.5% (0.5 credits) for each full 30 minutes of participation.** The demand for timeslots may exceed the supply in a given term. Thus, students are not guaranteed that there will be enough studies available to them to meet their credit requirements. Students should seek studies early in the term and should frequently check for open timeslots. Students can create an account and participate in Departmentally approved research studies at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>

The last day to participate in studies and to assign or reassign earned credits to courses is **August 14th, 2014.**

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom which for SA245 is **Social Science- Food Court.**

The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in Administration 170 and may be contacted at 403-220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 403-220-3911

suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 403-220-3913

socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date (revise and add columns & rows as necessary)
W July 2	Summer Term Lecture begins.
M July 7	**Topic for paper-approval deadline**
M July 21	<i>Midterm Examination</i>
W August 6	Presentations
F August 8	Presentations
M August 11	Presentations
W August 13	Presentations
R August 14	<i>Summer Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw from full session Summer Term courses.</i>
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Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** and the last day for registration/change of registration is **Friday, July 4, 2014**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **August 14th, 2014**.