**University of Alberta Faculty of Science**

**DEPARTMENT OF Psychology**

2020 - 2021 *PSYCO : 403-B3 (Winter Term)*

*Psychopharmacology*

**Time**: *asynchronous* **Place**:online- access on eclass **Course Website*:*** *eClass*

**Instructor**: Claire Scavuzzo **Office**: P-551 Biosciences **E-mail**: scavuzzo@ualberta.ca

**TA**: Aakanksha Singh **E-mail**: as3[@ualberta.ca](mailto:dmolafso@ualberta.ca) **Office Hours**: electronic on zoom

**Course Pre-requisite**: PSYCO 275 or equivalent

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is a seminar that discusses psychopharmacology of drugs of abuse. We will focus on drug administration, neurotransmitter systems, and drug actions, in the context of commonly used drugs such as alcohol, cannabis, psychedelics, and opioids. Topics will span general synaptic transmission, methods, mechanisms of action, and theories of addiction. By the end of this course students should be able to describe drug effects on their target tissues and resulting behaviours. Students will build awareness of how to evaluate claims given the scope of the current literature, and how it can be applied to current policy and law making, and arguments for or against drug use, and drug regulation.

**Texts**:

Meyer J.S. and Quenzer L.F. (2013). Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the brain, and behavior. Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc----available on hold at Cameron library, on shelf at Medical library

Readings of scientific literature are required for discussions. References to the textbook and background information are for further/deeper understanding.

Additional links will be posted to eclass and can be found in “readings sections” on eclas

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

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| assessment | Due Date | Worth |
| Quizzes | Quizzes open for 1 week starting on the following dates   * January 26 * February 11 * March 2 * March 18 * April 8 | 5 @ 10% each;  50% total |
| Discussion posts | * March 4 * March 18 * April 8 | 3 @ 5% each; 15% total |
| Cumulative Final exam | TBA; see eclass for dates | 35% |

**Explanatory Notes:**

Assessments are to be submitted on eClass and will only be accepted within the deadlines indicated on eClass. See syllabus for dates; also verify due date and time indicated on eClass. All exams and quizzes have a single attempt, will be timed and taken online. All will be accessed on eclass. To accommodate time zones, quizzes will be made available for 1 week windows on the dates indicated. Once the quiz/exam is opened you will have a single attempt to complete the assessment within a 30-120 min time limit. Please review instructions on eclass prior to opening to prepare for the time limit. If you open a quiz close to the deadline it will kick you off if the deadline hits before your time limit is up. Be sure to give yourself time to complete the work within the window available. In the event eclass has a problem during a quiz , just hit refresh on the page.

**EXAM**s will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The Final Exam is cumulative.

**Quiz :** Questions have matching, multiple choice, true/ false .

**Late/Missing quiz Penalty**: If an quiz is not submitted within eClass dates you will get a zero and the weight will be moved to the final exam. I will defer the weight of **up to** 2 missed quizzes, after missing more than 2 quizzes you will not be able to make up or defer the lost weight, it will just be counted as a zero. *Please do not contact the instructor or TA* for missed quizzes, the weight will be transferred automatically at the end of semester. There will be no make up quizzes. In the case that you have missed a discussion assignment, there will be 10% deduction for each day that a discussion post is late.

**Missed Term Exams:**

For an excused absence where the cause is religious belief, a student must contact the instructor(s) within two weeks of the start of Fall or Winter classes to request accommodation for the term (including the final exam, where relevant). Instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the student request.

A student who cannot write a term examination or complete a term assignment due to incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction or other compelling reasons can apply for a deferral of the weight of the missed term. *FYI: Deferral of term work to exam will increase the weight of the exam for that student, but does not change the ‘syllabus weight’ of the exam and does not qualify a student for re-examination, if the syllabus weight of the final lecture exam was <40%.*

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the *Code of Student Behaviour*.

**Exams:** Will be delivered online. Will be timed. Will be a mix of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The final exam is cumulative

**Unit Reflections Discussion Posts**: At the end of each unit we will have a discussion forum to “reflect” on what we have learned that week. The purpose of your reflection post , is to include evidence that you have mastered the knowledge expected of you for that unit.

Use the discussion prompt at the top of each forum: some weeks there will be a general reflection of the textbook/lecture content, or it could be a more specific reflection of recent scientific literature in the field, or evaluation of a case study/ youtube video. The reflections are to be posted by the due date indicated to the forum associated with the unit. Once every 2 weeks we will virtually meet as a class to discuss these reflections (see below).

**Zoom Reflection Discussions**: For this I will go through the discussion forum, live and we can discuss a selection of the reflections one-at-a-time. I will ask students directly to elaborate or support their claims made in the discussion forum.

There is no credit associated with this, this is just a chance to “meet” eachother and speak on common ground. This is an optional activity to attend. You are encouraged to share what you know, in both the discussion posts and in the virtual meetings. This can be a valuable learning experience for all of us!

**Expectations**: Some notes about online classroom behaviour on virtual discussion boards and meetings that will be considered when formulating assessment criteria. So be mindful of 'netiquette'

* When signing onto an online meeting, IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU use your REAL full name (first and last) to gain access to the room.
* Just as with *face-to-face* conversations, there are polite and impolite ways to engage in an *online* conversation. For more information about appropriate netiquette, refer to <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html>
  + There is a human being on the other end of the computer. Follow same standards you would in real life
    - Be pleasant.
    - Refrain from use of offensive language towards each other.
    - Do not plagiarize, follow copyright law
    - Cite your source
  + Confrontations should include a logical, evidence- based argument. We can’t always agree, but we can always be constructive when discussing our disagreements.
    - Express yourself freely, but there is No need to hurt people’s feelings
      * Ask yourself if you would say this to this person’s face?
    - Of particular relevance see “avoid flame wars, not flaming” : <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/rule7.html>
  + Respect the time of others, by posting and discussing meaningful relevant content.
    - Please do not post the same thing more than once (please remove if you do so accidentally)
    - Brevity and succinctness in posts is best.
      * We all have a lot of reading online to do. Let’s try not to monopolize the screen and working memory capacity of each other.
  + Don't forget to make yourself look good. Proper spelling and grammar increase your credibility.
    - Make it clear what you are talking about, so it is less easy for your words and ideas to be distorted.
    - Keep your writing simple, and logical, instead of trying to look impressive.
      * Use evidence to support your claims/beliefs/understanding.
    - Proofread before submitting your posts.

**Lecture Schedule:** Lecture materials will be made available by Tuesday at 12 pm each week.

**\*\*\*Lecture Notes Posted on eClass as Google Slides**

**\*\*\* Lecture Recordings posted on eClass as Youtube links (with closed captioning) or Google drive links (for those without YouTube access)**

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| dates | Topic/assignments | Readings |
| January 12 | Syllabus review  Review eclass  Watch COVID and the brain |  |
| January 14, 19, 21 | Principles of Pharmacology | Chapter 1 |
| January 26 | Quiz 1 opens for one week | Covers content from first 2 weeks |
| January 28, Feb 2 | Behavioural and pharmTechniques | Chapter 4 |
| Feb 4, 9 | Neurochemical systems | Chapter 5, 6, 8,11, 14 |
| Feb 11 | Quiz 2 opens for 2 weeks |  |
| Feb 16,18 | Reading | week |
| Feb 23, 25 | Drug abuse and Addiction | Chapter 9, eclass readings |
| March 2 | Quiz 3 opens for 1 week |  |
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| March 4 | Discussion 1 post due: drug policy debate |  |
| March 9, 11, 16 | Alcohol | Chapter 10, 16, 18, eclass reading |
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| March 18 | Discussion post 2 due  Quiz 4 opens for 1 week | Optional zoom call to discuss further |
| March  23,25, 30 | Cannabis and Cannabinoids | Terpenes reading , Chapter 14, 8—Health Canada link |
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| April 1,6 | opioids |  |
| April 8 | Discussion post 3 due  Quiz 5 opens for 1 week |  |
| April 13,15 | Psychedelics |  |
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|  |
| TBA; see eclass for dates | Final exam open for 3 days | cumulative |

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material will be made available for sample test questions within 1 week of exam dates and posted to eClass.

**Technology for Remote Learning:**

To successfully participate in remote learning in this course, it is recommended that students have access to a computer with an internet connection that can support the tools and technologies the University uses to deliver content, engage with instructors, TAs, and fellow students, and facilitate assessment and examinations. Please refer to [Technology for Remote Learning - For Students](https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/technology-requirements.html) for details. If you encounter difficulty meeting the technology recommendations, please email the Dean of Students Office (dosdean@ualberta.ca) directly to explore options and support.

Please contact the instructor by the add/drop deadline January 15, 2021 if you do not have access to the minimum technology recommended. The instructor will make arrangements for accommodating students who contact the instructor before this date. Failure to do so may result in a zero in any assessment that depends on the minimum technology.

**Student Resources for Remote Learning:**

Online learning may be new to you. Check out tips for success and find out more about online learning on the Campus Life page, and specifically on the Student Resources for Remote Learning page.

**Policy about course outlines can be found in the “**[**Evaluation Procedures and Grading System**](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939)**” section of the University Calendar.**

**COVID-19 Updates:** Updates pertaining to university-related activities can be found on the [COVID-19 Information website](https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/index.html).

Policy about course outlines can be found in the “[Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939)” section of the University Calendar.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](http://www.deanofstudents.ualberta.ca/en/AcademicIntegrity/UndergraduateHandbook.aspx) and [Information for Students](http://www.deanofstudents.ualberta.ca/en/AcademicIntegrity.aspx)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

The [Code of Student Behaviour](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) should be reviewed since ignorance is not acceptable as a defence in cases of academic offences. Students should be informed that when cheating and/or plagiarism has been determined to have occurred, a number of sanctions can be imposed, such as lowering a grade or expulsion from the University (outlined in [Section 30.4.2](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour/304SanctionsandTheirImpact/3042TypesofSanctions.aspx) of the Code).

**Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

**Attendance(THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND CAMPUS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS COURSE) , Absences, and Missed Grade Components**:

Lectures for the week will be released by Tuesdays at 12 pm. Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. Luckily this class is taught remotely. Try to set aside time 2ce a week to go through each lecture for the week, this class was set originally for Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, try to make time for this course, so you don’t fall behind.

In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Calendar regarding [Attendance](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Attendance) and [Examinations](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Examinations_(Exams)) sections of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total grade deductions for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

See [*Calendar*, Attendance](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=20&navoid=4939#Attendance). Students may miss a term exam, or an assignment deadline for a number of reasons. Acceptable reasons include incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or religious reasons. Excused absences are not granted automatically. Approval for an excused absence from term work . . . or term exams is at the discretion of the instructor.

Students must apply to the instructor within two working days of the absence (or as soon as possible with due regard for the circumstances).

Students are no longer required to present medical documentation to support absence due to illness and cannot be asked to do so. Students may present a [*Medical Declaration Form* *for Students*](https://cloudfront.ualberta.ca/-/media/arts/student-services/documents/2016-forms/medical-declaration-form-for-students-feb-2016-rac.pdf) in lieu. If the absence is for non-medical reasons, appropriate documentation can be requested (e.g. police report regarding a crime; a Court Attendance form for jury duty; death certificate or obituary for bereavement).

Since Student Services staff in appropriate Faculty offices are not always available to complete statutory declarations outside of final exam periods, please refer students to the Medical Declaration form noted above if you plan to request documentation to support absence due to medical reasons.

**Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381). All quizzes and exams are designed to take an allotted period of time (see individual instructions on eclass). All quizzes and exams are provided a 2x time multiplier for all students. If a student requires time extensions or accommodations in addition to the 2x time multiplier please contact the instructor to ensure you are accommodated.

**Grading:**

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are

also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term

work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

\*\*There will be no rounding up of percentage grades. Letter grades are non negotiable.

\*\*If students see a problem in the grading of their assessment, they must contact the TA (in case of assignments) or instructor (in case of quizzes and exam) within 2 weeks of their grade being released. Last minute (i.e. end of semester) attempts for grade changes cannot be expected to be argued after 2 weeks of receiving the grade.

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| Letter | % | Pts |
| A+ | 97-100+ | 4.0 |
| A | 92-96.99 | 4.0 |
| A- | 87-91.99 | 3.7 |
| B+ | 82-86.99 | 3.3 |
| B | 77-81.99 | 3.0 |
| B- | 72-76.99 | 2.7 |
| C+ | 67-71.99 | 2.3 |
| C | 62-66.99 | 2.0 |
| C- | 57-61.99 | 1.7 |
| D+ | 52-56.99 | 1.3 |
| D | 50-51.99 | 1.0 |
| F | <49.99 | 0.0 |

Instructors will mark, provide appropriate feedback, and return to students all term work in a timely manner. See the University of Alberta [Assessment and Grading Policy](https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=101).