PSYCHOLOGY OF CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY  
(PSY 6336)

Spring 2018       Online

Instructor: Steven T. Brewer, PhD

Office: A 104D                      Email: steven.brewer@angelo.edu

Office Hours: M, W: 12 to 2
              T & R: 11 to 1
              Or by appointment.

Phone: (325)486-6124


Course Description: In this course we will examine the ways in which drugs act on
the brain to alter behavior. We will review basic principles of brain function and
mechanisms of drug action in the brain. We will discuss a variety of legal and illegal
recreational drugs as well as the use of psychotherapeutic drugs to treat mental illness.
In addition, we will discuss a wide variety of issues regarding chemical dependency
including gender differences, drug use among children, adolescents, and college
students, co-dependency and enabling, family involvement, explanatory models of SUDs
(Substance Use Disorders), assessment and interventions. Finally, we will look at the
relationship between drug use and crime as well as the issue of legalization.

Course Objectives:
1. Gain factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
3. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, you should:
1) The students will understand basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
2) The students will acquire a knowledge base of common psychoactive substances
3) The students will develop an understand of the mechanism of action for commonly
   used psychoactive substances
4) The students will understand the mechanism(s) by which legal and illegal drugs
   produce physiological and psychology dependency
5) The students will understand the difficulty in defining a substance use disorder.
6) The students will develop an appreciation for the wide ranging effects of substance use including children, adolescents, college students, family, crime, and mental illness.
7) The students will explore the different explanatory models for substance use disorders including assessment and interventions
8) The students will develop insight into the debate over the legalization of certain illegal drugs.

Course Policies, Procedures and Format

Class Sessions
1. This is an online class and as such is largely self-paced.
2. It is your responsibility to check the syllabus frequently and know when assignments are due.
3. It is a VERY good idea to not wait until the last minute to do assignments.
4. “Lectures” will be posted by chapter as it is assigned (approximately 1 per week, a total of 17) and placed in a folder entitled lecture material. “Lectures” will be designed to supplement the reading of assigned chapters.
5. Questions and comments are always welcome!

Policies/Expectations
• Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in class. You are encouraged to be active participants in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.
2. Distracting or disrespectful students will be asked to leave the class (this includes use of cell phones and other electronic devices).
3. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor in a timely manner. As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.
5. Students will be expected to access the Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.
6. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software.

*DISCLAIMER: This class may examine ideas and material that some students may find disagreeable. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives in light of their own value systems and in the context of the class, then they are encouraged to speak with the instructor regarding their concerns and may wish to reconsider their enrollment in the course. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me.

Communication
• Email is the best way to contact your instructor.
• All emails should include “PSY 63361” in the subject line.
All emails should include your first and last name.

Emails will typically be answered within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays), if an email is not answered within 24 hours please verify the email address and speak with your instructor during office hours or the next class period.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf). Any violation of academic honesty may result in course failure.

**Tutoring:**
The ASU Tutor Center is located in the Library C301 (3rd floor). Tutoring is free to all ASU students.

**Disabilities:**
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center (325-942-2191), in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**METHOD OF ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**Student Evaluation:**

1) There will be **twelve** 25 item online quizzes (Bb) covering the chapters assigned and worth 50 points (600 total points). Students may take the quizzes three times with the higher score counting toward the course grade. There will be a 45 minute time limit. Quizzes are open book and open note. **Be aware that the quizzes are randomly generated from a test bank so no two quizzes will be identical.** The quizzes will begin on January 21 with approximately one (1) quiz added each week. The quizzes will be available until the end of the week, (Sunday @ 11:59 p.m.), in which they are posted. **(There will be no assignments due during spring break).** In these cases BOTH quizzes will be due on the last day of the week as before. The quizzes are found in the folder, oddly enough named “quizzes”.

2) **Four** times during the semester, three or four discussion or thought questions involving topics covered during the previous weeks will be presented as a forum in the discussions folder. You are to answer **ONE** of the three questions with a logically constructed essay of at least 250 words but not to exceed 500 words. **Answers must be supported by empirical evidence from either the book or other reputable sources.** Personal (anecdotal) experience is **not evidence.** You may
use personal experience only to highlight or emphasize a point but remember your experience is not everyone’s experience so it cannot be the main point of your essay. Answers are to be submitted as a thread in the discussion forum (you will be able to see other student answers and plagiarism will be considered a serious academic violation that will likely result in course failure) by 5 pm Sunday in the week in which it is posted. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software. Each answer will be graded based on a total possible point value of 100 (400 possible points). You must also comment on one (1) other students’ answer to a different question (not the one you chose) by 11:59 pm Sunday – failure to do so will result in an automatic loss of 20 points. Comments are to be civil and professional in nature and address the substance of the answer (e.g., NOT “I really liked your answer” or “I agree with everything you say”).

### Course Point Distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams (4): 400 pts.</th>
<th>(100 pts. Each)</th>
<th>Final Grades:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (12): 600 pts.</td>
<td>(50 pts. each)</td>
<td>A: 90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Possible Points:** 100  
F: ≤ 50%

### Tentative Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-21</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-27</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-18</td>
<td>Essay discussion 1</td>
<td>Due by 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-25</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10, 11, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>13, 14, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-11</td>
<td>Essay discussion 2</td>
<td>Due by 5 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-12/18</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-25</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>17, 18, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-1</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>20, 21, 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>23, 24, 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-15</td>
<td>Essay discussion 3</td>
<td>Due by 5 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-22</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>27, 28, 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-29</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>30, 31, 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>33, 34, 35, 36, 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Essay discussion 4</td>
<td>Due by 5 pm</td>
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* Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*