DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR  
(PSY 4319)  
Summer I 2018; Online

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Office Hours:  online.
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Prerequisite:  PSY 2301 (General Psychology)

Course Description:  Pick up a newspaper or news magazine and on any given day, chances are you'll see a headline like "Study: Ecstasy Drug May Dull Mind" (AP, 2000), "Drug Shows Promise for Alcoholics" (AP, 2000), “Magic mint’ triggers cosmic, and legal, high” (MSNBC, July 26, 2006), “Curbing the Drug Marketers” (Time, July 5, 2004), or “Source: Powerful sedative propofol found at Michael Jackson's mansion” (Foxnews, July 3, 2009). In the first case we are talking about the recreational use of a drug (MDMA), in the second the therapeutic use of a drug (Acamprosate), in the third about Salvia divinorum, a legal sage plant with significant hallucinogenic properties, the next refers to prescribing drugs “off label” and the last is obvious, propofol is an anesthetic sedative used ONLY in hospitals, there is no outpatient prescription available. Let’s not forget other celebrities who suffered drug related deaths such as Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, John Belushi, Judy Garland, and more recently Anna Nicole Smith, her son David, Heath Ledger, Amy Winehouse, Prince, and of course Bubba Smith. A recent CBS news “Eye on America” detailed the increase in use of Ketamine [special K] a compound similar to PCP and in January 2012 the following headline appeared on Foxnews.com: “Marijuana doesn't appear to harm lung function, study finds.” Thus, given the extensive coverage in the popular media, an understanding of the actions of drugs (physiological and behavioral) is essential in terms of being an informed consumer of information.

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the basic information regarding the effects of drugs on our physiology and behavior so that the student is able to critically evaluate popular claims made about various drugs. In addition, students of psychology or social work will often encounter drug use (licit and illicit) in their careers.
**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:**
1) The students will understand basic neuroanatomy and neurophysiology
2) The students will understand basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics
3) The students will acquire a knowledge base of common psychoactive substances
4) The students will develop an understanding of the mechanism(s) of action for commonly used psychoactive substances
5) The students will understand the mechanism(s) by which legal and illegal drugs produce physiological and psychology dependency
6) The students will be able to critically evaluate the safety and hazards of everyday drugs as well as those with abuse potential.

**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!

*DISCLAIMER: This class may examine ideas and material that some students may find disagreeable. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives or their own value systems 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**
1. Email is the best way to contact your instructor.
2. All emails should include “PSY 4319” in the subject line.
3. All emails should include your first and last name.
4. 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.

**METHODS OF ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**Student Evaluation:**

1) There will be **seventeen** 15 item online quizzes (Bb) covering each chapter assigned and worth 30 points (510 total points). Students may take the quizzes three times
with the higher score counting toward the course grade. There will be a 30 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 June 4th with approximately four (4) quizzes added each week. The quizzes will be available until the end of the week, (Sunday @ 11:59 p.m.), in which they are posted. The quizzes are found in the folder, oddly enough named “quizzes”. The quiz number, e.g. quiz6 refers to the chapter (chapter 6).

2) **Four** times during the course, three or four discussions or thought questions involving topics covered during the previous week will be presented as a forum in the discussions folder. You are to answer **ONE** of the 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”).

**Final Grades** will be based on total points earned (1000 pts total). 900-1000=A, 800-899=B, 700-799=C, 600-699=D, and below 600=F.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Late assignments will not be accepted and will be assigned a grade of 0.

**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. 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.

**Tentative Schedule***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 4-10</th>
<th>Drugs and Behavior Today</th>
<th>Chapters 1, 2, 3</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug-Taking Behavior: Personal and Social Issues</td>
<td>Quizzes 1-3 due 6-10 by 11:59 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>How drugs work in the body and mind</td>
<td><strong>Discussions 1-2-3 posted 6-6</strong> (Essay due 6-10 by 5 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<th>June 11-17</th>
<th>The Major Stimulants: Cocaine and Amphetamines</th>
<th>Chapter 4, 5, 7</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opioids: Opium, Herion, and Opioid Pain Medications</td>
<td>Quizzes 4-7 due 6-17 by 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Marijuana</td>
<td><strong>Discussion 4-5-6 posted 6-13</strong> (Essay due 6-17 by 5 pm)</td>
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<th>June 18-24</th>
<th>Alcohol: Social Beverage/Social Drug</th>
<th>Chapter 8, 9, 10, 11</th>
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<td>Chronic Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism</td>
<td>Quizzes 8-11 due by 6-24 by 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Nicotine and Tobacco Use</td>
<td><strong>Discussion 7-8-9 posted 6-20</strong> (Essay due 6-24 by 5 pm)</td>
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<td>Caffeine</td>
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<th>June 25 - July 1</th>
<th>Performance-Enhancing Drugs And Drug testing in Sports.</th>
<th>Chapter 12, 15, 16, 17</th>
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<td>Drugs for Treating Schizophrenia and Mood Disorders</td>
<td>Quizzes 12-17 due 7-1 by 11:59 pm</td>
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<td>Substance-Abuse Prevention</td>
<td><strong>Discussion 10-11-12 posted 4-30</strong> (Essay due 7-1 by 5 pm)</td>
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<td>Substance-Abuse Treatment: Strategies for Change</td>
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* **Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor***