Psychopharmacology
(PSY 6336)

Spring 2019 T 2-4:50 pm A 219

Instructor: Steve T. Brewer, PhD

Office: A 104D

Email: steven.brewer@angelo.edu

Office Hours: M: 10-1 (virtual);
T & R: 2:30 to 5:00;
W: 10 to 2;
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.
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.
8) The students will develop insight into the debate over the legalization of certain
illegal drugs.
Course Policies, Procedures and Format

Readings
It is expected that each student will have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material in the text may be challenging upon first read, but lectures and discussions will be easier and more advantageous if you have read the assigned reading.

Policies/Expectations
1. 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.

Class Sessions
1. The majority of the class will be lecture.
2. Class attendance is mandatory. This is a graduate level class and as such you are expected to attend each class and contribute to class discussions and activities. In order to have meaningful class discussions it is expected that you will come to class having read the assigned materials and that you will contribute to class discussions. Two absences will reduce your final grade by one letter.
3. You MUST take your own notes in class in order to pass.
4. Media presentations and demonstrations may be used to help illustrate the concepts being discussed.
5. Classes will include discussions and may include group projects, films, and activities.
6. Questions and comments are always welcome! (Please be respectful.)

*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
1. Email is the best way to contact your instructor.
2. All emails should include “PSY 6336” 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.

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.

METHOD OF ASSESSING LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Exams: Principles of learning and cognition have indicated that the acquisition and use of knowledge is facilitated to the degree that material is presented in a "distributed" rather than "massed" manner. Thus, you will be evaluated (tested) four times this semester after each of four units according to the schedule detailed below. Exams will most likely consist of a combination of 50 multiple choice and short answer/essay type questions. Exam material will come from class material as well as the book. Note that the 4th or final exam will not be comprehensive. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of 400 points.

Make up policy for exams: Make up exams will ONLY be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor’s appointment is not an emergency). It is the student’s responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the exam. Make up
exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible.

**Quizzes:** There will generally be a quiz given at the beginning of class each week covering the assigned reading material. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and you will have 5 to 10 minutes to complete the quiz. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.**

**Course Point Distribution:**

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<tr>
<td>Exams (4): 400 pts.</td>
<td>A: 450-500</td>
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<td>Quizzes (10): 100 pts.</td>
<td>B: 400-449</td>
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<td>C: 350-399</td>
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<td>D: 300-349</td>
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<td>F: \leq 299</td>
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**Tentative Schedule***

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-16</td>
<td>Syllabus/Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-23</td>
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<td>1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>1-30</td>
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<td>4, 5, 6</td>
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<td>2-6</td>
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<td>2-13</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>3-6</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>3-13</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>17, 18, 19</td>
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<td>3-27</td>
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<td>20, 21, 22</td>
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<td>4-3</td>
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<td>27, 28, 29</td>
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<td>5-2</td>
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<td>33, 34, 35, 36, 37</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Final (3:30 to 5:30 pm)</td>
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*Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor*