

Drugs and Behavior

PSY-4319

Summer II 2021; Online



Instructor: Steven T. Brewer, Ph.D.

Email: steven.brewer@angelo.edu

Phone: 325-486-6124

Office: A 104 D

Office Hours: Online

Course Information

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 Credits

3 credits

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

PSY 2301 (General Psychology)

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites (including Blackboard), use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations for Psychopharmacology.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
understand basic pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	Quizzes and graded forum discussions
understanding of the mechanism(s) of action for commonly used psychoactive substances	Quizzes and graded forum discussions
understand the mechanism(s) by which legal and illegal drugs produce physiological and psychology dependency	Quizzes and graded forum discussions

Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

Required Texts and Materials

Levinthal, C. F. (2016). *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society, Updated Edition (Subscription)* 8/E. Boston: Pearson (ISBN-13: 9780134003085)

Recommended Texts and Materials

To participate in one of ASU's distance education programs, you need this technology:

- A computer capable of running Windows 7 or later, or Mac OSX 10.8 or later
- The latest version of one of these web browsers: internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari
- Microsoft Office Suite or a compatible Open Office Suite

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable required (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements: [Angelo State University's Distance Education Website](#)

Topic Outline (Subject to change at the Professor's discretion)

This course will be organized, broadly, around four Modules. Each module will have approximately 4 quizzes (14 total) and will conclude with a graded forum discussion.

- Module 1: (chapters 1, 2, 3)
 three quizzes (due by 7-18-21)
 One graded discussion (due 7-18-21)
- Module 2: (chapters 4, 5, 7)
 Three quizzes (due by 7-25-21)
 One graded discussion (due 7-25-21)
- Module 3: (chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)
 four quizzes (due by 8-1-21)
 One graded discussion (due 8-1-21)
- Module 4: (chapters 12, 15, 16, 17)
 four quizzes (due by 8-8-21)
 One graded discussion (due by noon on 8-13-21).

Date reflects due date* (syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of instructor)

Week/Date	Chapter Assignments
MODULE 1	
Week 1: 7-12-21 to 7-18-21	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Three chapter quizzes	due by 7-18-21
Graded Forum Discussion	due 7-18-21
MODULE 2	

Week/Date	Chapter Assignments
Week 2: 7-19-21 to 7-25-21	Chapters 4, 5, 7
Three chapter quizzes	due by 7-25-21
Graded Forum Discussion	Due 7-25-21
MODULE 3	
Week 3: 7-26-21 to 8-1-21	Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11
Four chapter quizzes	Due by 8-1-21
Graded Forum Discussion	Due 8-1-21
MODULE 4	
Week 4: 8-2-21 to 8-13-21	Chapters 12, 15, 16, 17
Four chapter quizzes	Due by 8-8-21
Final Graded Forum Discussion	Due by noon 8-13-21

Quizzes

- There will be **fourteen** (15 item) online quizzes (Bb) covering the chapter(s) assigned that week. Each quiz is worth 30 points each (420 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. The quizzes will begin on June 3 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 will be found in the folder, oddly enough named "quizzes". The quiz number, e.g. quiz6 refers to the chapter (chapter 6).

Be aware that the quizzes are randomly generated from a test bank so no two quizzes will be identical.

You may take each week's quiz at any time before it's closing time (11:59 p.m.) and date (posted above), which is always a Sunday of the posted week. After the quiz

closes it will not be reopened, except for equipment malfunctions or a noted medical emergency.

Graded Forum Discussions

- 2) At the end of each module there will be three to four discussion questions covering the module information. The question or statement may occasionally describe a hypothetical situation and ask for a hypothetical response. Hypothetical does not mean you should abandon reason and thoughtful response out the window and just say what comes to mind. You will find the discussions tab on the main Bb page. These “discussions” should be considered like mini research papers rather than a casual conversation. The guidelines for what will be expected in the discussion are:
- You are to select **one** and **only one** discussion topic to answer for each module. Once selected, you will write a logically constructed essay of at least 250 words but not to exceed 500 words. This is not an exercise in opinion wielding. In other words, treat your response like you would a research paper. Any claim made in your response must have supporting evidence, if it does not it will be considered an unsupported claim. Unsupported claims will result in point loss.
 - **Answers must be supported by empirical evidence, from either the book or other reputable (preferably peer reviewed) sources.** Personal (anecdotal) experience **is not evidence**. You may use personal experience to highlight or emphasize a point, but try to remember that **your experience is not everyone’s experience** so it cannot be the main point of your essay.
 - How do you avoid making an unsupported claim?

“I think...”, “I believe...”, “I feel...”, “My cousin Jack...”

If you start a sentence/explanation with any of these (or similar), an alarm should start going off in your head. The examples given are most often precursors to an unsupported claim. You *can* use precursors like these if the author clearly follows with the necessary support with something like “I think-(fill in the blank)-which is consistent with the observations of Johnson & Johnson (2017), Barney and Mikey (2016)....”

- You will discover, during this course, that the field of psychopharmacology is rife with opinions, emotion, denial, and personal agenda. When the consequences of faulty information costs so much in so many ways. An effort to reduce error is especially crucial.
- This is not a creative writing course, so remember that every claim/assertion made in your essay must have a citation or it will be considered unsupported conjecture.

- Avoid one-sided answers, particularly with a controversial topic. If a topic is controversial, by definition, it has two sides. Presenting only one side of an argument looks like confirmation bias, which is also important to avoid. This is not to say that both sides of an argument are equal/valid and can certainly be criticized/discussed. Just make sure that
- Answers are to be submitted as a thread in the discussion forum by 5pm the Sunday in which it is posted (see schedule). 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).
- Lastly, you must also comment on at *least* one (1) other students' answer 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”).

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and number (Drugs and Behavior, PSY 4319) in the subject line.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Collaborate, Skype, etc. Additionally, there may be virtual “lecture” sessions through Collaborate. This would be exploratory for feasibility. You will receive additional information regarding virtual lecture possibilities.

“Netiquette”: Forum posts should be professional in nature. You will be expected to engage in forum activities with your classmates. The topic of this course can be very polarizing and impassioned, which can result in vigorous conversation which is perfectly acceptable in the context of this class. However, there is no tolerance for hate speech, name calling or ad-hominem attacks. We will engage in respectful conversation at all times.

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment		Percent/Points of Total Grade
Weekly Quiz	(14)	420
Forum Discussions	(4)	400
Total		820 points (100%)

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 90.00-100

B = 80.00-89.99

C = 70.00-79.99

D = 60.00-69.99

F = 0-59.99

Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers. This is especially true of a graduate class.

This is an online class and as such is largely self-paced.

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

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

Assignment Submission

All assignments MUST be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard site. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at steven.brewer@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. **Please contact the IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911 or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue.** This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved,

submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

Late Work Policy

The course is set up on weekly modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty. Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Student Responsibility and Attendance

Online: This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average. I am attempting to integrate Collaborate with my teaching style and the online delivery format. Collaborate should provide an excellent resource allowing us to meet in a virtual setting much like a face to face course. That said, I did not originally plan this course with collaborate in mind so I will not require participation in a Collaborate but I strongly encourage it.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).³

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services,

programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).⁴ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Office of Student Affairs
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)⁵ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁶ in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).⁷

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)⁸ for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Title IX at Atngelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

End of Syllabus

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

⁷ https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php

⁸ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>