

PSY334: Drugs and Behavior

Lecture	MWF 1:20-2:30pm	SC 147
Lab	Tu 10:00-11:45am	SC 127

COURSE INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Mary Saczawa

Office: Science Center 152

Email: saczawa@hanover.edu

Phone (call or text): (812) 307-5509

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why does alcohol make some people aggressive and others sleepy? Why do antidepressants take two weeks to work? How can some people take drugs regularly with no ill effects while others get addicted after one use? This course will attempt to address these questions and many others in the field of psychopharmacology. We will take a deep dive into the actions of various drugs including how they affect neural activity, which brain pathways they activate, and how their biological actions affect conscious experience and behavior. We will also attempt to understand the biopsychosocial mechanisms of addiction and how to treat and prevent substance abuse. This course is designed with an assumption that the student has a basic understanding of neural transmission and the central nervous system. You don't need to remember everything from PSY162 or PSY164, but we will hit the ground running, so some familiarity will be vital.

COURSE MATERIALS

Drugs: Mind, Body, and Society – 2nd edition by Martha Rosenthal (2022)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

EXAMS (45%)

There will be three exams, each worth 15% of your final grade. Exams will cover the text and lectures and will take place in class. Exams will be primarily short answer/essay but may include some multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank.

LABS (30%)

This course includes a laboratory section that is designed to solidify your understanding of the concepts we cover in the lectures and to introduce you to the scientific methods used in psychopharmacology. These labs will include a written assignment, though not all will be a full research report. As with all 300-level Psychology courses at Hanover, you will also design, conduct, and report on an experiment of your own. This project may use human or non-human animal subjects and should study the behavioral effects of a drug. We will discuss the project (and ethical considerations) in more detail during lab. You will present the results of your experiment to the class during the last lab session, and a final APA-style paper detailing your experiment will be due on the last day of the semester.

DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS (10%)

For each discussion day, you will be assigned two or three articles. You should read these articles and post two questions or comments per article on the article in Perusall. Your questions and comments will help to facilitate in-class discussions and to identify aspects in the readings that need clarification. **All questions or comments should be posted before class by 10am.** Responses posted between 10:00am-1:20pm will receive partial credit. Responses posted after the start of class will not receive credit. You can miss one day's response without penalty.

CRITICAL REACTION PAPER (10%)

The purpose of this paper is to get you thinking critically about controversial topics in psychopharmacology and to help you learn to apply scholarly research to these questions. You will be provided with a list of potential topics, or you can write on another controversy of your choosing. You will take a position on the topic, using scholarly research articles to support your argument. Detailed instructions as well as possible topics will be posted in Moodle.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (5%)

Attendance and participation are important for this course, particularly for in-class discussion days. It is vital that you participate in the in-class discussions, even if you read straight from your discussion board posts. You are welcome to bring in concepts or theories from other courses if they are relevant or could add to the current topic.

GRADING SCALE

A = 100 – 94%; A- = 90 – 93.9%; B+ = 87 – 89.9%; B = 83 – 86.9%; B- = 80 – 82.9%; C+ = 77 – 79.9%; C = 73– 76.9%; C- = 70 – 72.9%; D+ = 67 – 69.9%; D = 63 – 66.9%; D- = 60 – 62.9%; F = <60.0%

COURSE POLICIES

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Written assignments are due by 11:59pm the date listed. Extensions may be granted for College-approved reasons that include proper documentation. Extension requests should be made before the deadline or within 24 hours (for unexpected emergencies). Late assignments without an approved extension will be penalized 10% for each day late. Assignments submitted more than one week after the deadline but before the last day of class will receive a 75% penalty.

RESUBMISSION AND GRADE DISPUTES

I have found that the best way to get students to read the feedback I give them on assignments is to give them the chance to get some of the points back. For that reason, all written assignments can be resubmitted for a higher grade. They must be resubmitted within one week of the grade being posted, but they can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times until you get a perfect score (as long as it is returned within one week of each updated grade being posted). If the initial submission is turned in after the deadline, the maximum resubmission grade will be capped according to the stated late assignment policy. All resubmissions must be received before 5pm on April 11. This means that if you want a chance to resubmit your final paper, you will need to submit it at least four days (to give me time to grade it) before the actual deadline.

If you want to dispute an exam question, you should write a brief description explaining the dispute and why your answer was correct, including page numbers and/or lecture slides that support your answer.

REFERENCE FORMAT

Since this is a psychology class, you will be required to use APA format for all of your papers. APA format is frequently used outside of psychology, so even if you are not going to be a psychology major, this is unlikely to be the last time you will use it. The APA format assignment will provide an introduction to the style, and you should continue to use it in all of the other papers for this course. For tips on APA format, please see <https://tinyurl.com/saczawa>. You can always get help with your research at the library. Reference librarians will help you find information on a topic, develop search strategies for papers and projects, search library catalogs and databases, and provide assistance at every step. Drop-ins and appointments are both welcome. Visit <http://libguides.hanover.edu/psychology> for information specific to psychology.

STUDENTS IN DISTRESS

Your success in this course and throughout your college career depends heavily on your personal health and wellbeing. Stress is a common part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected life changes outside the classroom. Your other professors and I strongly encourage you to take care of yourself throughout the term before the demands of midterms and finals reach their peak. Before circumstances and conditions become overwhelming, please don't hesitate to speak with me about any difficulty you may be having that may affect your academic performance. Please know as well that there are several support services on campus available to assist you, as needed. You can make appointments with Health Services by calling x-6102. Appointments for Counseling Services can be made online at any time through MyHanover.

HANOVER COLLEGE POLICIES

HONOR CODE

As stated in the Hanover College Principles, students, faculty, staff, and trustees of Hanover College seek to promote academic, personal, and moral growth within a safe, challenging, and responsive community. This includes a commitment to academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity have a broad impact on the College and will result in College review and action.

Academic dishonesty includes any action with the intent to deceive in order to obtain an unfair advantage, as well as any act of aiding and abetting academic dishonesty. Note that the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools without the direction or approval of the instructor may be considered academic dishonesty. The Hanover College statement on academic dishonesty may be found in the Catalog and in the Student Handbook. Any given instance of academic dishonesty is dealt with by the instructor of the course in which it occurs. All instances of academic dishonesty are reported to the chair of the Student Academic Assistance Committee, and repeated instances of academic dishonesty will subject a student to additional penalties up to and including dismissal from the College as outlined in the College Catalog.

DISABILITIES

Hanover College offers accessibility services to students with documented physical, visual, hearing, learning, or psychiatric disabilities. Any Hanover student is eligible for special services or accommodations if: 1) The student self-identifies that he or she has a disability and needs accommodation; 2) The student provides appropriate and verifiable documentation of the disability; and 3) The student provides notification in a timely fashion. For accessibility services, [Email Accessibility Services](#) or call 812-866-6836. The Accessibility Services (AS) office is in the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor of Duggan Library.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Hanover College is committed to providing equal access to its educational programs, activities, and facilities to all otherwise qualified students without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category protected by applicable state or federal law. Anyone who observes or who is a victim of bias is encouraged to report incidents using the [online bias reporting forms](#). An Equal Opportunity employer, the College also affirms its commitment to nondiscrimination in its employment policies and practices. In compliance with Title IX (20 U.S.C Sec. 1681 et seq.) Hanover College prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. For student related disability discrimination concerns, contact the Gladish Center for Teaching and Learning at 812-866-6840. For other discrimination complaints, including any arising under Title IX, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-6740 or the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at 812-866-7097.

Detailed Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topics</i>	<i>Textbook Module(s)</i>	<i>Lab</i>
6-Jan	Intro & Overview		
8-Jan	Drugs – definition, classification, development	1	No lab
10-Jan	Research methods	Preface	
13-Jan	Drug use & abuse, societal effects	1	Research Project Intro & Ethics
15-Jan	Drug laws & policies	2	
17-Jan	<i>Discussion</i> – Ramifications of drug policies	2	
20-Jan	MLK Day- No Class		Research Project Method
22-Jan	History of psychopharmacology	Articles	
24-Jan	Neurons and neurotransmission	3	
27-Jan	Neurotransmitters	3	Research Project
29-Jan	Drug actions, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics	4	
31-Jan	Exam 1		
3-Feb	Psychostimulants: Caffeine & nicotine	10-11	
5-Feb	Psychostimulants: Cocaine	5	Stimulants
7-Feb	Psychostimulants: Amphetamines	5, 14	
2/9 – Reference List Due			
10-Feb	<i>Discussion</i> – Psychostimulants	Articles	Depressants
12-Feb	Depressants: Alcohol	12	
14-Feb	Depressants: Sedatives & hypnotics	8	
17-Feb	<i>Discussion</i> – Depressants	Articles	Delta-9, CBD
19-Feb	Cannabis	9	
21-Feb	<i>Discussion</i> – Cannabis	Articles	
25-29-Feb	Winter Break – No Class		
3-Mar	Hallucinogenic drugs	6	Hallucinogens
5-Mar	<i>Discussion</i> – Hallucinogens	Articles	
7-Mar	Exam 2		
10-Mar	Pain drugs: Opioids	7	Pain drugs
12-Mar	Pain drugs: OTC & cannabis	15	
14-Mar	<i>Discussion</i> – Pain drugs	Articles	
3/16 – Lit Search Matrix Due			
17-Mar	Drugs for depression	13	Learned Helplessness
19-Mar	Drugs for anxiety	13	
21-Mar	Drugs for schizophrenia	13	
24-Mar	Drugs for bipolar disorder	13	Animal models of schizophrenia
26-Mar	More psychiatric drugs	13	
28-Mar	ECT and non-drug neuro treatments	13	
31-Mar	Sex and reproductive drugs	16	
2-Apr	Hunger and satiety drugs	15	Project Completion
4-Apr	<i>Discussion</i> – Hormonal drugs	Articles	
7-Apr	Addiction	17	Project Presentations
9-Apr	Treatment	18	
11-Apr	Prevention	18	
4/13 – Critical Reaction Paper Due			
Finals Week – Exam 3			