

# Psychology/Biology 3506 - Neuropharmacology – Winter, 2024

## COURSE INFORMATION

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Office Hours: TBA

Time and Location of Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30-4:00.

Course Website [davebrodbeck.com](http://davebrodbeck.com)

Course Blog: <http://people.auc.ca/brodbeck/blog>

## TEXTBOOK

Hancock, S. D. & McKim, W. A. (2018). Drugs and behavior. (8th<sup>h</sup> Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is a general introduction to psychopharmacology. We will study the effects of drugs on behaviour and cognition as well as other systems. Both human and non-human data will be presented. Selected families of drugs will be studied in detail..

## EVALUATION

Tests: (Test 1 Feb 1 = 20 %, Test 2 March 5, 20 %)

There will be two term tests in this course. They will consist of short answer questions and a few multiple choice items and some fill in the blank type questions.

Final Project (30%)

You have a few options for your final project:

Option 1 – Traditional term paper

If you choose this option, you will write a term paper on a topic approved by the instructor. (I have a list of topics available on my website)

Basically anything goes here, as long as your paper is about neuropharmacology or drugs in general. The paper is due on April. 4, 2024 AT THE START OF THE CLASS on the LMS. It is not due at midnight April 4, it is not due at 6pm, it is due at the START OF CLASS. The paper should be no longer than 2000 words. It MUST be in APA format. Papers not in APA format will be assigned a mark of 0. Lateness is unacceptable. Late papers will be given a mark

of 0.

## Option 2 – Media critique

If you choose this option, pick a piece of media where drug taking behaviour is discussed (it can be anything: a book, video game, podcast, movie, television show, news article etc.). A news article covering an article about drugs will likely be one of the more straightforward routes here, but I do not want to restrict you if you'd like to cover a different piece of media. As well, please be sure to choose something that you can take a really deep dive on. Make sure to include a copy of the original media in your assignment or link it to me in some way so that I have context. Identify any fallacies in the piece of media, and any other inaccuracies in the media piece. Your critique need not be completely negative if you think that the media piece has good components. You can point out that some parts are accurate, while other parts are misleading. Or you can argue that it is universally a bad piece of work. Your critique should be well-organized with an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. Make sure to fully cite the media piece you are critiquing, using APA style.

Carefully selecting a piece of media that you can criticize will help you do well on this assignment. Make sure that you pick something with enough for you to discuss. Remember that this course is about neuropharmacology.

This too should be no longer than 2000 words.

The critique is due on April 4, 2023 AT THE START OF THE CLASS on the LMS. It is not due at midnight April 4, it is not due at 6 pm, it is due at the START OF CLASS. Critiques not in APA format will be assigned a mark of 0. Lateness is unacceptable. Late papers will be given a mark of 0.

## Option 3 – Media Creation (Science Communication)

If you choose this option, create a short media piece for the lay person based on some topic in neuropharmacology. Your media piece could be a blog, video presentation, or podcast. Video or audio recordings or anything else we both agree on.

Your piece should:

- Capture the interest of the public without being sensationalist.
- Be concise and use plain language.
- Accurately summarize the research.
- Make the research relevant to the audience.

If you are creating a blog, sign up for an account at [blogspot.com](https://www.blogspot.com) and write at least 7 posts about the topic at hand.

If you are doing a podcast, your podcast should be no longer than 15 minutes, and you should

have intro music, outro music and edits that I cannot notice. These 'podcasts' should be in mp3 format, encoded in stereo and least 128 kb/sec. (Remember, I have been podcasting for a very long time, since many of you were literally babies, so make 'em good!) I can give out some tips.

If you decide on a video, great! You should have an intro, an outro etc just like in the podcast. It should be in at least 720p resolution and make those edits count! I can give some tips here too if you need them.

The media piece is due on April 4, 2024 AT THE START OF THE CLASS on the LMS. It is not due at midnight April 4, it is not due at 6pm, it is due at the START OF CLASS. Lateness is unacceptable. Late assignments will be given a mark of 0.

(You may be noticing a pattern re my late policy).

Generally:

I still need references for the non term paper options. For a video or podcast (or other media) I will need an annotated bibliography. You should have at least seven peer reviewed primary sources, no matter what route you choose.

(Options 2 and 3, and much of the wording above, is copied from 'Psychology 3228 – Evolution and the Science of Human Nature' from the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Madeleine Brodbeck. Used with permission, seriously, I can show you the text message...)

I take an extremely dim view of plagiarism. I report plagiarists to the Dean, no exceptions. It's easy to avoid plagiarism.. DON'T PLAGIARIZE.

Your project will be on the same topic as your presentation. So, you and your presentation partner will both do your projects on the same topic. You will, however, write separate papers. I would not be surprised if your sources are similar of course, but do your own paper. Each paper must have at least seven scholarly primary sources.

#### Presentation (20%)

Pairs of students will give a presentation of about 7 minutes or so on their paper topic. You will be marked on substance, style and your ability to answer questions. (The duration should be about 7 minutes as noted, but, this will depend on enrolment). You are required to use presentation software (PowerPoint or Keynote) and your file MUST be emailed to me 24 hours before your presentation date. Filenames will use the following convention '3506\_lastname1\_lastname2\_topic'. Failure to follow these guidelines (use of keynote/pp as well as the naming convention) will result in an immediate penalty of two points of the 20 this is worth. Do this properly, it is easy to do.

For your presentation you will be marked as follows:

Material        8 Do you understand what you are talking about?

Presentation 8 This is about style, so are your slides clear, are any graphs or tables useful. Is your voice clear, that sort of thing.

Questions 4 This is about how you answer a question from me.

Participation 10%

You are expected to attend class, and expected to participate, ask questions, and generally contribute to the discussion. Part of your mark for this section will be made up of your questions asked during presentations. You will hand in a written question to me about each presentation at the end of each class.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

Class	Notes	Reading
January 9	Introduction	
11	Intro to neuropharmacology	1-2
16	and neuropharm research methods	3
18	Neurophysiology and	4
23	dependence	5
25	Alcohol	6
30	Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines	7
February 1	Test 1	
6	Nicotine/Caffeine	8-9
8	Stimulants	10
13	Opiates	11
15	Antipsychotics	12
27	Antidepressants	13
29	Cannabis / Hallucinogens	14-15
March 5	Test 2	
7	Presentations	
12	Presentations	
14	Presentations	
19	Presentations	
21	Presentations	
26	Presentations	
28	Presentations	
April 2	Presentations	
4	Presentations	

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

*The University takes a very serious view of such offences as plagiarism, cheating, and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.*

The following web site contains a complete policy statement on academic dishonesty and attendance. Students are encouraged to read this policy for further clarification of these issues: <http://laurentian.ca/vpacademic/policies/academicdishonesty.pc>

#### CELLPHONE/COMPUTER/PDA POLICY

If you prefer to take notes with your laptop that is fine. If I find you chatting or checking out youtube videos or doing anything that has nothing to do with the class you will be asked to leave (and it won't really be a request....).

Your cellphone MUST be turned on silent in class. This is common courtesy. I do NOT want to hear a phone ring. I do NOT want to have to pick up your phone and tell the person on the other end of the call that he or she is a jerk who is interrupting my class.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

*The general regulations of the university require punctual and regular attendance at the various academic exercises. If there are extenuating circumstances related to an absence, the instructor should be notified. Absences in excess of 20% may jeopardize receipt of credit for the course.*

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THIS COURSE

If you do not come you cannot participate. You cannot get participation marks by not participating. So, I suggest you come to class. I do not lend out notes for this class.

Oh and if you have kids, and you can't get childcare, or if you have to look after your little brother or sister some day or something, they are more than welcome to come to class. I mean it will likely bore the hell out of them, but they're welcome.

#### MISSED TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS

Please contact me ASAP so we can set something up. An acceptable excuse (e.g., illness) will likely result in a make up test. Workload is NOT an acceptable excuse (i.e., "But I have three papers due and a test next week." My response to this is "Welcome to University!")

#### LATENESS POLICY

I do not accept late papers. They are due at the start of class on April 4, 2024. This is non negotiable. If you don't believe me, I can give you the names of some students that have tried handing in late papers to me.