

## Psychopharmacology (PSYC3391-01) – online - FALL 2017

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Office Hours: by appointment

**Online assistance:** see/use Technical Support icon located at the top of your course.  
You can also find this syllabus at: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Course Description:** This course includes a study of the field of behavioral pharmacology: the systematic study of the effects of drugs on behavior and the way in which behavioral principles can help in understanding how drugs work. The course focuses on the neurophysiological mechanisms of action of various psychoactive drugs.

**Required Textbook:** Meyer, J. S., & Quenzer, L. F. (2013). Psychopharmacology: drugs, the brain, and behavior (2nd ed.), Sinauer. (ISBN-13: 978-0-87893-510-9)  
The assigned readings are indicated on the accompanying tentative calendar.

### Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:

**Goal:** Gain factual knowledge in the area of psychopharmacology

**Learning outcome:** develop a basic understanding of neurochemical systems.

Included under this objective are the following concepts:

- basic structural aspects of neurons;
- drug terminating mechanisms;
- specific neurotransmitter systems.

**Learning outcome:** develop an understanding of specific drug classes (i.e., sedative hypnotics, stimulants, opiates, psychedelics, and antipsychotics)

**Learning outcome:** learn about the behavioral effects of the use and abuse of those drug classes, especially in light of the present opioid epidemic.

**Goal:** Learn fundamental principles & theories relevant to psychopharmacology

**Learning outcome:** develop basic background in factors determining drug action & effectiveness

For example, you will learn about the following phenomena:

- modes of administration;
- distribution factors;
- metabolism and elimination;
- tolerance and dependence;
- dose response curves.

**Grading:** There are a total of 6 exams **plus the weekly Discussion posts** that will be used to determine the overall course grade.

The average of the six exams will be used to calculate your overall exam score which is 6/7 (85.7%) of the course grade.

**Discussion posts will account for 1/7 (14.3%) of the overall course grade. There is one post due for each Session of the course.** They will largely be assessed as % completion, that is, if you submitted discussion posts for 4 of the 6 Sessions, then your score will be 66.7% for that part (1/7) of the overall course grade. I reserve the right to not count trivial and/or extremely short Discussion submissions. Discussion posts **must** be submitted before the end of the exam period for each Session in order to be counted.

**Exams:** Each exam will consist of multiple choice, T/F, and short answer questions. In general, you will have 95 min to complete an exam. Make-up exams will be permitted only in rare, documented, and verifiable circumstances that are reported to me within no more than 48 hours of the missed exam. Any make-up exam approved by me must be taken within 1 week of the original exam date. Please note that you may take only one make-up exam during the semester. Note that I'm giving you a 3 ½ day span to take the exams. I strongly believe this should cover all interferences such as work schedules.

**Class Discussion Participation:** Discussion board postings indicate prepared and visible engagement with the course material, which will enable you to succeed in this course. Your participation in these weekly discussion boards will count for 15% of the final course evaluation. **Required participation consists of one posting of your own for each Session.** You are also highly encouraged to read and respond to postings from classmates. I often think of different ways to try to explain material that may be confusing to many of you, so you may find answers to questions you didn't raise in your own post.

**Interaction Plan:** You are welcome to ask me questions via the Virtual Office. I don't know if everyone can see those questions and my responses, so if you have more personal questions, feel free to write me at [thl005@shsu.edu](mailto:thl005@shsu.edu) – just be sure to include PSYC3391-01 in the subject line and include your name in the email. I am also willing to try to schedule to meet face-to-face at The Woodlands campus. I check my email regularly and will respond within 36 hours during the work week. Please note that although I often respond during the weekends, I generally am not available on weekends, but will respond to weekend email messages on Monday.

**Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to

disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty in any form in this class will result in a zero for quiz, exam, or assignment, and an "F" for the course. Further, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a virtual classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Apparent inability to do this may be reported for disciplinary proceedings.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. Please note that no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

**Religious Holidays:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Please let me know ahead of time in case I'm not attuned to specific holy days. Students remain responsible for all work.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester. Among the things that you will be asked about in the evaluations, you will be asked to respond about progress made on the goals and objectives mentioned above. Evaluations for online courses are every bit as important to me as evaluations for face-to-face classes, so please complete an evaluation when the time comes.

**Department Grade Policy:** As of Fall 2009, only grades of C or better (A, B, or C) in any psychology course will be counted toward the student's major in Psychology.

**Tentative Course Schedule: PSYC3391 online  
FALL2017**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<b>Lanthorn</b> <u>Required Reading</u>
8/23-9/8	1	Principles of pharmacology Chemical signaling by NT's & hormones	Chapter 1 Chapter 3
<b>Syllabus exam (due 8PM 8/31)</b>			
<b>9/8-9/11</b>		<b>EXAM 1 (open 8AM 9/8 to 11:59PM 9/11)</b>	
9/11-9/29	2	Drug Abuse & Addiction Alcohol The Opioids	Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11
<b>9/29-10/2</b>		<b>EXAM 2 (open 8AM 9/29 to 11:59PM 10/2)</b>	
10/2-10/13	3	Psychomotor Stimulants Nicotine & Caffeine	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
<b>10/13-10/16</b>		<b>EXAM 3 (open 8AM 10/13 to 11:59PM 10/16)</b>	
10/16-10/27	4	Marijuana & the Cannabinoids Hallucinogens, PCP & Ketamine	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
<b>10/27-10/30</b>		<b>EXAM 4 (open 8AM 10/27 to 11:59PM 10/30)</b>	
10/30-11/17	5	Anxiety disorders Affective disorders	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
<b>11/17-11/20</b>		<b>EXAM 5 (open 8AM 11/17 to 11:59PM 11/20)</b>	
11/20-12/2	6	Schizophrenia Neurodegenerative diseases	Chapter 20 Chapter 21
<b>12/3-12/6</b>		<b>EXAM 6/Final (open 8 AM 12/3 to 11:59PM 12/6)</b>	