**Professor:** Dr. Ty Schepis

**Office:** UAC 238

**Campus Telephone:** 5-6805

**Email:** schepis@txstate.edu

**Office Hours:** TR: 11-12:30, 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

**Textbook (required):** Julien, R., Advokat, C. D. & Comaty, J. (2010). A primer of drug action, 12th Ed. New York, NY: Worth Publishers. (ISBN: 1429233435)

**Textbook (optional):** Sinacola, R. S., & Peters-Strickland, T. (2011). Basic psychopharmacology for counselors and therapists, 2nd Ed. Boston. MA: Pearson. (ISBN-13: 9780137079803)

**Course Website**: <http://tracs.txstate.edu> **Prerequisite:** Graduate standing and/or instructor approval

**Course Description:** This course explores: (1) the reasons that humans and animals consume mind altering substances called psychoactive drugs, (2) the neuronal, chemical, and hormonal mechanisms underlying drug action, and (3) the environmental factors that modulate the impact of psychoactive drugs on emotional, cognitive, perceptual and behavioral expression in humans and animals.

**Course Objectives:**

* Students will learn about the basic principles of psychopharmacology (e.g., pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics), and students will learn about the therapeutic effects, typical adverse events, and proper dosing of psychoactive medications used to treat psychopathology.
* Students will learn about the typical neurobiological processes involved in the addiction process, the effects of licit and illicit drugs of abuse, and about the nonmedical use of prescription medications.
* Students will practice research skills through the production of a formal research paper on a topic relevant to psychopharmacology.
* Students will practice oral presentation skills through the presentation of research work on a medication treatment for a psychiatric illness or substance use disorder.

**Academic Integrity:**

*University Policy*: "Violation of the ‘Honor Code’ includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.” (UPPS 07.10.01)

*Psychology Department Policy*: The study of psychology is done best in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. Academic dishonesty, in any form, destroys this atmosphere. Academic dishonesty consists of any of a number of things that spoil a good student-teacher relationship. A list of academically dishonest behaviors include: (1) passing off others' work as one's own, (2) copying off of another person during an examination, (3) signing another person's name on an attendance sheet, (4) in written papers, paraphrasing from an outside source while failing to credit the source or copying more than four words in sequence without quotation marks and appropriate citation. The Psychology Department faculty believes that appropriate penalties for academic dishonesty include an "F" in the course and/or prosecution through the Student Justice System.

Please see me at any time with questions about this policy.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The Department of Psychology has adopted expected student learning outcomes for the undergraduate major, the graduate major, and for PSY 1300, a general education course meeting a requirement for the social and behavioral science component. These expected student learning outcomes are available for your review at the following website: <http://www.psych.txstate.edu/assessment/>

**Students with Special Needs:**

Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) should identify themselves within the first five classes of the term. Both Texas State—San Marcos and I are dedicated to providing students with special needs with all necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

**Student Absence and Lateness Policies:**

* The research paper is due in TRACS by the beginning of class on April 16th. Late papers will be accepted but are docked 20 points immediately and 20 points for every 24 hours thereafter.
* In cases where a test must be made up or other work turned in late, full credit will be given when missed deadlines were due to a significant illness or emergency (e.g., car accident, family death). Documentation (e.g., doctor’s note) must be provided to receive full credit for the late work. Please make every effort to inform me in advance if work will be missed due to emergency.
* Missing the midterm or final examination without a legitimate excuse will result in point deductions, with such deductions potentially up to a zero on the examination.
* All late work must be completed (including tests) within 5 business days of the original due date or by the day of the final (whichever is first), except for in extraordinary circumstances.

**Presentation Guidelines:**

* In addition to lecture, one presentation will be given each week outlining medication treatments for one of the disorders you will typically see in a clinical setting. Up to two class members may collaborate on a topic for presentation, but presentations can also be given without a partner.
* This presentation should focus in on 3-4 (2-3 for a single presenter) of the most common medications used for each disorder, reviewing multiple journal articles as you form your conclusions. The presentation should be a rough analogue of a review article for treating the disorder of interest.
* Presentations will be no more than 10 minutes per person, and presenters should expect follow-up questions.
* Topics will be (\* indicates a Tuesday presentation – all others are on Thursday):

2/5: OCD

2/12: Panic Disorder

2/19: Major Depression

2/26: Schizophrenia

3/3\*: Alzheimer’s Dementia

3/26: Parkinson’s Dementia

4/2: Alcohol Dependence

4/9: Nicotine Dependence

4/16: Bipolar Disorder

4/23: Opioid Dependence

**Research Paper Guidelines:**

* The research paper should concentrate on the causal factors that underlie a specific substance use disorder, with a maximum length for the body of the paper of 6 pages. Papers should include a title page and a reference section (in APA format, see below); neither of these sections count towards the 6 page limit.
* The best papers will use a biopsychosocial model to organize their explanation of potential causes, with at least some text devoted to biological (e.g., neurobiology, genetic factors), psychological (e.g., expectations, the influence of comorbid psychopathology) and social (e.g., neighborhood) factors that could play a causative role in a disorder’s development.
* Students will pick from the following substances (1 to 2 students per substance):

Alcohol

Nicotine/Tobacco

Cannabis/Marijuana

Cocaine

Crack Cocaine

Heroin

Opioid Medications

Hallucinogens

Methamphetamine

Inhalants

* Papers should have at least 8 journal articles in support of their conclusions, with more recommended.
* All information cited appropriately, using American Psychological Association format, with proper use of quotations and parapharasing of the material used. The paper should include a title page, main body and a reference section; the body of the paper should be no longer than 6 double-spaced pages (in 12 point type in a common font: Arial, Times New Roman, Helvetica or Palatino Linotype).
* Research papers should be handed in via the assignments portion of TRACS by the beginning of class on April 16th – the due date of the paper.
* Please be aware that all papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to check for plagiarism or other academic integrity issues. You should check your paper at turnitin.com prior to turning it in, as those with overlap scores of greater than 20% (after removing contributions due to citations) will be penalized.

**Course Grading:**

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Case Study Exercises: 7.5% (each)

Research Paper: 25%

Treatment Presentation: 15%

All tests and assignments will be grade on a 100% scale, and grades will be posted on TRACS. Grades will be assigned on the scale of <60=F, 60-69=D, 70-79=C, 80-89=B, 90-100=A. While I do round grades up from the half point (e.g., a 79.5 becomes an 80, but a 79.49 remains a 79), no exceptions are made to these cutoffs.

**Class Schedule (subject to change):**

**Date Topic Text Chapter**

January 20th & 22nd Course Overview, Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics Chapters 1 & 2 (J)

Chapters 2 & 3 (BP)

January 27th & 29th Neurobiology & Treating Anxiety Disorders Chapters 3 & 7 (J)

February 3rd & 5th Treating Anxiety Disorders: Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines Chapter 7 (J)

& other Sedative/Hypnotics Chapters 7 & 11 (BP)

**February 10th &** Treating Mood Disorders: Antidepressants & Mood Stabilizers Chapters 5 & 6 (J) **12th**  **\*\*\*Practice Case Study Exercise: February 12th\*\*\*** Chapters 5 & 6 (BP)

February 17th & 19th Treating Psychosis: Antipsychotics Chapters 4 & 8 (J)

Herbal Medications Chapter 8 (BP)

February 24th & 26th Special Populations: Children & Geriatric Patients Chapters 18 & 19 (J)

Special Topic: Treating Personality Disorders Chapters 9, 10, 12, 15, 16 & 19 (BP)

**March 3rd & 5th** Catch-up and Review for Midterm

**\*\*\*First Case Study Exercise: March 5th\*\*\***

**March 10th & 12th**  **MIDTERM EXAM**

March 17th & 19th NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY

March 24th & 26th Drugs of Abuse: Alcohol, the Inhalants & GHB Chapter 13 (J)

March 31st & Drugs of Abuse: the Stimulants & Nicotine Chapters 11 & 12 (J)

April 2nd

April 7th & 9th Drugs of Abuse: Cannabis & the Hallucinogens Chapters 14 & 15 (J)

**April 14th & 16th** Pain Medications: the Opioids and Nonmedical Use Chapter 10 (J)

**\*\*\*Research Paper Due: April 16th\*\*\***

April 21st & 23rd Anabolic Steroids Chapter 16 (J)

April 28th & 30th Topics in Drug Abuse & Helping Clients with Issues with Chapters 17 & 20 (J)

Medications Chapter 4 &13 (BP)

**\*\*\*Second Case Study Exercise: April 30th\*\*\***

**May 12th (Tues.) Final Exam: 8:00-11:30 AM**