**Psychopharmacology**

PSY 5345, Fall 2018

M & W, 12:30-1:50, UAC 206

**Professor:** Dr. Natalie Ceballos

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**Office Hours:** Thursdays 9-11 and 1-4

**Textbook:** Meyer, J.S. & Quenzer, L.F. (2018). *Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain and Behavior, Third Edition*. Sinauer Associates / Oxford University Press.

**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, including pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics.
* Students will learn about the typical neurobiological processes involved in addiction and the acute and chronic effects of licit and illicit drugs.
* Students will learn about various medications that are used to treat psychopathology.
* Students will practice research skills by writing an APA-formatted paper on a topic relevant to psychopharmacology.
* Students will practice oral presentation skills by giving an in-class talk on a topic relevant to psychopharmacology.

**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/>

**Lecture Contingency Plan:** Because I care deeply about your education, I solemnly pledge to do my best to show up for class each and every time that we’re scheduled to meet. However, as you know, sometimes life intervenes in the form of illnesses, family emergencies and/or natural disasters. In the event that I am unable to physically appear in class, you will receive an announcement via the TRACS website, instructing you to view (and/or listen to) an attached Power Point visual and audio lecture in lieu of class attendance. If you find that these slides are not accessible and/or additional accommodations are needed, please contact me via email ([nc18@txstate.edu](mailto:nc18@txstate.edu)) so that I can make adaptations for equitable participation.

* **Commuters:** As a former collegiate commuter myself, I want to do my best to minimize inconvenience for you. If I must miss class, I will do my best to post an announcement by 7am on morning of the missed day. If you are commuting from a great distance and would be significantly inconvenienced by a last-minute class cancellation, I encourage you to check for TRACS announcements before leaving home. This way, you might be able to avoid unnecessary travel in the event that class must be cancelled. However, in the case of emergencies (example: unanticipated flash flood on campus), I may cancel class later in the day as needed to ensure student safety.

**Grading:** Your overall course grade will be determined as follows.

* Exam 1: 30%
* Exam 2: 30%
* Presentation: 20%
* Final Paper: 20%

All parts of the course will be graded 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 will round grades up from the half point (e.g., a 89.5 becomes an 90, but an 89.49 remains a 89), no exceptions will be made to these cutoffs.

**Policies on Attendance and Late Work:** While there is no formal attendance policy for this course, students are expected to attend class and participate fully in their graduate education. Exams are to be taken on the scheduled dates listed at the end of this syllabus. No extensions will be given for presentations or papers. Late work will not be graded and will receive a grade of zero. The Final Paper must be turned in to your TRACS Drop Box by 11:59pm Dec 12. If you are unable to turn in the final paper on time, you may receive an “Incomplete” grade in the course. Exceptions to these policies may be made for a significant illness or emergency (e.g., car accident, family death, natural disaster), and these will require documentation (e.g., doctor’s note). Please make every effort to inform me in advance (via email: [nc18@txstate.edu](mailto:nc18@txstate.edu)), or as soon as possible, if you must miss or delay class activities due to a significant life event.

**Exams:** The two exams will be composed of multiple-choice and essay questions. See scheduled at the end of the syllabus for dates.

**Presentations:** Near the end of the course, each student will be allotted 30 minutes to deliver an in-class Power Point presentation on a topic related to psychopharmacology. Topics must be approved by Dr. Ceballos (see schedule for due date). Presentations should include at least five scholarly references (e.g., journal articles or books) from sources other than the course materials. Online material such as websites may be cited, but will not count toward the five scholarly references. Students should be prepared to answer follow-up questions after their presentations (within the 30-minute presentation period).

**Final Paper**: A research paper will serve as the final exam in this course and will be due in your TRACS Dropbox by 11:59pm on Dec 12. Students may elect to write about their presentation topic, or they may choose a separate topic for their paper. However, all topics must be approved by Dr. Ceballos if different from presentation topic (see schedule for due date). Papers should include at least 10 scholarly references (e.g., journal articles or books) from sources other than the course materials. Online material such as websites may be cited, but will not count toward the 10 scholarly references. The body of the paper must be between 5 to 10 pages in length (not counting the title page and references page), double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and written in Arial 12 pt font. Papers must be written in APA-format; however, there is no need to include an Abstract. Please note that paraphrasing (with proper citation) is preferred over direct quotation. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a catastrophic loss of points. Please note that your papers may be subjected to plagiarism detection software and checked electronically for any academic integrity issues.

**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.

**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.

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

**Date Topic**

Aug 27 Course Overview

Principles of Psychopharmacology (Chapter 1)

Aug 29 Principles of Psychopharmacology, continued

Sep 3 Labor Day, Classes Do Not Meet

Sept 5 Principles of Psychopharmacology, continued

Neuroanatomy Overview (Chapter 2)

Sep 10 Neuroanatomy Overview, continued

Sep 12 Chemical Signaling (Chapter 3)

Sep 17 Chemical Signaling, continued

Sep 19 Catecholamines (Chapter 5)

Sep 24 Serotonin (Chapter 6)

Sep 26 Acetylcholine (Chapter 7)

Oct 1 Glutamate and GABA (Chapter 8)

Oct 3 Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8)

Presentation topics due by today.

Oct 8 Drug Abuse and Addiction (Chapter 9)

Oct 10 Alcohol (Chapter 10)

Oct 15 Opioids (Chapter 11)

Oct 17 Stimulants: Cocaine and Amphetamines (Chapter 12)

Oct 22 Stimulants: Nicotine and Caffeine (Chapter 13)

Oct 24 Marijuana and Hallucinogens (Chapter 14 & 15)

Oct 29 Anxiety and Treatments (Chapter 18)

Oct 31 Affective Disorder and Treatments (Chapter 19)

Nov 5 Schizophrenia and Treatments (Chapter 20)

Nov 7 Exam 2 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, & 20)

Final Paper topics due by today (if different from presentation topic)

Nov 12 Student Presentations

Nov 14 Student Presentations

Nov 19 Student Presentations

Nov 21 Thanksgiving Break, Classes Do Not Meet

Nov 26 Student Presentations

Nov 28 Student Presentations

Dec 3 Student Presentations

Dec 5 Student Presentations

Dec 12 Final Paper Due in TRACS Drop by 11:59pm