



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1993  
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2025  
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): September 2030  
 Course outline form version: 26/01/2024

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

**Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.**

|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
|--|---|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Course Code and Number:</b> PSYC 383  | <b>Number of Credits:</b> 3 <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a>  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Course Full Title:</b> Drugs and Behaviour<br><b>Course Short Title:</b> Drugs & Behaviour  |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Social Sciences   | <b>Department (or program if no department):</b> Psychology   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Calendar Description:</b><br>Students explore the basics of psychopharmacology, with an emphasis on understanding the effects of psychoactive drugs on neural communication and behaviour. Topics include neurotransmission, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, the relationship between neurotransmitters and behaviour, experimental analysis of psychoactive drugs in humans and animals, and the social and cognitive context of psychoactive drug effects. |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Prerequisites (or NONE):</b>  | PSYC 280 and one of the following: CRIM 220, KIN 301, POSC 300, PSYC 202, or SOC 255/MACS 255 (formerly offered as ANTH 255).   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>  | None.   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>  | None.   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Antirequisite Courses</b> ( <i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i> )<br>Former course code/number: <b>N/A</b><br>Cross-listed with: <b>N/A</b><br>Equivalent course(s): <b>N/A</b><br><i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>                                   | <b>Course Details</b><br>Special Topics course: <b>No</b><br><i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i><br>Directed Study course: <b>No</b><br><i>(See <a href="#">policy 207</a> for more information.)</i><br>Grading System: <b>Letter grades</b><br>Delivery Mode: <b>May be offered in multiple delivery modes</b><br>Expected frequency: <b>Twice per year</b><br>Maximum enrolment (for information only): <b>25</b> |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Typical Structure of Instructional Hours</b><br><table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>Total hours</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>45</b></td> </tr> </table>         | Lecture/seminar   | 45 |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>Total hours</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)</b><br>PLAR is available for this course. |
| Lecture/seminar  | 45  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
|  |   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Total hours</b>   | <b>45</b>   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Scheduled Laboratory Hours</b><br>Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <b>Transfer Credit</b> (See <a href="#">bctransferguide.ca</a> )<br>Transfer credit already exists: <b>Yes</b><br>Submit outline for (re)articulation: <b>No</b><br><i>(If yes, fill in <a href="#">transfer credit form</a>.)</i>  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Department approval</b>   | <b>Date of meeting:</b> April 2024  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Faculty Council approval</b>  | <b>Date of meeting:</b> May 3, 2024   |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |
| <b>Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval</b>  | <b>Date of meeting:</b> September 27, 2024  |    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                    |           |   |

**Learning Outcomes** *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Summarize the physiological and behavioural effects of the main classes of psychoactive drugs.
2. Describe the main applications of psychotherapeutic drugs.
3. Summarize the main processes involved in neural transmissions.
4. Explain the impact of psychoactive drugs on neural transmission.
5. Analyze current research on psychopharmacology topics.
6. Evaluate the influence of social, political, and cultural factors, including those specific to Indigenous communities, on drug effects, drug use, and drug policy.
7. Apply critical analysis to the experimental methods in the field of psychopharmacology.
8. Synthesize current research on drug use and its impact on human behaviour.

**Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting** *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

|             |     |                |     |   |
|-------------|-----|----------------|-----|---|
| Final exam: | 30% | Quizzes/tests: | 30% | % |
| Project:    | 25% | Assignments:   | 15% | % |

**Details:**

**NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.**

**Typical Instructional Methods** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lecture, demonstrations, discussion/class participation, student seminar presentations.

**Texts and Resource Materials** *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

| Type        | Author or description                     | Title and publication/access details                           | Year |
|-------------|---|--|------|
| 1. Textbook | J.S. Meyer and L. F. Quenzer              | Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the brain, and behavior/Sinauer     | 2022 |
| 2. Textbook | S. Hancock & W. McKim                     | Drugs and Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Pharmacology | 2021 |
| 3. Textbook | R. M. Julien, C.D. Advokat & J. E. Comaty | Julien's Primer of Drug Action                                 | 2023 |
| 4.          |   |  |      |
| 5.          |   |  |      |

**Required Additional Supplies and Materials** *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

- Neuroanatomy and research methods
- Neurobehavioral pharmacology: pharmacokinetics
- Neurotransmission, chemical signaling and neurotransmitters
- Pharmacodynamics
- Pharmacokinetics
- Sedative-hypnotics
- Opioids and opiates
- Psychomotor stimulants
- Cannabinoids
- Hallucinogens
- Psychotherapeutics: affective disorders and anxiolytics
- Tolerance, motivation, and addiction
- Socio-cultural influences on laws and drug use
- Functional/behavioral effects of drug use
- Tolerance, withdrawal, dependence, and addiction