

DRUGS BRAIN AND MIND
BBB 270 (PSYC 125)
Spring 2006
Tuesday & Thursday, 12:00-1:30, Ann 110

Course Personnel and Contact Information

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Member Neuroscience Graduate Group

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Course Web Page:

http://www.psych.upenn.edu/courses/psych125_Spring2006/psych125.html

Important information will be posted routinely on the course web page. This will include handouts, schedule for review sessions and grades.

Course Description:

The course will begin with a review of basic concepts in neurotransmission and receptor function. This review will be followed by a discussion of basic methods and concepts in pharmacology including but not limited to the following: dose response curve analysis, agonist - antagonist testing, drug metabolism, tolerance and sensitization. During the remainder of the course there will be two general areas of study. The first will include a series of lectures on drug addiction and drugs of abuse. These lectures will cover the neurobiology of the rewarding, thought and perception-altering, and neurotoxic effects of recreational drugs. The second area of study will include a series of lectures on a number of neuropsychiatric disorders. Specifically, we will cover neuropsychopharmacological investigations of the causes and potential pharmacological treatments of a number of diseases including addiction, depression, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia. Integrated with discussion of these general areas will be overviews of various psychopharmacological and neuropharmacological research techniques.

The students that take this course are primarily BBB and Psychology majors. With this in mind, we will only briefly review fundamental neuroscience material such as receptor function and neurotransmission that are essential to understanding the neuropsychopharmacological research that is the primary focus of the present course. The course will assume that students have a *basic* background in neuroscience. Students with no previous training in neuroscience may wish to take BBB 109 or a related course before taking Drugs Brain and Mind.

Text:

Meyer JS, and Quenzer LF (2005) *Drugs, The Brain and Behavior*, Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland.

Re-grading:

If you have a concern that there was an error in grading your exam, you must submit a request in writing to have the work re-graded. This request must be made within 2 weeks after the exams were returned to the class. If you submit a request, your work will be re-graded in entirety, and the final grade could be higher or lower than your original grade.

Final Grade:

Your final grade will be based on four exams. Each of the four exams will count for 25% of your grade. Please note that makeup exams will not be given except in cases where there are highly unusual extenuating circumstances and only providing a written request from the appropriate University office.

Accomodations:

Students that require accommodations are responsible for making the necessary arrangements. Please see Dr. Peoples as soon as possible to discuss what will work best for you.

Readings:

The readings required for the course will be drawn primarily from the Meyer and Quenzer textbook. The readings overlap extensively with the lecture material and are meant to facilitate the student's understanding of the lecture material.

Handouts:

Copies of the power point lecture slides will be handed out in class and/or posted on the course website.

Mid-Term Exams:

There will be three exams scheduled during the course of the semester (dates listed on syllabus). The format of the exams will be a mixture of the following: 1) multiple choice and matching questions, 2) short answer identification questions (1-2 sentence answers required), and 3) short essay.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be non-cumulative and will be comparable to a mid-term exam. It will cover all material not covered on the last mid-term exam (see syllabus). The exam will make up the 4th of the 4 exams that will be offered in the course.

Review Sessions:

Review sessions are held regularly before each exam. Time and locations will be announced in class.