

# BBB 481, Behavioral Pharmacology

## Spring 2006

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Office Hours: Monday 2-3 p.m. and Wednesday 9-10 a.m.

Text: Principles of Neuropsychopharmacology, Feldman, Meyer & Quenzer

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Jan. 10, 12	Introduction to Pharmacology	Chapter 1
Jan. 17, 19	Molecular Research Techniques	Chapter 2 (pp. 27-56)
Jan. 24, 26	Behavioral Research Techniques	Chapter 2 (pp. 57-73)
Jan. 31, Feb. 2	Dopamine	Chapter 8 (pp. 303-323)
Feb. 7, 9	Presentation Resources (2/7), Midterm exam (2/9)	
Feb. 14, 16	Norepinephrine	Chapter 8 (pp. 324-343)
Feb. 21, 23	Acetylcholine	Chapter 7
Feb. 28, Mar. 2	Serotonin	Chapter 9
Mar. 7, 9	SPRING BREAK	
Mar. 14, 16	Amino Acid Neurotransmitters	Chapter 10
Mar. 21, 23	Neuropeptides Involved in Feeding	Chapter 11 (pp. 455-462, 484-491)
Mar. 28, 30	Sex Hormones	Chapter 11 (pp. 463-469)
Apr. 4, 6	Opiates	Chapter 12
Apr. 11, 13	Cannabinoids	Chapter 13
Apr. 18, 20	Neuropsychimmunology	

Behavioral Pharmacology is a seminar course designed to familiarize students with current research in the field. After surveying introductory material, we will begin to discuss journal articles. Students will be expected to give a presentation of current work on a subject chosen from a list of topics. The journal club format necessitates student attendance and participation, which will be monitored. This course utilizes the Blackboard website for distribution of journal articles. Please visit: <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu/> early in the semester to make sure you can access the course site. Course grades will be based on one midterm exam (30%), one oral presentation (40%) and a final exam (30%) as well as class attendance and participation.

### **Midterm Exam:**

The exam will consist of short answer questions designed to assess basic knowledge of the concepts discussed in class as well as the ability to apply that knowledge to a novel research question. As such, the student should understand the material in sufficient depth to be able to integrate information from different lectures.

### **Oral Presentation:**

Presentations should be 35-40 minutes plus 5-10 minutes for discussion. Presentations are generally given in PowerPoint format, but other mediums may be used with prior instructor approval. Presentations should focus on one or more research articles published within the last 5 years in the area of interest. Papers must be submitted for approval *one week* before the scheduled presentation. Presentations should include:

- Introduction to the area of research
- Discussion of methods, results and conclusions of each paper
- Conclusion incorporating the results of all the material presented

Papers will be available to the class on Blackboard by Tuesday of the week they are to be presented. Students not presenting should have read the papers before coming to class and should be prepared to participate in discussions following presentations.

### **Final Exam:**

The final exam will involve analysis of a research article to be distributed on the last day of class. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the article as well as the ability to critique the paper.

Missed exams will only be given at a later date with an authorized university absence. If you wish to submit an exam for a re-grade, you should do so in writing within *one week* of receiving the graded exam. If you submit an exam for a re-grade, the entire exam will be re-graded and your resulting score may be higher or lower than the original grade. A fraction of exams are photocopied before being returned to the students. If an exam is found to have been altered before submission for re-grading, the student will be reported to the Office for Student Conduct.