

# PSYCHOLOGY 5850: Psychopharmacology

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard Suplita

**T.A. Information:** Write In Below

**Office:** 218 Psychology

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Phone:** (706) 542-2174 (leave message)

**Email:** rsuplita@uga.edu

## Required Text:

Meyer, J.S. and Quenzer, L.F. (2013). *Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain and Behavior* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.) Sunderland, MA: Sinauer Associates, Inc.

## Course Objectives:

This course investigates the science of how psychoactive substances act to alter the physiology of the body and brain to change aspects of normal brain function for therapeutic and recreational purposes. We explore concepts from the fields of neurophysiology, neuroanatomy, and cognitive and behavior neuroscience and clinical psychology. In addition, we will review historical and recent developments in the history of United States drug policy. Completion of this course will enhance your understanding of the physiological dynamics of the brain, particularly as they involve the effects of psychoactive drugs.

## Attendance:

Attendance is expected and missing class too frequently can negatively impact your grade in multiple ways. I will *not* provide class materials to students who are absent. If you miss class for any reason, you should meet with a classmate to discuss what you missed and to get the missed notes. **DO NOT** email me if you miss a class and ask me if you missed anything! If extra credit (of any form) is available on a day you miss, you will not be eligible to make up this credit.

## Classroom Comportment:

Phone and Computer Policies: I only specifically authorize the use of your laptops in my classroom to take notes. If you want to browse electronic media, please be respectful of your classmates and sit at the very rear of the auditorium. If a particular student's use of electronic media is repeatedly disruptive to you or other students, please let me know about it privately, and I will do my best to address it. I reserve the right to exclude the use of electronic media to any student(s) who become a distraction to others.

## Class Credit Breakdown and Policies:

There will be three exams during the course of the semester and a semi-comprehensive final exam on the date and time indicated by the Registrar. Each exam is worth 25% of your final course grade, including the final exam. Your score on the first exam may be dropped and replaced by the lowest of your remaining two exam scores provided that (a) it is above 50%, and (b) the scores on exams 2 and 3 were both higher than the first exam score (thus demonstrating an upward trend in your exam grades across the semester).

Please note that the final exam may not be exempted under any circumstance, and it may not be dropped! Be sure that you can take the final on the scheduled date and beginning at the scheduled time! Exceptions will only be made in the event of University-approved excuses or a valid (signed, dated, with phone number) physician's excuse. A family vacation or a cousin's wedding (or similar) is **not** a substantial reason for me to allow you to reschedule your final exam.

**A Note about Letters of Reference:** Regrettably, I am not able to complete a letter of reference for every student who asks. Due to the volume of request, I will write only for students who have ***already completed*** a course with me.

### **Determining Overall Course Grade:**

Your scores will be computed as a **percentage** and grades assigned as follows:

X > 92	A
90 > X > 92	A-
88 > X > 90	B+
82 > X > 88	B
80 > X > 82	B-
78 > X > 80	C+
72 > X > 78	C
70 > X > 72	C-
60 > X > 70	D
Below 60	F

**Academic Honesty:** All academic work must meet the University's standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" found in your student handbooks and which may be accessed online at the following URL: [http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm). Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. ***Academic dishonesty of any kind, be it plagiarism, cheating, or turning in work submitted for credit in another course, will not be tolerated!*** Infractions will be reported to the appropriate authority and will result, at the very least, in a zero for the assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:** If any student has circumstances requiring special attention or accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible. Your information will be held confidential.

### **Tentative Schedule (Listed on the next page):**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Be sure to check at least once each week for updates. In no event will exam dates be advanced (i.e. moved to an EARLIER date).

Weekday	Date	What's Happening	Chapter(s)
Thu	5-Jun	Course Introduction and Philosophical Background	1
Fri	6-Jun	No Class, Read Chapters One and Two	1
Mon	9-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	2
Tue	10-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	2
Wed	11-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	2 -> 3
Thu	12-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	3
Fri	13-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	3
Mon	16-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	3
Tue	17-Jun	Pharmacology and CNS Basics	3
Wed	18-Jun	<b>Exam 1: Bring Pencils!</b>	<b>1 thru 3</b>
Thu	19-Jun	Research Methods	4
Fri	20-Jun	Research Methods	4
Mon	23-Jun	Dopamine	5
Tue	24-Jun	Dopamine/Norepinephrine	5
Wed	25-Jun	Norepinephrine	5
Thu	26-Jun	Serotonin	5
Fri	27-Jun	Serotonin/Acetylcholine	6, 7
Mon	30-Jun	Acetylcholine	8
Tue	1-Jul	Glutamate	8
Wed	2-Jul	GABA	8
Thu	3-Jul	<b>Exam 2: Bring Pencils!</b>	<b>4 thru 8</b>
Fri	4-Jul	<b>Independence Day!</b>	<b>Happy 238th!</b>
Mon	7-Jul	Alcohol	10
Tue	8-Jul	Alcohol and Opiates	11
Wed	9-Jul	Opiates	11
Thu	10-Jul	Psychomotor Stimulants	12
Fri	11-Jul	Psychomotor Stimulants	12
Mon	14-Jul	Cannabinoids	14
Tue	15-Jul	Cannabinoids	14
Wed	16-Jul	<b>Exam 3: Bring Pencils!</b>	<b>10 thru 12, 14</b>
Thu	17-Jul	Hallucinogens and Dissociatives	15
Fri	18-Jul	Hallucinogens and Dissociatives	15
Mon	21-Jul	Anabolic Steroids	16
Tue	22-Jul	Anxiety and Affect Disorders	18, 19
Wed	23-Jul	Anxiety and Affect Disorders	18, 19
Thu	24-Jul	Schizophrenia	20
Fri	25-Jul	Schizophrenia	20
Mon	28-Jul	Drug Addiction	9
Tue	29-Jul	Drug Addiction	9
Wed	30-Jul	<b>FINAL EXAM: 3:30 Sharp! Regular Room</b>	Semi-Comp