

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES

SPRING 2020 DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR
Neuroscience 0081-7510 (CRN 23450)

Instructor: Dr. April Dukes
(she, her, hers)

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Contacting the Professor:

Please use email or the Canvas Discussion Board “Help Me!” Expect responses from the professor within *24 hours*. My quickest response times are from 8am-4pm. After 36 hours, please send a follow-up email or post.

Commitment to Student Success:

I am committed to supporting every student's physical and mental well-being! I acknowledge that you may experience obstacles to your learning during the semester which make it more difficult to succeed. I encourage students who are experiencing challenges to reach out to me, a trusted friend, family member, and/or to campus resources for help as soon as possible. I have posted links to some [resources at Pitt](#) which you may find beneficial, and encourage students to let me know of any other on-campus or local resources which have benefited them.

Course Objectives:

The overall goal of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of the relationship between drugs and your brain and how this interaction influences behavior.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Recall principles of basic cellular anatomy and physiology of the nervous system.
2. Infer how drugs alter behaviors by affecting different aspects of neural communication.
3. Examine the relationship between the symptoms of psychological disorders, changes in the brain associated with these disorders, and drugs used to treat these disorders.
4. Evaluate scientific claims using the knowledge gained in this class.

Course Materials:

[TopHat](#), [Turnitin/Peermark](#), and [Canvas](#) will be used to manage this course. Log into this course's TopHat site **by Wednesday, January 8th**, with the join code **311327**. Please log into [Turnitin](#) using your Pitt email to ensure that your first writing assignment submission goes smoothly.

Teaching Methods and Philosophy:

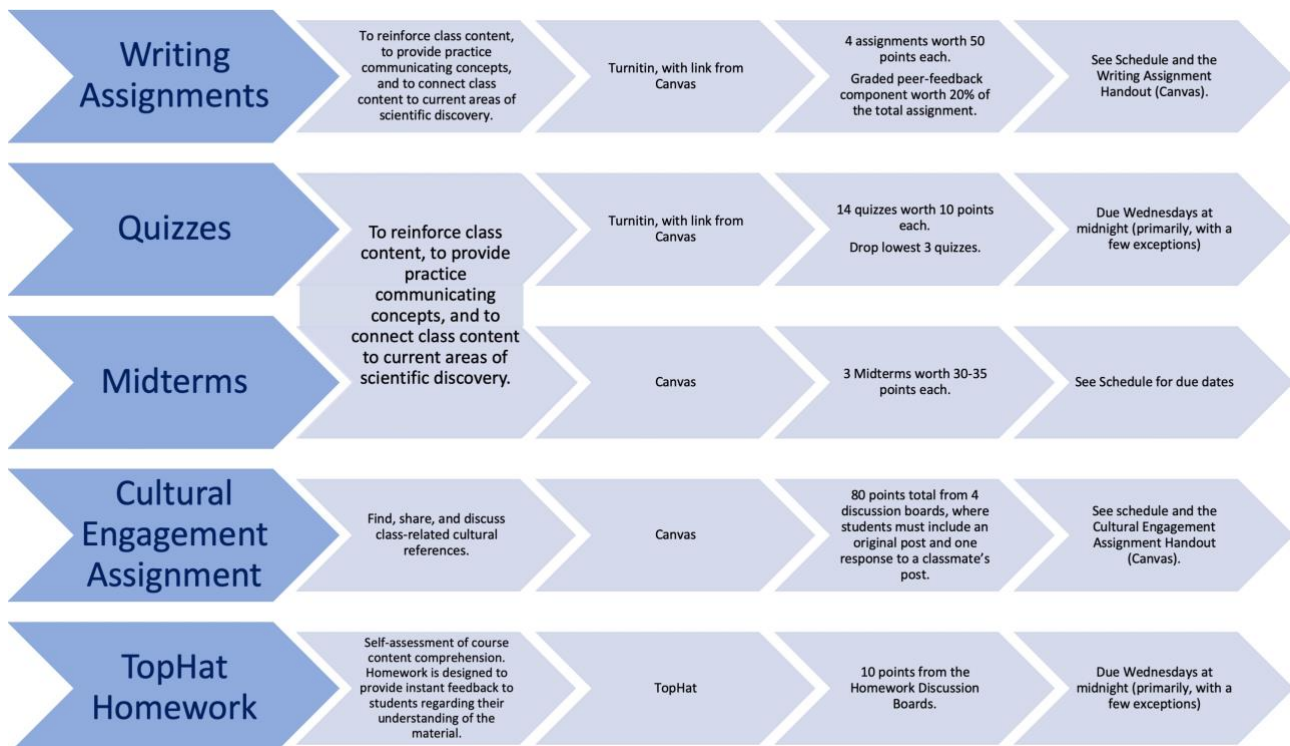
This course utilizes evidence-based (researched and published) teaching methods designed to provide class content in multiple formats (images, reading assignments, and video) and to assess students on learning gains based on multiple measures of knowing. This class typically has a mix of STEM and non-STEM majors. Thus, I have designed the course to encourage students to link this knowledge to their prior experiences and to STEM-related current ethical questions instead of just memorization of facts. Lastly, I value transparency in teaching- the sharing of the reasons behind my teaching choices to students. You will find descriptions for the rationale for assignments and assignment categories in this class's documents. By understanding the purpose behind these assignments, I hope that students will be better able to achieve this class's learning objectives.

Tips for Success in an Online Class:

- Make time at least *every other day* for course material and assignments.
- Check your Canvas notifications settings, ensuring that you receive course and assignment announcements on a device or email which you check often.
- Read assignment directions early, so you can ask questions prior to deadlines.

Assessments/Assignments:

Your grade will be assessed from several types of assignments designed to measure student achievement of course and topic objectives.



Course Schedule:

Unit 1 : Introduction to the Nervous System					
Week of	Lesson #	Topic	Assignment (due)	Quiz (due)	Exams (due)
Jan 6-8		Introduction	Sign up for TopHat, Read Syllabus, Watch Syllabus Videos (Jan 8)	Syllabus Quiz (Jan 8)	
Jan 9-15	Lesson 1	Cells of the Nervous System	Assignment 1: Secrets of How the Brain Works (Jan 15)	Quiz 1 (Jan 15)	
Jan 16-22*	Lesson 2	Neuroanatomy	Peer Feedback: Assignment 1 (Jan 22)	Quiz 2 (Jan 22)	
Jan 23-29	Lesson 3	Neurophysiology	Engagement Discussion Board 1 Due (Jan 29)	Quiz 3 (Jan 29)	
Jan 30-Feb 5	Lesson 4	Neurotransmission Neurotransmitters	Assignment 2: The Brain, Reimagined (Feb 5)	Quiz 4 (Feb 5)	

Unit 2 : Drugs and the Human Body					
Week of	Lesson #	Topic	Assignment (due)	Quiz (due)	Exams (due)
Feb 6-12	Lesson 5	Drug Laws	Peer Feedback: Assignment 2 (Feb 12)	Quiz 5 (Feb 12)	Midterm 1 Lessons 1-4 (Feb 12)
Feb 13-19	Lesson 6	Pharmacodynamics Pharmacokinetics	Engagement Discussion Board 2 Due (Feb 19)	Quiz 6 (Feb 19)	
Feb 20-26	Lesson 7	Addiction	Assignment 3: Rethinking Dopamine (Feb 26)	Quiz 7 (Feb 26)	
Feb 27-Mar 4	Lesson 8	Stimulants: Caffeine, Nicotine, Cocaine, and Amphetamines	Peer Feedback: Assignment 3 (Mar 4)	Quiz 8 (Mar 4)	
March 5-7, due Saturday					Midterm 2 Lessons 5-8 (Mar 7)
Mar 7-15*			Spring Break		

Unit 3 : Drugs - Legal and Illegal					
Week of	Lesson #	Topic	Assignment (due)	Quiz (due)	Exams (due)
Mar 16-25	Lesson 9	Alcohol Cannabis	Engagement Discussion Board 3 Due (Mar 25)	Quiz 9 (Mar 25)	
Mar 26-Apr 1	Lesson 10	Pain and Opiates	Engagement Discussion Board 4 Due (Apr 1)	Quiz 10 (Apr 1)	
Apr 2-8**	Lesson 11	Hallucinogens		Quiz 11 (Apr 8)	
Apr 9-15**	Lesson 12	Affective Disorders Antidepressants	Assignment 4: A Look Within (Apr 15)	Quiz 12 (Apr 15)	
Apr 16-22	Lesson 13	Anxiety Disorders Anxiolytics	Peer Feedback: Assignment 4 (Apr 22)	Quiz 13 (Apr 22)	
Apr 23-26					Midterm Lessons 9-12 (Apr 26)

*Holidays

- January 20, 2020 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- March 7-15, 2020 (Spring Break)

Dr. Dukes will have limited communication from February 12-14, March 12-14, and April 4-12 due to scheduled conference and personal travel.

Grading:

Your final grade will be calculated from your scores on the assessments as outlined above and illustrated in the table below.

Category	Points	Points Applied to Final Average
Writing Assignments	4 @ 50 points each	200
Quizzes	14 @10 points, drop 3	110
Midterms	3 @ 30-35 points each	100
Cultural Engagement Assignments	4 at 20 points each	80
TopHat Homework Discussion Boards	<1 point each	10
Reflection Assignments	1-3 points each, extra credit	10
TOTAL		500

Grading scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range	Points
A+	97.4 - 100	487-500
A	93.4 - 97.3	467-486
A-	89.9 - 93.3	450-466
B+	87.4 - 89.9	437-449
B	83.4 - 87.3	417-436
B-	79.9 - 83.3	400-416
C+	77.4 - 79.9	387-399
C	73.4 - 76.9	367-386
C-	69.9 - 73.3	350-366
D	60.0 - 69.9	300-349
F	59.9 or Less	0-299

Curving and Extra Credit Policies:

There will be no individual or whole class curve. If the class performs poorly on a particular assignment, extra credit linked to this assignment may be assigned at the professors' discretion. The **Reflection Assignments Module** on Canvas provide opportunities for students to earn extra credit points throughout the semester. These extra credit assignments provide alternative opportunities to foster student learning and practice using higher-order thinking skills, primarily reflection.

Makeup/Late Assignment Policy:

1. Quizzes, Cultural Engagement Assignments, and Writing Assignments (only), which are turned in by the time I check them the following day (~8am) will not be considered officially “late.”
2. I have a one-time, no-questions asked late policy for assignments. The first assignment turned in late *without* an University-excused absence (see below for details) *will be accepted within 7 days* of the original due date.
3. You can replace 1 additional *missing* Cultural Engagement Assignment, Writing Assignment, or Midterm by completing it for a max of 85% of the assignment’s total points up to 14 days after the due date.
4. Any additional *unexcused* late assignments will be given a 0 grade.

Excused Absence Policy:

I require students to provide documentation for one of the following circumstances for a missed assignment to be considered an excused absence.

1. You have a health crisis requiring immediate medical attention.
 - a. A note from student health stating that you stopped by is NOT acceptable.
 - b. The note must state that missing class was necessary for your health.
 - c. A note verifying an ER visit or hospital stay is also acceptable.
2. You must make a court appearance.
 - a. A note from the judge or court is required.
 - b. I don’t need to know why, only that your presence was required.
3. You experience a serious family or personal crisis.
 - a. This includes a death in your immediate family, which must be verified by the university (usually your department’s Dean’s office) or provide an obituary listing you as a surviving loved one.
 - b. If you have a serious mental health event or become a victim of a violent crime, accommodations for makeup exams can also be arranged.
4. You are involved in an on-campus or off-campus activity sponsored by the University. You must notify the instructor in advance to makeup an assignment.
5. Military service requirements, including (but not limited to) National Guard training, medical and fitness exams, etc.

All excuses must be verifiable BEFORE or IMMEDIATELY after you miss a graded assignment. Email Dr. Dukes ASAP when you miss an assignment.

University Academic Integrity Policy:

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Dr. Dukes' Cheating and Plagiarism Policy:

According to the University of Pittsburgh's Academic Integrity code, if I have evidence that a student has cheated in my course, I will file an Academic Integrity Violation Report form through the University of Pittsburgh. For the specifics on what I consider cheating in this online course, please watch the Academic Integrity Video. The minimum consequences of a student found guilty of cheating will be a 0 on the assignment. Any further measures would be determined by the CGS Academic Programs Director, as detailed in the [CGS Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Due to the emphasis on the writing assignments in this course, any student who plagiarizes or improperly cites written text, whether on the writing assignments, quizzes, exams, or discussion boards, will be given one warning before an Academic Integrity Violation Report will be filed and the CGS Academic Programs Director notified. Students who wish to clarify what is considered plagiarism should look at the Avoiding Plagiarism Resource from the [University Library System](#). If you have any questions about requirements for citations for the Writing Assignments, please contact Dr. Dukes.

Disability Services:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and ServicesLinks to an external site.](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Accessibility:

Canvas and TopHat are ADA Compliant and has fully implemented the final accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Please note that, due to the flexibility provided in these products, it is possible for some material to inadvertently fall outside of these guidelines.

Copyright Notice:

Class materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See [Library of Congress Copyright Office](#) and the [University Copyright Policy](#).

Statement on Classroom Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Natural Science General Education Requirement Addendum:

This course fulfills one Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences Natural Science General Education Requirement (GER) as described for the GERs starting Fall 2018 (term 2191).