



## Psychology 3535A – Drugs and Behaviour - Fall 2017 Department of Psychology

**Location:** MW; 3:00-4:15 pm; PE264

**Course Dropbox:** adjacent to C866

**Instructor:**

Dr. Margaret Forgie (D850)  
Email: [forgie@uleth.ca](mailto:forgie@uleth.ca)  
Phone: (403) 329-2437 (voicemail)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:**

Mr. Scott Semenyna  
(Ph.D. Candidate; Department of Psychology)  
Email: [scott.semenyna@uleth.ca](mailto:scott.semenyna@uleth.ca)

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to expand on the material covered at the second year level by providing an in-depth analysis of the field of psychopharmacology; the study of the relationship between drugs, the brain, and behaviour. In this course, we will address the underlying neural and physiological correlates of this relationship. In other words, we will explore a wide range of topics related to the proximate mechanisms by which psychotropic and psychotherapeutic drugs exert their actions on the functional properties of the nervous system, and thus, on physiology and behaviour. Lectures and textbook readings will cover basic neurochemistry, anatomy, and physiology of the actions of a wide range of different drug classes, and the patterns of behaviour exhibited by the whole animal that result from these actions. Students should note that the following topics are NOT covered in this course: sociology of addiction; current legal policies regarding drug use; counselling for persons with substance abuse problems; epidemiology of addiction; and complementary and alternative therapies or other treatment programs.

**Course Prerequisites and Background Preparation:**

The required prerequisites for this course are Neuroscience 2600 AND one other 2000-level course (3.0 credit hours) in Psychology or Neuroscience. Students must have completed NEUR2600 or a close equivalent prior to taking this course. Students who do not have the prerequisites (e.g., verified transfer credits) may be deregistered without warning. In *exceptional circumstances*, a prerequisite waiver will be considered for students who have adequate equivalent background. If you are considering requesting a waiver, please speak to me **in class** prior to the end of the add/drop period. Submitting a request for a waiver does not guarantee that you will receive one; each case will be evaluated individually, and students must supply supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. Regardless of specific prerequisites, all students must have a working knowledge of basic neurochemistry, neuroanatomy, physiological psychology, and the scientific approach to understanding behaviour.

**Required Texts:**

Meyer, J.S. & Quenzer, L.F. (2013). *Psychopharmacology: Drugs, the Brain, and Behavior* (2nd ed). Sunderland MA: Sinauer Associates.  
Northey, M., & Timney, B. (2015). *Making sense in psychology: A student's guide to research and writing* (2nd ed). Don Mills ON: Oxford University Press.

**Course Rules and Regulations:**

You are expected to attend and to arrive on time for every class. Though, everyone (including me) is a bit late every now and then or needs to leave a bit early, once class is in session you are not welcome to disrupt us with your late arrival or early departure. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from doing so, please speak to me prior to the end of add-drop. In addition, all students are expected to have read assigned textbook materials in advance of each class. Though attendance is not mandatory, you are responsible for any material that is presented in class, whether or not you choose to attend. Cell phone use is absolutely prohibited during class time (i.e., your phone **MUST** be turned off and stowed away during the class. Should you choose to use your cell phone during the class for any reason, you will be asked to pack up your things and leave the classroom. Likewise, though you are permitted to use a laptop or tablet to take notes, if you choose to engage in off-task activities during class time you will be asked to pack up your things and leave. Unless you are a student with special needs (see below), there is no reason to be doing anything else with your device during the class.

As this is a senior course, it should go without saying that you are expected to be respectful toward your fellow classmates and your professor. Spontaneous discussion is always welcome, but that does not include using the class time for conversation and other activities that are unrelated to the course material or conducting a social chit-chat session when your professor is speaking (or during your classmates' presentations). These behaviours are rude, disrespectful, and disruptive to students and professors alike. In addition, a diversity of viewpoints will inevitably exist in the classroom. Voicing well-reasoned disagreement with others' viewpoints and asking questions is perfectly fine; being combative, intolerant, or disrespectful towards others is not. **NB.** All students are expected to be familiar with the entirety of Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should have read and understood Sections 4, 5 and 9. You can access the current calendar for 2017/2018 at the following link:

<https://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2017-18>

**Students with Special Needs:**

If you have a documented condition that prevents you from fully participating in this course, including evaluation procedures, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding your individual situation. Please note that no accommodations will be given without official notification from the Accommodated Learning Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>), and not all supports are available for this course (see below).

**Copyright, Moodle, and Intellectual Property:**

With the exception of information that is freely available on the web, all course information should be treated as copyright protected. You are free to download and print a **SINGLE** copy of any materials posted for your use within Moodle, and you are free to take your own notes in class and from the textbook (of course!). You are **not permitted** to distribute the information in any form to persons not registered in this course during this semester. Once the information is in your hands, you are responsible for what you do with it and your professor will not be held responsible if you choose to violate the law. The Students' Union maintains a Note Bank for students to turn in their class notes at the end of semester. Stop and think before you turn in your "notes" to any service. You are legally responsible for what you submit. In addition, still photographs, audio recordings, and video recordings of lectures or any other in-class presentations or activities are ***strictly prohibited***. This prohibition includes students with special needs. Doing so violates your professor's intellectual property rights and the privacy of your classmates who have not consented to have their voice/image/questions recorded.

**Course Information Online:**

**Moodle:** All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system. Following each lecture, a brief summary of what was covered in the class will be posted to the running schedule on the homepage so that students can keep track of missed material. **Students should note that these summaries do not include complete files of lecture slides.** Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Gradebook on Moodle.

**Email:** Other than posts to Moodle, my primary method of communicating with you for general notices and points of interest to supplement course material will be via in-class announcements or by email to the class listserv. Please check your U of L email account on a regular basis, or have that account forwarded to your preferred provider. Please do your best to remember to do regular housekeeping of your U of L account so that you do not miss important notices due to a full mailbox. Any requests for information pertaining to matters of a confidential nature (e.g., your particular standing in the course; a sudden emergency), or graded work (i.e., presentation slides), must be sent from your U of L account and you must include your ID# and your full name as it appears on your registration.

**NB:** If your email to me does not contain the requested information your email will be automatically deleted. If you send an email asking for course information that has been made available in class, has been posted to Moodle, and is given within this syllabus, you will not receive a reply.

**Course Requirements:**

(1) Exams (50% total). There will be three (3) in-class exams given throughout the semester, each of which will account for 17.5% of your final grade. Exams will be based on both lecture content and readings. Exam format will consist of short-answer questions, short definitions, and multiple-choice/fill-in-the blank questions. Each exam is non-cumulative.

Exam 1: Wednesday, October 11

Exam 2: Wednesday, November 8

Exam 3: Wednesday, December 6

**Penalty:** If you fail to write an exam on the scheduled date you will receive 0%.

(2) Presentation (15%). Students will be responsible for giving a short, conference-length presentation in groups of two or three depending on enrollment. Each group/pair will be given a maximum of 15 minutes for their presentation (10 minutes for presentation plus 3 minutes for a question period, with length of time strictly enforced by timer). The presentation is worth 15% of your final grade: 7.5% accorded to the group (i.e., each member will receive the same grade), and 7.5% accorded to each group member's individual contribution. A portion of the group mark is based on submitting an electronic copy of the group's finished presentation slides to Dr. Forgie (forgie@uleth.ca) **by 2:00 pm on the day of your presentation.** A portion of the individual mark is based on submitting a hardcopy of the Scheduling Worksheet to the course drop box **by 4:00 pm on Friday, September 15.** Details of this assignment will be posted to Moodle and will be discussed in the introductory classes.

Scheduling Presentations and Assigning Groups and Topics. Every student is required to submit a hardcopy of the Presentation Scheduling Worksheet **NO LATER than 4:00 pm on Friday, September 15 in the course drop box.** The purpose of the worksheet is to form groups that consist of students who share topic interests, approach, level of analysis, and compatible schedules. Instructions for the worksheet (including templates) will be discussed in class and posted to Moodle following add/drop when final enrollment numbers are confirmed. **No electronic submissions of the Scheduling Worksheet will be accepted.** Groups and topics will be assigned during the in-class workshop on **Monday, September 18.**

**Penalties:** Students who fail to: actively engage with partner(s); assist with the preparation and delivery of research for the presentation topic; and/or deliver their part of the in-class presentation will receive 0% for 7.5% of his or her final grade. Should this situation arise, the group mark for the remaining members will not be affected. Students who fail to: submit a Scheduling Worksheet by the September 15 deadline; to attend the in-class workshop on September 18; and do not attend classes following add/drop will be dropped from the presentation schedule entirely.

- (3) Journal Assignments (35% total). Students are required to submit two (2) written assignments, each consisting of an essay explaining a single, piece of primary research (the target article) set into the context of the broader field of inquiry. Each essay will count towards 17.5% of your final grade. Your essays must be on different topics and you may NOT use the same topic as that of your presentation for either one. Details of this assignment will be posted on Moodle and will be discussed in class. Following initial grading, students will be given the **option** of submitting a revised version for a higher grade (see below).

**Deadlines:**

Completed assignments are due **no later than 3:00 pm** on the deadline date (yes, you really do have to meet the deadlines).

First Submission Deadlines (Mandatory):

Assignment 1: Monday, October 16 (in-class)

Assignment 2: Monday, November 20 (in-class)

Revision Submission Deadlines (Optional):

Assignment 1: Friday, November 3 (drop-box)

Assignment 2: Friday, December 15 (drop-box)

**Penalties:** If you fail to turn in an assignment by the first submission deadline, or you turn in an incomplete assignment, you will incur an automatic 25% deduction to your mark and you forfeit your right to turn in a revision for that assignment. Your reduced mark will account for 17.5% of your final grade. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the mandatory first deadline will receive an automatic grade of 0 for 17.5% of your final grade. Revisions turned in after the specified deadline for each assignment will not be graded and your first mark will stand. **NO EXCEPTIONS & NO EXTENSTIONS**

**Policy for Re-scheduling of Exams and Penalties for Late Submissions:** With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances all students are expected to write the exams on the scheduled dates, to turn in assignments on time, and to deliver their presentations on the scheduled date. Supporting documentation must be provided for any request to re-schedule your presentation, to extend the due date for assignments, or to write a make-up exam. Should you find yourself in an extreme situation, please contact me ASAP via email so that I may assist you to access university resources. Otherwise, penalties will be levied as described above. There will be no opportunity to re-weight course components or to complete extra work to offset missed exams, missed presentations, late assignments, or poor performance on any course component.

**A Note on Plagiarism:** Written assignments and presentation material will be graded under the assumption that students have read and understood the contents of Northey and Timney (2015); specifically here, Chapter 5 - *Ethical Issues in Research and Writing*. All assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Stringing together a set of phrases with direct quotes is not writing in your own words. All forms of plagiarism constitute a serious academic offense. Any case of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable. The onus is on you to understand what constitutes plagiarism and to take all steps to avoid it. It is also an academic

offence to submit substantially similar work for different assignments in the same course, or for two different courses for credit (see Part 4 of the U of L Calendar regarding Academic Offenses).

**Grading Scheme:**

Letter grades will be assigned to all course components and final course percentages according to the following scale. You must meet or exceed the lower boundary for a grade category in order to be accorded that letter grade.

A+ $\geq 90$	B+ 77 - < 80	C+ 67 - < 70	D+ 55 - < 60
A 85 - < 90	B 73 - < 77	C 63 - < 67	D 50 - < 55
A- 80 - < 85	B- 70 - < 73	C- 60 - < 63	F < 50