

**\*\*\*This is a preliminary syllabus as of August 28, 2013**

**Psychology 3535A – Drugs and Behaviour**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**The University of Lethbridge**  
**Fall 2013**

**Location:**

MWF, 3:00-3:50, PE261

**Assignment Dropbox:**

All written work may be submitted in class, or in the dropbox located adjacent to C866.

**Instructor Information:**

Dr. Margaret Forgie (D850)

Email: [forgie@uleth.ca](mailto:forgie@uleth.ca) (preferred contact)

Phone: (403) 329-2437 (department: 403-329-2235)

Office Hours: by individual appointment

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth introduction to the field of behavioural pharmacology (a.k.a., psychopharmacology), which is the study of the relationship between drugs 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. Students should note that the sociology of addiction, current legal policies regarding drug use, counselling for persons with substance abuse problems, and complementary and alternative medicine, are topics that will not be emphasised in this course.

**Course Prerequisites:**

The required prerequisites for this course are Neuroscience 2600 and one other 2000-level course in Psychology or Neuroscience (3-credit hours). Students must have completed NEUR2600 or a close equivalent prior to taking this course. Students that do not have prerequisite courses (e.g., verified transfer credits) can be deregistered from the course 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 you will have to provide supporting documentation for prior courses not taken at the U of L. Regardless of specific background, all students are assumed to have a working knowledge of basic neurochemistry, neuroanatomy, physiological psychology, and the scientific approach to understanding behaviour.

**Required Texts:**

McKim, W.A. & Hancock, S.D. (2013). *Drugs and Behaviour: An introduction to behavioural pharmacology, 7e*. Pearson: Upper Saddle River NJ.

Northey, M., & Timney, B. (2012). *Making Sense in Psychology: A student's guide to research and writing*. Oxford University Press: Don Mills ON.

**Course Rules and Regulations:**

All students are expected to have read the textbook material in advance of the lecture. Though attendance at lectures is not mandatory, you are responsible for any material that is presented in class

(content, as well as any announcements) whether or not you choose to attend. Cell phones **MUST** be turned off during the lecture and texting is absolutely prohibited. Students are permitted laptops or tablets for the sole purpose of taking notes. Unless you are a student with special needs (see below), there is no reason to be doing anything with your device. Likewise, there is no reason for conducting a social chit-chat session during the lecture. These behaviours are rude, disrespectful, and disruptive to students and professors alike. In addition, everyone (including me) is a bit late every now and then (or needs to leave a bit early). Once class is session, however, you are not welcome to disrupt us with your late arrival or early departure. Should you have an ongoing situation that prevents you from arriving or leaving class on time, please contact me personally. Finally, do not abuse the class listserv by sending communications that are not relevant to this course.

**NB.** All students are expected to be familiar with Part 4 of the current University of Lethbridge Calendar that governs Academic Regulations, Policies, and Program Requirements. In particular, all students should be familiar with Sections 5 and 9 <http://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-calendar/2013-14>

### 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 an official letter from the Disabilities Resource Centre (<http://www.uleth.ca/ross/disabilities/index.html>).

### Course Information Online:

Moodle: All course information will be available from the Moodle LMS system. This information includes assignment guides, worksheet templates, and class-by-class updates on the preliminary schedule and reading list appended to the syllabus. Students will be able to track their standing in the course by accessing the Moodle grade book. The running updates, posted after the lecture will include a brief synopsis of the material covered during each class. Students should not assume that these summaries are adequate preparation for exams or for background knowledge with respect to assignments. **NB.** It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with Moodle and to check the site on a regular basis.

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 email 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 that relate to this course due to a full mailbox. Any requests for information pertaining to matters of a confidential nature (e.g., your particular standing in the course) 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 concerns course information that has been made available in class, has been posted on Moodle, is given within this syllabus, or you are disrespectful to me, do not expect a reply.

### Course Requirements:

Exams (3 x 15% = 45%). There will be three (3) exams, each accounting for 15% of your final grade. Exams will be based on both lectures and readings from the text and will consist of short-answer, definition, and multiple-choice questions. Exams are not cumulative and there is no scheduled final exam in this course.

Exam 1: Friday, October 11

Exam 2: Wednesday, Nov. 15

Exam 3: Friday, December 6

**Presentation (20%).** Students will be responsible for giving a short, conference-length presentation (10 minutes for presentation plus 3 minutes for question period). Students will present in groups of three (maximum time for the group is 15 minutes, with length of time strictly enforced by the instructor). The presentation is worth 20% of your final grade, with 10% accorded to the group and 10% accorded to each individual student's contribution. Though not a graded component of the course, every student is required to submit a hardcopy of the Scheduling Worksheet **NO LATER than in class on Friday, September 13**. The purpose of asking you to complete the worksheet is to ensure that groups consist of students that share topic interest and compatible schedules. Templates will be provided on Moodle in multiple fillable formats. Regardless of group membership or topic of discussion, all students are responsible for ensuring that the final presentation represents a cohesive group effort. Groups, topics and dates will be assigned in class on **September 16** (all students are expected to attend this class). No electronic submissions will be accepted for this assignment.

**Abstract Assignment (15%).** Each student is required to submit a written assignment consisting of a one-page, critical abstract of each of five (5) pieces of primary research published in a peer-reviewed journal. Each article selected should reflect your individual contribution to the presentation (i.e., the background research that you conducted). Each student must turn in their own original writing and group members must not use the same research articles. Following initial grading (according to the grading scheme given below), all students will be given an opportunity to revise their paper for a higher grade. An information sheet for this assignment will be made available on Moodle. **First submission of this assignment is due NO LATER than in class, on the day of your presentation.**

**Journal Assignment (20%).** Each student is required to submit a written assignment that consists of an essay explaining a single, piece of primary research in the context of the broader field. Students are encouraged to explore any topic in the broad area of behavioural pharmacology, but you must choose a different topic than that of your presentation. Following initial grading (according to the grading scheme given below), all students will be given an opportunity to revise their paper for a higher grade. An information sheet for this assignment will be made available on Moodle. **First submission of this assignment is due NO LATER than in class on November 8.**

**NB. Re-scheduling of Exams and Late Submissions:** With the exception of extreme extenuating circumstances (e.g., prolonged illness, accident or bereavement), all students must write the exams, turn in written assignments, and deliver presentations on the scheduled dates. Supporting documentation must be provided for any request to re-schedule an exam or presentation. If you fail to turn in your Journal or Abstract Assignment on or before the specified deadline, you will incur an automatic 25% penalty and you forfeit your right to turn in a revised submission. Assignments turned in more than 24 hours after the specified deadline will receive an automatic grade of 0%, and will be returned ungraded. Failure to deliver your part of the in-class presentation will result in a grade of 0%. Remaining members of the group will be graded as a group without your result. There will be no opportunity to make up for any assignment by re-weighting other course components or completing extra work.

Course work will be graded under the assumption that all students have read and understood the contents of Northey and Timney (2012); specifically here, Chapter 2 - Ethical Issues in Research and Writing. In particular, all assignments must be in your own words. Paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas, even if you reference those words, is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Any case of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with severely, including the imposition of the maximum penalties allowable (please consult Part 4, Section 5 of the U of L Calendar regarding Academic Offenses).

## Grading Scheme:

Letter grades will be assigned to assignments and final course percentages according to the following scale:

A+ (90+)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (56-59)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-55)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (< 50)