



COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/psyc.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Michael Pollock
(b)	Office Hours:	Mondays & Wednesdays 10:30-11:20am Tuesdays 9:00-9:20am, Thursdays 1:30-2:20pm Fridays 3:30-4:10pm
(c)	Location:	Fisher Bldg, Room 308B
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3111 (email is preferable)
(e)	Email:	pollockm@camosun.ca
(f)	Website:	D2L (https://online.camosun.ca)

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to describe, explain and evaluate:

1. The historical uses of psychoactive drugs worldwide and the history of drug laws from an international perspective.
2. Current Canadian, European and American drug laws.
3. The research base of the current debate on drug use, with a focus on the LeDane Commission, and current Senate and House illegal drug uses committee findings.
4. Various models of the cause of drug use and addiction with particular reference to the Reward System model of drug addiction.
5. The basic principles of pharmacology and neuropharmacology with regard to psychoactive substances.
6. The basic biochemical processes in the effects of psychoactive chemicals on the neuron and CNS systems.
7. The basic mechanisms of neuronal functioning that are affected by the introduction of psychoactive substances into the CNS.
8. Psychological effects of various drugs.
9. The basic principles of ethnopharmacology.
10. The mode of action, etiological models, side effects and patterns of use with regard to the major drugs used to treat mood disorders, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and selected other mental disorders.
11. The basic mechanisms of action, short and long term effects of alcohol, caffeine, marijuana, hallucinatory drugs, nicotine, and other selected drugs.
12. The basic methods of drug abuse treatment in use today.
13. The basic methods of drug education used in various parts of the world.

3. Required Materials

Text: McKim, W.A. & Hancock, S.D. (2013). Drugs and Behavior: An Introduction to Behavioral Pharmacology. (7th ed.). Toronto: Pearson.

A copy of this textbook is available on reserve in the library. Although all of the quizzes and exams will only test the material from this textbook that has been specified in the lecture notes, completing the entire assigned readings is recommended since the textbook provides additional context and organization of the concepts that will enhance your learning of the material.

4. Course Content and Schedule

This introductory course will review the major psychoactive (“mind-altering”) drugs, their effects, and their possible underlying mechanisms of action, as reported in the scientific literature. In particular, we will study a sort of alchemy of the mind – how drugs are able to turn lesser mental states into golden ones, and the limitations/side-effects of our current drugs. The first half of the course will examine the fundamentals of psychopharmacology: drug classifications and names, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, analysis of drug effects (both physiological and psychological), consequences of long-term drug use (tolerance/sensitization and harmful side-effects), and the causes/treatments of drug addiction. The remainder of the course will then apply these fundamentals to, as well as explore the history of, the major classes of psychoactive drugs: depressants (e.g., alcohol, anti-anxiety & sleeping pills), stimulants (e.g., cocaine, amphetamines, caffeine, nicotine), opioids (e.g., pain killers, heroin), antipsychotic and antidepressant medication, cannabinoids (i.e., marijuana), hallucinogens (e.g., LSD, magic mushrooms, peyote, ecstasy), and dissociative anesthetics (e.g., PCP, ketamine).

COURSE SCHEDULE				
Week	Readings	Due day before lecture	Lecture topic	Lab activity
Jan 4			What should this course be like?	Online quiz demonstration
Jan 11	Ch.1	Question assignment & online quiz on Drugs & Pharmacokinetics	What are drugs, how are they named/categorized, and how do they move through the body?	In-lab quiz on Drugs & Pharmacokinetics
Jan 18	Ch.4	Question assignment & online quiz on Pharmacodynamics	How do drugs affect the brain?	In-lab quiz on Pharmacodynamics
Jan 25		Question assignment on Midterm #1 Review	Midterm #1 review session	Exam: Midterm Exam #1
Feb 1	Ch.2&3	Question assignment & online quiz on Behavioral Analysis & Adaptation	How do drugs affect the body & mind, and how does this change over time?	In-lab quiz on Behavioral Analysis & Adaptation
Feb 8			<i>Reading Break – No classes</i>	
Feb 15	Ch.5	Question assignment & online quiz on Addiction & Treatments	What causes addiction and how can it be treated?	In-lab quiz on Addiction & Treatments
Feb 22		Question assignment on Midterm #2 Review	Midterm #2 review session	Exam: Midterm Exam #2
Mar 1	Ch.6&7	Question assignment & online quiz on Depressants	How do depressants help us decompress?	In-lab quiz on Depressants
Mar 8	Ch.8,9,&10	Question assignment & online quiz on Stimulants	How do stimulants help to stir us?	In-lab quiz on Stimulants
Mar 15	Ch.11	Question assignment & online quiz on Opioids	How do opioids create feelings of utopias?	In-lab quiz on Opioids
Mar 22	Ch.12&13	Question assignment & online quiz on Antipsychotics & Antidepressants	How do antipsychotics & antidepressants act as antidotes for mental illness?	In-lab quiz on Antipsychotics & Antidepressants
Mar 29	Ch.14&15	Question assignment & online quiz on Cannabinoids, Hallucinogens, & Dissociative Anesthetics	How do psychedelics make things seem angelic?	In-lab quiz on Cannabinoids, Hallucinogens, & Dissociative Anesthetics
Apr 5		Question assignment on Final Review	Final review session	
TBA				Exam: Final exam

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Your course grade will be based on a weighted average of the percentage points you achieve across the following course components:

Course component Weight

Question Assignments:	5%
In-class/lab Participation:	5%
Online Quizzes:	5%
In-lab Quizzes:	17%
Midterm Exam #1:	17%
Midterm Exam #2:	17%
Final Exam:	34%

In addition, there will be opportunities in class for bonus points.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.