Pharmacology 4370: Pharmacology of Drugs of Abuse  
Winter Term 2016

This course will cover the pharmacological and pathophysiological effects of non-medical drug use including mechanisms of action, tolerance and addiction, long-term effects, side effects and toxicity, treatment of addictions and overdoses. Pharmacokinetics will also be examined including routes of administration, activation, deactivation, elimination, and drug-drug interactions.

Lectures:
Tuesday/9:30/HSB 11

Requisites:
Prerequisite(s): Pharmacology 3620 or Physiology 3140
Corequisite(s)
Antirequisite(s)

Senate regulation regarding the student’s responsibility regarding requisites:
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Dr. Peter Chidiac, Course Manager  peter.chidiac@schulich.uwo.ca

OWL:

Students with OWL issues should contact the Computer Support Centre at 519 661-3800 or fill out the OWL webform: https://servlet.uwo.ca:8081/vistahelpdesk/controller.jsp.

3. Course Materials
Textbook: No Course Textbook

4. Evaluation: 

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>% of Final Mark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm test</td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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Absence from course commitments

A. Absence for medical illness:
Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:  https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm

Statement from the Dean’s Office
If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must provide valid medical or other supporting documentation to the Dean's office as soon as possible and contact your instructor immediately. It is the student's responsibility to make alternative arrangements with their instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed. In the event of a missed final exam, a "Recommendation of Special Examination" form must be obtained from the Dean's Office immediately. For further information please see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf

A student requiring academic accommodation due to illness, should use the Student Medical Certificate when visiting an off-campus medical facility or request a Record's Release Form (located in the Dean's Office) for visits to Student Health Services. The form can be found at: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness is also available on the BMSUE secure site: www.uwo.ca/bmsc

Instructors must state how they will be dealing with accommodation for medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, and whether or not medical documentation for such accommodation will be required. If documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s Office and not to the instructor. It will subsequently be the Dean’s Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

B. Absence for non-medical reasons:
For non-medical absences from midterm tests or late assignments, documentation is required; such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean’s Office and not to the coordinator/instructor. It will subsequently be the Dean’s Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

C. Special Examinations
A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write
a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds
with appropriate supporting documents.
A Special Examination must be written at the University or an Affiliated University
College no later than 30 days after the end of the examination period involved. To
accommodate unusual circumstances, a date later than this may be arranged at the time
permission is first given by the Dean of the Faculty. The Dean will consult with the
instructor and Department Chair and, if a later date is arranged, will communicate this to
Registrarial Services. If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination,
permission to write another Special Examination will be granted only with the permission
of the Dean in exceptional circumstances and with appropriate supporting documents. In
such a case, the date of this Special Examination normally will be the scheduled date for
the final exam the next time the course is offered.

5. Course Syllabus

- **Topics to be covered**
- **Part 1 - General considerations** (6 Lecture hours)
  - January 10, 17, 24
  - Topics to be covered: Concepts and definitions (categories of psychoactive drugs,
  addiction, tolerance, dependency, side effects, toxic effects, etc.); Drug targets;
  Pharmacokinetics and routes of drug administration; acute and long-term
tolerance; drug withdrawal; addiction.
- **Part 2 - Effects of psychoactive drugs** (8 lecture hours)
  - January 31, February 7, 14, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28.
  - Topic to be covered: Ethanol and CNS depressants; Opioid drugs; CNS
  stimulants; perception-altering drugs (hallucinogens, dissociatives, deliriants;
cannabis).
- **Student Presentations** (January 31-April 4)
  - These will focus on special topics or subclasses of psychoactive drugs. Topics
  will be assigned and presented in reverse-alphabetical order by surname. There
  will be three presentations per week (six on April 4). Each will be 15 minutes plus
  5 minutes for questions. In addition each student will hand in a referenced 2-3
  page study guide that includes 4-6 summary points, due within one week of the
  presentation (paragraph format, single-spaced, not including references); this will
  be made available to the class and may serve as the basis for exam questions.

Exam questions will be based on lecture notes, student presentations and assigned
reading.

Exam format: a mixture of short essay and short answer questions.

6. Additional Information/Statements
Statement on Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

If computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be given, and software might be used to check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating, the following statement must be included in the course outline:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Support Services:
Registrarial Services: http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm

Academic Counselling (Science and Basic Medical Sciences): http://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/index.html

Student Development Services: http://www.sds.uwo.ca

Student Health Services: http://www.shs.uwo.ca/