

Dept of Physiology and Pharmacology
Drugs of Abuse Pharmacology 4370B

Course outline for Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online	Tuesdays	9:30-11:30

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 13 - 21	April 12	April 13	April 14 - 30

*March 14, 2021: Last day to drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Peter Chidiac	E-mail: peter.chidiac@schulich.uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

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.

Prerequisite: Pharmacology 3620 or Physiology 3140

Part 1: Pharmacology of CNS drugs – general concepts

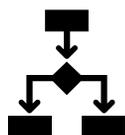
January 12 – 26

Topics to be covered: Concepts and definitions (categories of psychoactive drugs, addiction, tolerance, dependency, side effects, toxic effects, etc.); Pharmacodynamics and drug targets; Pharmacokinetics and routes of drug administration; acute and long-term tolerance; drug withdrawal; addiction; experimental methods to study tolerance and addiction.

Part 2: Effects of psychoactive drugs

January 22 – March 2

Topics to be covered: CNS depressants (ethanol, opioids, benzodiazepines, etc.); CNS stimulants; perception-altering drugs (hallucinogens, dissociatives, deliriants; cannabis).



Student Presentations

March 9 – April 6

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 6 presentations per week. Students will need to upload their video presentation by the preceding Friday for in-class Discussion/Q&A the following Tuesday. Questions may be asked in writing prior to class, via the Chat function during the class Zoom session, or orally during the Zoom session. Each recorded presentation should be 15 minutes. Further instructions will be given in class.

Participation mark: Attendance of weekly class sessions is expected. 20% of each student's final mark will be based on class participation, including *attendance*, *contributions to class discussions*, and *peer evaluations*.

Weekly lectures – videos and slides will be posted online on **Friday, and the class will meet via Zoom on **Tuesdays at 9:30**.**

Student presentations (to be assigned) will take place during the final 5 weeks of the course. These will need to be uploaded the preceding Friday for discussion in class time the following Tuesday.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Online	Tuesdays	9:30-11:30	weekly

Attendance at synchronous sessions is required

- A recording will be provided for synchronous sessions
- Student Presentations will be conducted asynchronously using a virtual format

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; up you're your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Course Content and Schedule



Week	Dates	Topic
1	Jan 11 – 17	<i>Introduction</i>
2	Jan 18 – 24	Psychoactive drugs – general concepts 1 <i>Class discussion and Q&A session</i>
3	Jan 25 – 31	Psychoactive drugs – general concepts 2 <i>Class discussion: What causes addiction?</i>
4	Feb 1 – 7	CNS depressants 1&2 <i>Class discussion: Ethanol and other CNS depressants</i>
5	Feb 8 – 14	Opioid drugs, Stimulants 1 <i>In-class exam Feb. 9th</i>
6	Feb 15 – 21	<i>Reading Week</i>
7	Feb 22 – 28	Stimulants 2, Perception-altering drugs 1 <i>Class discussion: Opioids and stimulants</i>
8	Mar 1 – 7	Perception-altering drugs 2, Cannabis <i>Class discussion: Cannabis and other perception-altering drugs</i>
9	Mar 8 – 14	<i>Student presentations 1-6</i>
10	Mar 15 – 21	<i>Student presentations 7-12</i>
11	Mar 22 – 28	<i>Student presentations 13-18</i>
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	<i>Student presentations 19-24</i>
13	Apr 5 – Apr 8	<i>Student presentations 25-30</i>

6. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible

7. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Midterm exam	Online exam, mixture of short answer and essays	30%	February 9 th /2021
Assignments		30%	Throughout
Participation		20%	Throughout
Final exam	Online exam, mixture of short answer and essays	20%	TBD (April 14 – 30)

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

- Presentations during the assigned week are due at 5:00 pm EST
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days



Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without a self-reported illness or documentation to academic counselling will be subject to a late penalty of 10%
- Late assessments with a self-reported absence should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the self-report

8. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every regularly
- Emails will be monitored daily; we will aim to respond within 48 hours
- This course will use zoom for discussions
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions

9. Office Hours:



- There are no official office hours for this course. Students are encouraged to contact lecturers directly to set up a (zoom) appointment.

10. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

11. Professionalism & Privacy:

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:



- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:



Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Start early working on midterm.
2. Ask questions in class and online.
3. Actively participate in class
4. Actively participate online (Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted.

13. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

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. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offenses

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

14. Academic Policies and Statements

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

15. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)