

**UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
HLSC 2850A – DRUGS OF ABUSE
Course Outline – Spring, 2018**

INSTRUCTOR

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CONTACT

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CLASS LOCATION

AH 175

TIME

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 – 13:30.

OFFICE HOURS

By appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Chrissy Stanko
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the use and effects of drugs of abuse. It covers the history of drug use, rates of drug consumption in North America, basic drug processes and bodily responses, an introduction to epigenetics, addiction across the life span, drug policies, a brief survey of various drugs of abuse; legal, illicit, and prescription medication. It briefly covers the treatment of addiction and drugs as therapeutics.

Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse Core Technical Competencies Met in this Course:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pharmacology• Mental Health• Understanding Substance Use, Abuse, and Dependency

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required text for this class. All assessed material will be available on Moodle.

Optional Texts:

- Advokat, C.D., Comaty, J.E., & Julien, R.M. (2014). *Julien's Primer of Drug Action: A Comprehensive Guide to the Actions, Uses, and Side Effects of Psychoactive Drugs*. (13th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.
- Hathaway, A. D. (2015). *Drugs & Society*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press

An **iClicker is required** for this course and must be brought to each lecture (alternatively, you can download the iClicker app: [click here](#) –and use your own smart device). Subscriptions are also available from the bookstore.

EVALUATION:

- Two tests, group presentation, iClicker questions, and the final exam.
 - Tests 1 and 2 will be conducted in class and will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The final exam location and date are yet to be determined. The exam will consist of multiple-choice and short- to medium-length answer questions.
 - Test #1 (20%). It will be 1 hour in length.
 - Test #2 (20%). It will be 1 hour in length and will only cover lectures, discussions, and assigned readings since Test 1.
 - Presentation (10%). Students will form pairs and present a review and critique of one of the articles from the supplementary reading list. Alternatively, pairs can choose another academic article to review. Pairs will contact Dr. Christensen before February 28th and inform him of their chosen article. Dr. Christensen will only accept two presentations on the same article. The first two groups on the same article will be accepted. Subsequent groups will be directed to the remaining articles or asked to select an alternative article. If you are unable to find a partner Dr. Christensen will connect two students to form a group. Articles must be at least 5-pages in length. Pairs are required to email the power-point presentation to Dr. Christensen before the first presentation class. Pairs will be randomly allocated to one presentation class. Presentations are expected to be at least 2 minutes with 1 minute for questions. A list of computer laboratories can be found here: [computer lab list](#). A list of computer laboratories in the library (including wheelchair accessible stations) can be found here: [library lab list](#).
 - The iClicker questions are worth 10% of your mark.
 - To receive iClicker credit for a given class a student must answer the iClicker question posed in that class using an iClicker (or iclicker app) registered under your name. Register an iClicker using Moodle (click for instructions [here](#)) or the iClicker app (click for instructions [here](#)). Each student will be allotted 2 absences from class without penalty from their iClicker mark. The iClicker marks will start to count towards your grade from the second class of week two (January 18, 2018).
 - The Final Exam (40%). The Final Exam will be administered during the final examination period. It will be 3 hours in length and will cover the entire course material.
- Missed tests/exams are excused only for important medical, family, or religious reasons. A note from the appropriate authority is required, and a makeup test/exam will normally be given.
- Students may choose to write an optional essay related to the course content to replace their test #1 and/or test #2 marks. Topics must first be approved by Dr. Christensen. Essays must be in APA format, at least 10 double-spaced pages, with 10+ references, in 12 point Times New Roman font. They must be submitted electronically by the last day of class. Late papers will not be accepted. If a student is replacing both tests separate essays are required. Please contact Dr. Christensen for more information.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

The grading system for this course is consistent with that established in the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective May, 2002.

Letter	GPA	Percent	Letter	GPA	Percent
A+	4.0	95 - 100%	C+	2.3	71 - 74.9%
A	4.0	91 - 94.9%	C	2.0	67 - 70.9%
A-	3.7	87 - 90.9%	C-	1.7	63 - 66.9%
B+	3.3	83 - 86.9%	D+	1.3	59 - 62.9%
B	3.0	79 - 82.9%	D	1.0	55 - 58.9%
B-	2.7	75 - 78.9%	F	0	0 - 54.9%

PLAGIARISM STATEMENT:

The University of Lethbridge subscribes to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service. Please be advised that student work submitted for credit in this course may be submitted to this system to verify its originality. Students must be able to submit both electronic and hard copy versions of their work upon request.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY:

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. If you have been diagnosed with a disability, there is no need to face the challenge of University without support. Please contact the Accommodated Learning Centre at 403-329-2766 to set up an appointment: <https://www.uleth.ca/ross/accommodated-learning-centre/>. After registering with the Accommodated Learning Centre, your instructor will be notified by a formal letter of any accommodations you require. In addition, students are responsible for requesting accommodations from the instructor at least ***two weeks*** in advance of the evaluation date. The instructor and student are jointly responsible for arranging the resources needed for the evaluation process.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:

All University of Lethbridge students, faculty and staff must comply with Canadian law and institutional license agreements pertaining to copyright. At the same time, keeping abreast of our copyright obligations and options is a complex task as copyright matters locally and globally are in flux and are likely to remain so for at least the near future.

The University's Copyright website (www.uleth.ca/copyright) is a source of current copyright information that includes:

- answers to common copyright questions (see the [FAQs](#)),
- guidance on whether you need permission or a license to copy a particular work (see the [Copyright Permissions Flow Chart](#)),
- guidance on assessing whether fair dealing may apply to specific instances of copying you wish to undertake (see the [Guidelines for Copying under Fair Dealing](#)), and
- a [permissions look-up tool](#) to help you determine the kinds of copying and other uses permitted by the Library's license agreements covering specific online journals and other online resources.

You are encouraged to contact the University Copyright Advisor (copyright@uleth.ca) for assistance with any copyright questions or issues.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Classes will consist of two classes each week of approximately 1½ hours. Most classes will be comprised of an interactive lecture including class discussions. Guest speakers will present on various topics. Course lectures, readings, and marks will be posted on Moodle.

Date	Topic
Jan 9	Introductions, Course Overview, and History of Drug Use
11	History of Drug Use Continued, Group Presentation Preparation
16	Drug Rates and Policy
18	Drugs and Society, Symbols, and Constructions
23	The Brain and Body
25	Neurotransmitters, Mock Test 1
30	Test 1
Feb 1	Guest Speaker: Cindy Gaetz
6	How Drugs Act
8	How we Adapt to Drugs
13	Drug Mechanisms I
15	Drug Mechanisms II, Mock Test 2
20	Reading Week – No Class
22	Reading Week – No Class
27	Test 2
Mar 1	Addiction Across the Lifespan
6	Genetics and Epigenetics
8	Drugs and Socio-Cultural Dimensions
13	Presentation Class
15	Presentation Class
20	Drugs as Tools
22	Drugs as Therapeutics
27	Novel Drug Use and Related Issues
29	Poly Drug Misuse and Emerging Addictions

Date	Topic
Apr 5	Course Revision, Mock Exam
TBA	Final Exam – Entire Course Material