Course Outline

PSYC1022

Psychology of Addiction

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T2, 2020

Last updated: 25/05/2020 12:55 PM

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor & lecturer	Dr. Helena Pacitti	h.pacitti@unsw.edu.au	Mon-Fri 9 am to 5 pm via Moodle discussion forum or email. Available for consultation online via Moodle Chat 4-5pm each Monday.	Forum/ Email

2. Course information

Units of credit: 6

Pre-requisite(s): None

Teaching times and locations: Online via Moodle (see: PSYC1022 Timetable).

2.1 Course summary

This course deals with transdisciplinary issues pertinent to the understanding and treatment of drug addiction. Topics include: historic origins of drugs; manufacture, global distribution and black market economics; epidemiology of population uptake; biomedical harms; neuropharmacological actions; effects on learning, motivation, cognition and behaviour; psychiatric comorbidity; individual differences in vulnerability; brain mechanisms of reward and impaired cognitive control; treatment by behavioural interventions and pharmacotherapy; prevention by education; prohibition by criminal justice; and the role of scientific evidence in government policy. The course will provide a broad understanding of drug use and the systems in place to counteract it.

2.2 Course aims

The overall aim of this course is to enable students to develop an introductory understanding of biological, psychological and social factors involved in drug addiction through the investigation of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends, with an emphasis on knowledge of research methods in this field.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major transdisciplinary concepts, theories, research findings, and trends in the field of drug addiction.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of and ability to evaluate psychological research methods used in the field of drug addiction and interpret numerical data in relation to theoretical issues.
3. Demonstrate and apply critical thinking skills in order to use empirical evidence from psychological science to understand physiological, behavioural, cognitive, and social factors involved in drug addiction.
4. Demonstrate effective written communication skills for the purpose of informing and arguing.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

CLO	Program Learning Outcomes						Assessment
	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	
1	Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities	Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities					Quizzes, essay, final exam
2	Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities	Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities					Quizzes, essay, final exam
3			Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities			Lectures, forums, quizzes, online activities	Quizzes, essay, final exam
4					Workshops, forums		Essay

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The lecture content of this course is presented entirely online via the Moodle eLearning website. The format of the lectures involve PowerPoint slides with accompanying audio. In addition, PDF slides of the lectures are made available. Students should both read through the lectures and write separate notes to maximise their understanding and retention of the material. The lectures will be made available at the start of each week and will be left online for the duration of the course. This will allow students to go through the lectures at their own pace. While it will not be monitored directly, all students must listen to the lectures in the week in which they are set. The content of this course is extensive and at times complex; students who do not stay up to date with course material each week will likely find it difficult to prepare for assessment tasks and exams due to the cumulative nature of the content.

The Discussion Forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the concepts and ideas mentioned in the lectures. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, or replying to other student's posts to enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

The Study Group Forum connects students in the course to encourage discussion of weekly content, revision, or topics of interest with each other. Regular engagement in the Study Group Forum will help students gain an understanding of the material, critique the contributions of fellow students, and help develop written communication skills. The group forum is designed to help you engage with and think more deeply about the lecture content, think critically about how the principles discussed in the lecture apply to cases in the real world, build effective written communication skills for conveying complex information and allow you to practice using evidence to support your arguments, ideas, and opinions. At the beginning of term you will be allocated to a small discussion forum group in Moodle. Each week a discussion question or statement will be posted by the Course Coordinator and you will discuss it with your group. The discussion question or statement will have direct relevance to the topic/s covered in that week. The following week, the Course Coordinator will post an example response paragraph that students can use as a guide for how to construct paragraphs and use evidence to support your ideas, opinions or claims. The Study Group Forum provides a formative assessment opportunity for students to develop effective academic writing skills in science which will help them with the essay. This is not a compulsory activity but regular participation is strongly encouraged.

Researching and Writing skills workshops will help students understand the important features of scientific writing and will show students how to conduct research by finding journal articles. These workshops are designed to help students develop effective researching and writing skills required for the essay.

Topic quizzes are available for students that provide an opportunity to evaluate understanding of course material on a weekly basis. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic so that this knowledge can be built on in future content.

3.2 Expectations of students

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date. All students must read the Course Outline, Course Information Slides,

and Instructions for Online Course Completion documents. Following this students are required to complete the Course Information Quiz to demonstrate their understanding of course administration information.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an 'on-campus' course.

Given that the course content and some assessable components (i.e. Topic Quizzes and Final Exam) are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content.

The Moodle discussion forum should be the first line of contact with the Course Coordinator (meeting requests, personal or Equitable Learning Support matters can be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific quiz questions/answers to be discussed online or via email, such matters can only be discussed during in person appointments with the Course Coordinator.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course coordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

4. Course schedule and structure

This typically consists of 2 hours of online lecture material and 1-2 hours of online activities. Each week students are expected to take an additional 5-7 hours of study to engage in self-determined study to complete assessments, readings, optional activities, and exam preparation/revision.

Week	Lecture topic/s	Online activities	Self-determined activities
Week 1 01/06/2020	Topic 1: Origins of Drugs (3 lectures) Topic 2: Manufacture, distribution, prevalence and black market (1 lecture) Topic 3: Population entry and exit from drug taking (2 lectures)	Topic 1 quiz Topic 2 quiz Topic 3 quiz Writing skills workshop Group study forum	Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Moodle chat
Week 2 08/06/2020	Topic 4: Harms of Drug Use (2 lectures) Topic 5: Associative Learning (2 lectures)	Topic 4 quiz Topic 5 quiz Researching skills workshop Group study forum	Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 3 15/06/2020	Topic 6: Neuropharmacology (3 lectures) Topic 7: Withdrawal & Tolerance (2 lectures)	Topic 6 quiz Topic 7 quiz Group study forum	Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 4 22/06/2020	Topic 8: Positive reinforcement, craving and economic choice (1 lecture) Topic 9: Biological mechanisms of reward (1 lecture)	Topic 8 quiz Topic 9 quiz Group study forum	Reading: Wise & Koob (2014) Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 5 29/06/2020	Topic 10: Cognitive Impairments and comorbidity (1 lecture) Topic 11: Brain mechanisms of impaired behavioural control (1 lecture)	Topic 10 quiz Topic 11 quiz Group study forum	Reading: Ahmed (2012) Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 6 06/07/2020	FLEXI WEEK	FLEXI WEEK	Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat

Week 7 13/07/2020	Topic 12: Individual differences in vulnerability (1 lecture)	Topic 12 quiz Group study forum	Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 8 20/07/2020	Topic 13: Behavioural Interventions (2 lectures)	Topic 13 quiz Group study forum	Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 9 27/07/2020	Topic 14: Pharmacotherapy (1 lecture)	Topic 14 quiz Group study forum	Essay Optional activities as indicated in Moodle Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Week 10 03/08/2020	Topic 15: Prevention and Prohibition (2 lectures)	Topic 15 quiz Group study forum	Exam prep/revision Moodle chat
Study period 08/08/2020			Exam prep/revision
Exam period 11/08/2020			Exam prep/revision

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Topic quizzes (15)	Varied	15%	Varied	11:59 pm Sunday of each week
Assessment 2: Essay	1200 words	50%	/100	11:59 pm Monday Wk 9 (27/7/2020)
Assessment 3: Final exam	70 MCQ	35%	/70	Exam period

Assessment 1: For each of the fifteen course topics there will be a short multiple choice quiz released on Moodle. Each topic quiz will be available at the beginning of the week that the topic is released. Each quiz includes a few questions – these provide immediate feedback so you can assess how well you've understood the lecture material. Once you have completed a topic quiz, you will be told which questions you got correct and incorrect. You can take each quiz as many times as you like within the week. Each quiz is worth 1% so if you complete each week's quiz within the week there is no reason why you cannot achieve the full 15% for this assessment. The quizzes will be open until 11.59pm Sunday of each week. The quiz questions provide an opportunity for students to see what multiple choice questions will be like in the final exam and encouragement to keep up to date with weekly course content.

Assessment 2: A written assignment in essay format will be required for submission in Week 9. Students are required to produce a researched written piece to be submitted online via Turnitin. The question and instructions for this assignment will be released in Week 3. The essay will be worth 50% of the total course mark. Brief researching and writing skills workshops will be made available on Moodle to provide further help to students on how to approach this essay. Regular participation with the Group Study Forum weekly topics will also help students develop effective communication skills for writing in science. Marks and feedback will be returned to students via Turnitin 10 working days from the due date and no submissions will be accepted after this date – any essay submitted after this will not be marked and will receive a grade of 0.

Assessment 3 Final exam: There will be a 1-hour examination held on campus [i.e. NOT on Moodle] during the University examination period (time and location TBA). The examination will include 70 multiple choice questions covering lecture and reading material from Weeks 1-10. No student should organise travel during this period until the final examination schedule has been released and the date of the exam is known. The final exam will be worth 35% of the total course mark. Further details regarding the exact time and location of the exam will be released on myUNSW as they become available.

UNSW grading system: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

UNSW assessment policy: https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Essay: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the essay must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: Psychology Student Guide).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Students should also note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so and are unable to subsequently apply for special consideration. If a student becomes ill on the day of the exam, they must provide evidence dated within 24 hours of the exam, with their application.

Special consideration applications must be submitted to the online portal along with Third Party supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration. Except in unusual circumstances, the duration of circumstances impacting academic work must be more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days within the teaching period. If the special consideration application is approved, students may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Topic quizzes	Immediate	Pacitti	Online	Moodle
Essay	Within 10 working days of due date	Markers	Online	Turnitin
Final exam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the

library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

APA 7th edition.

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits**:** honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.[1] At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

The *Current Students* site https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism**,** and

The *ELISE* training site http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Nil
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	• Two journal articles will be released on Moodle on Monday at 9 am on designated weeks. • School of Psychology Student Guide.
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Academic Integrity Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy UNSW Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy

[1] International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

8. Administrative matters

The School of Psychology Student Guide contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Equitable Learning Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: https://student.unsw.edu.au/
- Academic Skills and Support: https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing
- Equitable Learning Services: https://student.unsw.edu.au/els
- UNSW IT Service Centre: https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au/