

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

- COURSE NUMBER:** ADC 215
- COURSE TITLE:** Physiology of Substance Abuse
- PROFESSOR:** Assigned Faculty
- COURSE TEXT:** Inaba, Darryl S. & Cohen, William: Uppers, Downers, All Arounders: Physical and mental effects of psychoactive drugs
- OTHER READINGS:** In course documents and presentation links
- COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An examination of the physiological effects of psychoactive drugs. Drug effects on different parts of the body will be explored, including the brain. How psychoactive drugs are administered and the complications involved will also be investigated.
- COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In the process of this course learners will:
1. Identify the classes of psychoactive drugs
 2. Describe the mechanisms of drug absorption, metabolism, distribution, and elimination.
 3. Describe the medical complications of, and withdrawal symptoms associated with, each class of psychoactive drug.
 4. Describe the brain systems involved in drug use, abuse, and dependence.
- METHODOLOGY:** This on-line course will utilize lecture, asynchronous discussion of questions from the instructor, video, outside resources, personal investigation and an research paper. It is crucial that the student participate fully in completing readings, viewing presentations and initiating discussion threads as well as responding to others posts.
- REQUIREMENTS:** Planned absence requires prior negotiation. In accordance with University guidelines, no student may receive credit for the class with more than three absences.
- In supporting National's policy of writing across the curriculum, every assignment is designed to be a useful writing exercise. This means that every line that is turned in needs to be written as if it is being given to a job supervisor who expects full and literate sentences, written according to directions, and in a timely and professional manner. All papers will have 1" margins, no greater than 12 point type and will be double-spaced. References are required when writing papers and will conform with the APA format. The current reference for this format is the APA Style Guide, 6th Edition. There will be a point deduction for less than university level work.

GRADING: Grading will be in compliance with the National University grading system as outlined in your catalog. The plus and minus system will be utilized in compliance with the National University General Catalog. There are 100 points to be earned in the course.

Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points
A	95 to 100	C	73 to 75
A-	90 to 94	C-	70 to 72
B+	86 to 89	D+	66 to 69
B	83 to 85	D	63 to 65
B-	80 to 82	D-	60 to 62
C+	76 to 79	F	Below 60

ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments for this course and the due dates appear below. Assignments submitted after the due date will be reduced in point score. No assignments will be accepted after the last class.

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Quiz 1	Week One	5
Quiz 2	Week Two	5
Quiz 3	Week Three	5
Research Paper	Week Four	30
Final Exam	Week Four	45
Participation		10
	TOTAL	100

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Quiz 1, 2 & 3 These are time-limited, brief multiple choice quizzes. They will usually have about ten questions. They will cover the readings and lectures assigned for that week as described in the class schedule on the next page. They are due to be completed by midnight on Saturday in the first three weeks of class.

Research Paper This 6 page minimum research paper will pick one psychoactive drug examined in the course for a more in-depth analysis. The psychoactive drug chosen will need to be researched in the professional literature. The research needs to use peer-reviewed literature as described in the “document sharing” section. The information needs to be cited in the body of the paper, and the full reference will be provided in a separate section at the end titled “References”

The paper will look at all aspects of the chosen drug’s impact on the person. How it impacts emotions, brain functions, internal organs and perception should be included. The methods of intake and any associated risks with those methods of intake need to be covered. Any withdrawal symptoms and / or medical complications of withdrawal.

Additionally, describe three resources in your community that provide treatment for the subject drug, and the treatment model used. Please describe your understanding of the efficacy of the program.

The paper will be written using the APA (American Psychological Association) Format version 6. For a detailed description of this format, see the course documents.

This paper is due by the midnight of the last Wednesday of the class.

Participation

Students are expected to read assigned material and respectfully participate in class discussions and exercises.

The format of this class emphasizes student commentary and questions, as well as class exercises. The level and quality of your participation in discussion groups will determine your grade in this area. Please refer to course documents for more on the grading rubric.

Final Exam

This will cover all material in this course. The final must be taken by midnight of the last Saturday of the class.

This final can take four hours so budget your time accordingly. Your grade on the exam will be viewable on the end of the exam.

Class Schedule and Readings

Class Date	Material Covered	Readings
Week One	Course Overview Historical Context Environmental and genetic factors Methods of intake Alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Types of alcohol - Types of intake - Physiological effects - Withdrawal effects - Effects at differing BAL Quiz 1	Course text - Chapter 1, 2 & 5
Week Two	Tobacco Stimulants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphetamine, • Cocaine • Other stimulants Opioids Sedatives & Hypnotics Quiz 2	Course text – Chapter 3
Week 3	Depressants Inhalants Prescription Drugs Other drugs Quiz 3	Course text – Chapter 4 & 10
Week 4	Marijuana Hallucinogens Inhalants Final Exam Research Paper due	Course text – Chapter 6 & 7

The course Bibliography and links are located in course documents