PSYC 433
Behavioural Pharmacology and Teratology

0.2500 EFTS
19 Feb 2018 – 18 Nov 2018

Course Coordinator:
Professor Rob Hughes, room 206 (staff block)
Phone 364 2789 (direct); internal extension 6789.
Email: rob.hughes@canterbury.ac.nz

Classes:
Thursday, 1.00pm – 3.00pm, Sociology room 344 (please keep checking your timetable or course web page for any changes to day/time and for the venue)

Textbook:
Carlson, N.R. (2016). Physiology of Behavior (12th Ed). Pearson. (If you only have an earlier edition, this should probably suffice)

Content:
This course will comprise lectures and student-presented seminars on principles of and topics within behavioural pharmacology (effects of drugs and other chemical agents on behaviour) and behavioural teratology (effects of drugs and other chemical agents on brain/behaviour development). During the 1st term, there will be introductory lectures on some basic topics (such as the history of drug therapy, the evaluation of psychotropic drugs, the behavioural pharmacology of psychological disorders). From the 2nd term onwards, classes will comprise student-presented seminars and additional lectures on topics of current interest selected from: drugs used to treat psychological disorders; drug enhancement of memory; recreational drugs; effects of drugs and other chemicals on brain/behaviour development.

Learning Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course can expect to be able to:
1. critically evaluate literature describing effects of psychotropic drugs and other chemicals on behaviour;
2. appreciate the complexity of drug/brain/behaviour relationships;
3. be aware of how exposure of immature organisms to drugs and other chemicals can modify their brain/behavioural development;
4. evaluate experimental studies of drug effects on animal behaviour and human clinical trials, and interpret the significance of outcomes.

Student-presented seminars:
There will be two or three student presentations per class that comprise different aspects of a single seminar topic. The particular students involved will decide amongst themselves who will cover which particular aspects of a topic. Each student will be involved in TWO such presentations.

To allow sufficient time for class discussion, no individual presentation must take longer than 30 minutes. All presentations should be in the form of Power Point presentations. (Further details regarding these presentations will be provided later.)

For each individual student, assessments will be made of the quality (40%) and content (60%) of their presentations. Written feedback will also be provided.

Although background references will be available, in your presentation you are expected to also include some of the most recent literature as well as a critical appraisal of the research discussed.

NB: STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN, AND ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION.

Assessment:
1. A multi-choice test on the content of Chapters 2-4 of Carlson worth 15% of the final grade.

2. Two seminar presentations worth 25% of the final grade. The first seminar will be worth 10%, and the second will be worth 15%.

3. A 3000 words critical review of literature in an appropriate area that has been approved by the Coordinator, worth 30% of the final grade. The review must be provided in an electronic form so that it can be submitted to a plagiarism detection website.

NB: PLEASE NOTE THE SECTION ON DISHONEST PRACTICE LATER IN THIS COURSE OUTLINE.

[For a limited number of selected students wishing to gain laboratory experience in behavioural pharmacology or needing to fulfill the research requirement for the BA (Hons) degree, there may be the opportunity to complete an experimental research project, in lieu of the review. The project would involve hands-on experience with laboratory rats and would entail a written research report, worth 30% of the final grade. Anyone interested in doing such a project should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible.]
4. An end-of-year 2-hour examination (based on the content of seminars and lectures) worth 30% of the final grade.

**Due dates:**
The due date for the review (or research report) is no later than the 23rd of October. However, to avoid experiencing an excessive amount of assessment due at the end of the teaching year, you are strongly advised to try and submit your review/report before this date because extensions cannot be approved.

**General content of classes (details to be provided later):**
22 February to 26 April - lectures. NOTE: due to an unavoidable teaching clash with PSYC105, there will no class on 22 and 29 March.
(03 May – multi-choice test on Chapters 2-4 of Carlson.)
10 May onwards – student-presented seminars and some lectures.
General Department of Psychology Information

IT Services: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/its/
Learn (online learning): http://learn.canterbury.ac.nz/
UC Library Subject Guide: http://canterbury.libguides.com/psyc

Assessment Cover Sheets
Please attach cover sheets to the front of all your assignments. Hard copies can be found in the ground floor of the Psychology building where the assignment drop boxes are located, and electronic copies are available on LEARN.

Academic Liaison
If you have any concerns about a course, please contact the Course Coordinator in the first instance. The Department of Psychology has a Staff/Student Liaison Committee and each Semester students voluntarily represent courses from each level. Postgraduate students are represented for both Part 1 paper years and Part 2 thesis years for the whole year. A request for volunteers is sent early in the first semester.

Students with Disabilities
Please refer to the Disability Resource Service for information on study support services: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/disability/

Policy on Dishonest Practice
Plagiarism, collusion, copying and ghost writing are unacceptable and dishonest practices.

- Plagiarism is the presentation of any material (text, data, figures or drawings, on any medium including computer files) from any other source without clear and adequate acknowledgement of the source.
- Collusion is the presentation of work performed in conjunction with another person or persons, but submitted as if it has been completed only by the named author(s).
- Copying is the use of material (in any medium, including computer files) produced by another person(s) with or without their knowledge and approval.
- Ghost writing is the use of another person(s) (with or without payment) to prepare all or part of an item submitted for assessment.

In cases where dishonest practice is involved in tests or other work submitted for credit, the student will be referred to the University Proctor. The instructor may choose to not mark the work.

The Department reserves the right to require work to be submitted in electronic format so that it can be submitted to plagiarism detection websites.

Special Considerations
Special Consideration for assessments is for students who have covered the work of a course but have been prevented from demonstrating their knowledge or skills at the time of the assessment due to unforeseen circumstances. Students should consult the Special Considerations website for information, and contact them directly with any queries. http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/special-consideration/

Also on the Examinations webpage is information about Results and Appeals for final grades. The Department of Psychology policy of “substantial part of assessment” for all courses is set at 50% of all coursework. Unless a minimum of 50% of coursework is completed, final special consideration will not be given.
Marks and Grades
You will get a mark and/or a grade for each piece of assessment during the course and a final grade at the end of the course. For more information on the University regulations for credit see: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/regulations/general-regulations/general-conditions-for-credit-regulations/

Reconsideration of Grades
Students can appeal any decision made on their final grade, and should, in the first instance, speak to the course coordinator about their grade. Students can apply through Student Services to appeal for up to four weeks after the release of results: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/examinations/result-dates-and-appeals/.

For more information see General Course and Examination Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/publications/brochure-gallery/.

Complaints and Grievances
If a student encounters any problems regarding any aspect of the course, they should in the first instance approach the lecturer concerned. Failing that, they can approach the course coordinator. For more information, please see the Psychology Handbook.

Missed Tests
In rare cases a student will not be able to sit a test. In such cases, the student should consult with the course coordinator to discuss if alternative arrangements are available. **This must be done well in advance of the set date of the test.** The criteria used for approving a special sitting are the same as the UC policy used for end-of-semester examinations, which are outlined below:

- Clash with another test from other UC courses
- Religious (Conflicting religious day or event)
- Bereavement (family member or close friend)
- Study (overseas study, must be a tertiary institute)
- Sporting or cultural event (Representing NZ, Canterbury or the University of Canterbury)
- Wedding (immediate family member or part of a bridal party)
- Business (travel)

With the exception of the above criteria, tests will only be given at the regularly scheduled time and place. Missed tests will result in a score of 0% for that test.

Emergency Assembly Area
Please gather in the Psychology car park on the grassed area away from the cars and buildings.

Health & Safety Information
See the Department of Psychology webpage: