

Mary Baldwin University
Psychology 307- Drugs and Behavior
Fall 2020 Online Course

Instructor: Marcus Forbes
Phone – (804) 339-1311

E-mail – mrforbes@marybaldwin.edu

Address: Mary Baldwin College
Richmond Regional Center
Forest Office Park
1504 Santa Rosa Rd. 202
Richmond, VA 23229

Text: Levinthal, *Drugs, Behavior and Modern Society* 8th edition, 2013, Pearson
ISBN: 0205959334

Course objectives: This course will teach the major principles of drug action on the nervous system and its relationship to human behavior. By the end of the course, you should understand the functional mechanisms of many common psychoactive drugs, including both those used for medicinal purposes and those used recreationally. We will also examine the psychophysiological aspects of drug abuse, tolerance, withdrawal and addiction. Finally, you should develop the analytical skills needed to read and interpret primary scientific literature and to think critically about research in the area of drugs and behavior.

Course Requirements:

- 1.) Every week students will be required to respond to a **Discussion Board Question (DBQ)** relating to that week's material. You will make your initial post by Friday of each week and post a response to a classmate post by the end of the day Sunday. These assignments will be worth 20% of your grade.
- 2.) **Quizzes.** Most weeks there will be a short on-line quiz covering the assigned chapters for that particular week. You must take the quiz by the end of the day Sunday. Quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade.
- 3.) **Movie Review** – Students will be required to view and critique a movie with an addiction's theme. The intent is to examine and comment on whether or not the issues and practices in the movie are presented correctly or incorrectly--according to the material from our course. The paper will be between 2 and 4 doubled spaced pages (Worth 10% of your final grade)
- 4.) **Exams** – There will be a midterm and final exam. Exams may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The midterm exam will be worth 25% of your final grade and the final will be worth 25% of your grade.

Course Schedule:

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Reading Assignment</u> | <u>Assignments Due</u> |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Week 1 8/24-8/30 | Drugs & Behavior Today Chapter 1 | DBQ- Discussion Board Question |
| Week 2 8/31-9/6 | Drug-Taking Behavior Chapter 2 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 3 9/7-9/13 | How Drug Work Chapter 3 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 4 9/14-9/20 | The Major Stimulants Chapter 4 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 5 9/21-9/27 | Narcotics Chapter 5 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 6 9/28-10/4 | LSD and Other Hallucinogens Chapter 6 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 7 10/5-10/11 | Marijuana Chapter 7 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 8 10/12-10/18 | Alcohol: Social Beverage/Social Drug Chapter 8 | DBQ Midterm Exam Chapters 1-8 |
| Week 9 10/19-10/25 | Chronic Alcohol Abuse & Addiction Chapter 9 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 10 10/26-11/1 | Nicotine & Caffeine Chapter 10 & 11 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 11 11/2-11/8 | Performance Enhancing Drugs Chapter 12 | Movie Review Due |
| Week 12 11/9-11/15 | Depressants and Inhalants Chapter 13 | DBQ Quiz |
| Week 13 11/16-11/22 | Prescription Drugs & Drugs for Schizophrenia and Mood Disorders Chapter 14 and 15 | DBQ |

Thanksgiving Break is 11/23 – 11/29 – No Assignments

Week 14 Substance abuse prevention & treatment Final Exam
11/30 – 12/4 Chapters 16 and 17

Honor Code:

Students are expected to abide by the Mary Baldwin College honor code and conduct themselves accordingly. Any form of plagiarism, cheating, or dishonesty will be reported to the Dean.

Late Policy:

Without prior notification and a valid excuse, late assignments will be marked down half a letter grade for every week they are late. Keeping your instructor informed is critically important!

Extension Policy:

At the student's request, extensions may be granted to those who have not completed all the course work by the MBC declared deadline for the given semester. However, students must have completed at least half of the required work in a good faith effort and/or have extenuating circumstances in order to be approved for an ET.

E-mail Activation:

All MBC students are required to activate their MBC issued e-mail accounts. These accounts will be the primary source for communication from the instructor and are thus crucial for your success in this course.

Source Documentation and Group Work:

When students reference an outside source in their written work they will be required to state the author's name(s) and the year of publication. Reference pages are only required with the Research Paper.

With the exception of exams students are permitted to help one another on their written assignments. Each student must complete her or his assignment individually (e.g. you can't collaborate on a paper) but peer support and review is often helpful and strongly encouraged.