SAMPLE SYLLABUS 2: Undergraduate Psychology Course

Drugs, Behavior, & Society

# Course Description

This course provides an overview of drug use historically and in contemporary society from community and bio-psychosocial perspectives. It provides an in-depth study of various psychoactive drugs of abuse, including physiological, psychosocial, health, legal and political aspects of drugs. This course explores drug-taking risk behaviors and issues related to dependence among high risk populations. Strategies for drug abuse prevention/education and intervention approaches are also examined in this course.

Prerequisites: PSYC 110

**Course Learning Outcomes**

In order to communicate the goals of this course, this course utilizes common language developed by the University’s Department of Psychology, the University’s Assessment Protocol and American Psychological Association (APA). The hope is that the students, faculty, administration, and other interested parties know the purpose of the course and how it serves the mission of the University and the Department of Psychology and how the course aligns with appropriate outcomes identified by APA and the Assessment Protocol.

Essential Goals:

Assessment 1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)

Assessment 2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

Important Goals:

Assessment 8. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

Assessment 11. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

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| **Course Goals and Objectives**  **Students will…** | **Dept. of Psychology Goals** | **APA Goals** | **IDEAS** | **Student Outcome Measurements (Assignments)** |
| Describe and explain the various theories about why people in the U.S. use drugs. | **SLO 1** DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE: Students demonstrate a working knowledge of psychology's content domains, key theories, concepts, principles, themes, and applications of psychology in society | Goal 1: Knowledge Base In Psychology | 1, 2, 3 | Attendance and Participation  Exam 1 |
| Analyze and evaluate the history of drug regulation with attention to the differential impact of race/class/gender and associated drug reduction approaches. | **SLO 2** CRTICIAL THINKING, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Students demonstrate effective expression of critical thought and scientific inquiry in their engagement with (a) psychology literature, (b) conduct of psychological research, and (c) written, (d) oral, and interpersonal communication | Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking | 8, 9, 11, 12 | Final Exam:  Essay #1 |
| Demonstrate the ability to recognize and differentiate various community psychology intervention practices aimed to ethically address complex social issues. | **SLO 1** DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE: Students demonstrate a working knowledge of psychology's content domains, key theories, concepts, principles, themes, and applications of psychology in society | Goal 1: Knowledge Base In Psychology | 1, 2, 3 | Final Exam: Multiple Choice & Essay #2 |
| Demonstrate the ability to recognize and differentiate between the influence/effects of various drugs of abuse on behavior, neurological functions, and physiological functions. | **SLO 1** DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE: Students demonstrate a working knowledge of psychology's content domains, key theories, concepts, principles, themes, and applications of psychology in society | Goal 1: Knowledge Base In Psychology | 1, 2, 3 | Exam #1  S-BIRT Training |
| Critically appraise news and media accounts of drugs and drug use in secular society as well as in light of Christian world-view. | **SLO 5** FAITH INTEGRATION: Students demonstrate skill in the integration of Christian faith and theology with the science of psychology as it relates to the nature and content of: humanity (F1), knowledge (F2), values and ethics (F3), and vocational and spiritual formation (F4). | Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World | 2, 3, 4  FI 1,3 | Film Review  Faith Integration Paper  Final Exam:  Essay #3 |
| Conduct academic literature research and produce findings in APA written format. | **SLO 2** CRTICIAL THINKING, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Students demonstrate effective expression of critical thought and scientific inquiry in their engagement with (a) psychology literature, (b) conduct of psychological research, and (c) written, (d) oral, and interpersonal communication | Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking Goal 4: Communication | 8, 9, 11, 12 | Journal Article Reviews 1-4  Group Presentation |

**Course Schedule**

**Date Topic Reading**

8/31 Introduction and Overview of Syllabus Syllabus

9/5 No Class: Labor Day

9/7\* SBIRT Module 1: Understanding Substance Use Issues Lyman p. 1-34; Samet (2007)

9/12\* SBIRT Module 2: Assessment/Impact of Substance Use Lyman Ch. 3 **[SBIRT Training]**

9/14 History of Drug and Alcohol Use and Misuse Lyman Ch. 2: 37-44

9/19 History of Drug and Alcohol Use and Misuse Lyman Ch. 2: 44-61

9/21 Neurobiology of Substance Use Lyman p. 63-70; Crevecouer (2009)

9/26 Neurobiology of Substance Use **JAR 1:** Degenhardt (2012)

9/28\* Perspectives: Why People Use Drugs McClellan (2000); Hser (2007)

10/3\* Perspectives: Developmental Framework Winters (2011); Gonzales (2012)

10/5 **Exam 1**

10/10 Legal Issues: Drugs, Crime, and Gangs Lyman Ch. 6

10/12\* Legal Issues: Policy Approaches for Substance Use Lyman Ch. 10, Ch. 13

10/17\* Legal Issues: Policy Approaches for Substance Use **JAR 2:** Padwa (2012); Anglin 2013

10/19 Drug Control Initiatives: Legalization of Marijuana Lyman Ch. 12; Wilkinson (2016); Hopfer (2014); Banys (2016)

10/24 **Student Presentations**: Major Drug Issues

10/26 **Student Presentations**: Marijuana

10/31\* Drug Control Initiatives: Prevention Lyman p 448-456; Gonzales (2004)

11/2\* SBIRT Module 3 **JAR 3:** Denering (2012)

11/7 Special Topic: Faith and Addiction Mercadante (2015)

11/9\* SBIRT Module 4 **[Film Review]** Humphreys (2010)

11/14\* SBIRT Module 5 Lyman Ch. 14 p. 429-448

11/16\* SBIRT Module 6: Ethical Considerations Lai (2015)

11/21 SUD Treatments **[Faith Integration Paper Outline]** Glasner-Edwards (2010)

11/23 No Class: Thanksgiving Break

11/28\* Systems Perspectives Rowe (2012)

11/30 Special Topic: Methadone **JAR 4:** Kulesza (2013)

12/5\* Co-Occurring Disorders **[Faith Integration Paper]** Lai (2015)

12/7 Special Topic: Trauma and Addiction Ouimette Ch. 1 & 3

TBD **Final Examination**

**Assignments**

1. **Attendance and Participation.** Attendance will be recorded at every class. This grade may be adjusted based on the student’s participation in classroom discussions. See Policies above for more information on this policy.
2. **Completion of S-BIRT Training.** Students who complete the S-BIRT training during the course, providing feedback and completing any associated assignments/quizzes, will receive full credit for this course component.
3. **Journal Article Review 1-4.** These four 1.5-2 page papers will involve a brief review and critical analysis of selected journal articles from the course.
4. **Film Review.** This 3-4 page paper will review a selected film that exemplifies a controversial issue in drug policy. Students will provide a review of the film and a critical analysis of the drug policy issue addressed. Further instructions will be provided at a later date.
5. **Faith Integration Outline.** This 1-1.5 page outline will provide a detailed outline of the faith integration paper and should list at least 3 references.
6. **Faith Integration Paper.** This 4.5-6.5 page paper will investigate a major issue within the substance abuse field from a Christian worldview using at least 5 sources.
7. **Group Presentation.** Students will work as a group to provide a 30 minute presentation on a relevant topic for the drug treatment and enforcement community based upon a literature review of academic, peer-reviewed sources.
8. **Mid-Term Exam.** The mid-term exam will consist of a multiple choice section worth 50 points and an essay response worth 10 points.
9. **Final Exam.** The final exam will consist of a cumulative multiple choice section and 3 cumulative essay response questions. The instructor will provide 5 possible essay exam questions and 3 of these will be on the final exam. Please bring both a scantron and blue book. The date of the final exam is determined by the APU finals exam schedule.

All assignments should be completed using APA style citations, formatting, and references.

**Determination of Grades**

**Assignment Points Percent Clock Hours**

#### Attendance and Participation 50 10% 45

#### Completion of S-BIRT Training 50 10% 4

#### Journal Article Reviews 60 (total) 12% (total) 12

#### Film Review 40 8% 8

Faith Integration Paper Outline 10 2% 2

Faith Integration Paper 60 12% 12

#### Group Presentation 90 18% 20

#### Mid-Term Exam 50 10% 15

Final Exam 90 18% 20

#### *Total 500 100% 139*