

COURSE: PSY 4310:W01 DRUGS AND BEHAVIOR SPRING 2015

Professor: Dr. Andrea Lynn Powers

Required text: Drug Use and Abuse (6th Edition), by Maisto, Galizio, and Connors. ISBN: 978-0-495-81441-2

Course description and objectives: The use of various agents to alter consciousness is a world-wide phenomenon. Since legal and illegal drugs are used on a daily basis by many, it becomes essential to objectively examine the physiological, personal, and social effects of such use. To accomplish this goal, you will read about the history of drug use, read scientific research that explains how drugs affect the brain and body, how lives are changed through the use of psychoactive chemicals, the prevention of substance abuse, and possible treatments. You will also summarize published articles about any of the many aspects of drug use.

Readings and exams: You will be reading and learning information from about one chapter every week. Exams will be given every other Wednesday. How you perform on exams will be totally dependent on how much time you devote to memorizing the information in the text. Exam dates will be as follows: 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24, and 5/8. Exams will be available from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M. and you will have no longer than 50 minutes to complete each one. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice items, and be worth a possible 100 points.

Research summaries: For this assignment, you should summarize a research article on some aspect of drug use from the web site, Science Daily, then include information from your text that relates to your topic. The summary should be 3 pages, double-spaced, size 12 font, and must be written in YOUR words, not the author's. If I catch you using the exact words of the author(s), you will receive a zero. Approximately 3/4 of your summary should be information from your article and 1/4 should be from your text. Due dates for these summaries will be as follows: 2/13, 3/13, & 4/17. You may submit them between 7:00 A.M. on the day before they are due until 11:00 P.M. on the due date.

Note that you will be required to do 3 3-page summaries instead of a final paper. You will not be able to make them up if you do not submit them when due. Each summary is worth a possible 25 points, and should be submitted through Blackboard, along with a direct link to your article. Assignments submitted incorrectly or sent to my e-mail address will not be graded. See instructions for submissions under Library Resources. Follow the exact instructions and you will have no problems. See librarian Jacob Galindo if you need some help.

Grades: For every exam and summary, you will receive points and will not have a letter grade until the end of the semester. The total points available are as follows:

Exams 700

Summaries 75

Total 775

To receive an A, you must have at least 659 points (85% of the total points available). For a B, you must have at least 581 points (75% of the total points available). For a C, you must have at least 504 points (65%), and for a D, you must have at least 426 points (55% of the total points available).

DOING WELL IN THIS COURSE: If you are not very motivated, disciplined, and planning to work hard to do well, this course is not for you. You must spend many hours reading and memorizing the information in your text to score high on exams, and must plan ahead to be sure you are submitting the research summaries correctly and on time.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS FOR THIS COURSE: Joe Renieri is available to help you if you have any problems using Blackboard (accessing exams or submitting assignments). Do not hesitate to call him at 432 837-8489 or e-mail him at rrenieri@sulross.edu.

Librarian Jacob Galindo is available if you have problems submitting summaries. You can see him at the library (Office 109), or call him at 837-8414.

Pertaining to students with disabilities: Sul Ross University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. Telephone: 432 837-8203.

Distance Education: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. Procedures for filing a complaint are included in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course.