

PSYC62H3 S

Drugs and the Brain

Winter 2025 Syllabus

Course Meetings

PSYC62H3 S

Section	Day & Time	Delivery Mode & Location
LEC01	Tuesday, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	In Person: IA B1050

Refer to ACORN for the most up-to-date information about the location of the course meetings.

Course Contacts

Course Website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/373398>

Professor: Dr. Mark Morrissey

Email: mark.morrissey@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: One-on-one appointments - Fridays 12-1pm Must be reserved 24 hours in advance through: <https://calendly.com/morrissey-utsc>

Additional Notes: All questions regarding the course, lectures, readings, exams, etc. must be sent to the course email address: PSYC62.w2025@gmail.com

Course Overview

An examination of behavioural and neurobiological mechanisms underlying the phenomenon of drug dependence. Topics will include principles of behavioural pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, neurobiological mechanisms of drug action, and psychotropic drug classification. In addition, concepts of physical and psychological dependence, tolerance, sensitization, and reinforcement and aversion will also be covered.

: The objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive overview of neuropsychopharmacology. This interdisciplinary science examines the neurobiological and behavioural mechanisms that underlie psychoactive drug use, abuse, and dependence. We will cover the principles of pharmacology (pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacogenetics), neurobiological mechanisms of drug action; and behavioural psychopharmacology. Several lectures will focus on specific drugs with an emphasis on their mechanisms of action, what they tell us about the brain, and clinical relevance.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe and understand the fundamental aspects of pharmacology.
2. Review the basics of neuroanatomy and neural transmission.

3. Describe the Psychology and Physiology of drug seeking behaviour and drug addiction.
4. Cover the main categories of drugs, their individual pharmacology and their influence on our Neuropsychology.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how the study of drug action advances our understanding of brain function.
6. Demonstrate a good understanding of how drugs produce behavioural effects through their physiological effects in the central nervous system.

Prerequisites: [PSYB64H3 or PSYB55H3 or NROB60H3] and [PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3] and PSYB70H3

Corequisites: None

Exclusions: PSY396H, PCL475Y, PCL200H1

Recommended Preparation: None

Credit Value: 0.5

Couse Materials

Prus, A. (2021). *Drugs and the Neuroscience of Behavior: An Introduction to Psychopharmacology* (3rd ed.). Cengage Learning.

Marking Scheme

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
Mid-term test	30%	The mid-term exam will take place during class-time and cover all required readings and lecture material covered before reading break (Weeks 1-6). The exam will not exceed two hours and is closed-book.	2025-02-25
Drug Paper	20%	You will be required to choose a drug to focus on for a brief (4-5 page) research report. Details will posted on Quercus. Late submissions will be assessed late penalties according to the following schedule. 2.5% per day for the first two days. 5% per day for each following day. Papers will be submitted online through the Quercus Assignments page and will be passed through plagiarism detection	2025-03-25

Assessment	Percent	Details	Due Date
mTuner Quizzes	10%	Three quizzes will be taken online with mTuner. mTuner allows for enhanced online multiple-choice tests specifically designed to help promote students' learning and understanding of the course material. The quizzes are designed to help students keep up with the course material and be prepared for the mid-term and the final exam. No extensions will be granted for completing the quizzes. All quizzes are closed-book. Your average across the 3 quizzes will determine your grade for this section.	2025-02-13,2025-04-03,2025-03-20
Discussion Assignment	5%	Each week the TA will post 1 question to the Discussion board that relates to the previous weeks content. All students are required to respond to 3 of these questions by the end of the term in the Quercus Discussion section. The sum of your three responses will be assigned a grade of 0-7.5 depending on the thought and effort put into each response. All answers will be due August 5. Any answers submitted after this date will not be graded.	2025-04-04
Final Exam	35%	The final exam will have strong emphasize on material covered after the mid-term. The exam will not exceed two hours, and be closed-book. The final exam will be scheduled during the University examination period.	Final Exam Period

Late Assessment Submissions Policy

Late Paper submissions will be assessed late penalties according to the following schedule.
2.5% per day for the first two days. 5% per day for each following day.

There is no make-ups for mTuner quizzes, missed quizzes with proper MTW documentation will be accommodated by shifting the weight to another quiz or assignment.

Policies & Statements

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Academic Integrity

The University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences.

Potential offences in papers and assignments include using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement, submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor, making up sources or facts, obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams, cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

The University of Toronto is a richly diverse community and as such is committed to providing an environment free of any form of harassment, misconduct, or discrimination. In this course, I seek to foster a civil, respectful, and open-minded climate in which we can all work together to develop a better understanding of key questions and debates through meaningful dialogue. As such, I expect all involved with this course to refrain from actions or behaviours that intimidate, humiliate, or demean persons or groups or that undermine their security or self-esteem based

on traits related to race, religion, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status, disability, receipt of public assistance or record of offences.

University Land Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm IA5105, Sam Ibrahim Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability.utsc@utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit.

Students may not use artificial intelligence tools for taking tests, writing research papers, creating computer code, or completing major course assignments. However, these tools may be useful when gathering information from across sources and assimilating it for understanding.

The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course.

Recording of Classroom Material by Students

Recording or photographing any aspect of a university course - lecture, tutorial, seminar, lab, studio, practice session, field trip etc. – without prior approval of all involved and with written approval from the instructor is not permitted.

Video Recording and Sharing (Download Permissible; Re-use Prohibited)

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources

depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

MISSED TERM WORK POLICY

For missed term work (assignments and term tests) due to illness, emergency, or other mitigating circumstances, please follow the procedure outlined below.

Procedure:

1. Complete the [Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations Form](#) ("MTW Form").
1. Email **BOTH** your MTW Form and Supporting Documentation to PSYC62.w2025@gmail.com according to the instructions specified below.

Supporting Documentation Requirements and Deadlines:

Reason for Missed Work	Documentation required for a <i>first absence</i> in the term	Documentation required for <i>subsequent absences</i> in the term	Deadline for submitting MTW form and supporting documentation
Illness or Injury	ACORN Absence Declaration	UofT Verification of Illness Form	WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS of the missed work
Bereavement	ACORN Absence Declaration	A death certificate or funeral announcement	WITHIN 2 BUSINESS DAYS of the missed work
University-sponsored athletic or artistic obligation at the varsity/provincial/national level	ACORN Absence Declaration	A note from a university staff member (advisor, coach, residence staff, etc.) who can substantiate the obligation, sent directly to the course email	10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE of the missed deadline
Disability-related	For missed <i>TERM TESTS</i> ,		PREFERABLY IN

reasons for students registered with AccessAbility Services

- **Contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed.

ADVANCE OF THE MISSED WORK, OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

For missed *ASSIGNMENTS*,

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days), send your **Accommodation Letter** to the course email and specify how many days extension you are requesting.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (e.g. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that), **contact your AccessAbility consultant** and have them write to the course email detailing the accommodations needed.

Academic Conflict

(e.g. two midterms at the same time)

Screenshot from Quercus demonstrating the conflict.

10 BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE of the missed work

Religious Conflict

None required

Notes:

- The following reasons are not considered sufficient for missed term work: social activities, recreational travel, technological issues, avoidance of assessments or deadlines, work commitments
- [Missed Final Exams](#) are handled by the Registrar’s Office and should be declared on eService.
- For ACORN absence declarations, the date you declare the absence is required to fall within the seven-day declaration period (i.e.) the absence cannot be submitted proactively or retroactively.
- Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, accommodations are only possible via the Registrar’s Office [petition process](#).

- If you are unable to submit your request within the specified number of business days, you must still email your instructor within that window to explain the nature of the delay. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only under exceptional circumstances.
- Multiple assignments due on the same day are not considered academic conflicts. Students are expected to manage their time effectively to meet assignment deadlines.
- Back-to-back tests/quizzes are not considered academic conflicts. Only overlapping activities are conflicts.
- Students are responsible for keeping their course timetables conflict-free. Students who register in two courses with overlapping lecture/tutorial/lab schedules will not be accommodated.

Next Steps:

After submitting your documentation, you will receive a response from your instructor or TA. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request. **You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily**, as accommodations may be time-critical.

For missed assignments, **do not wait for the instructor's response to resume work on your assignment**. Extensions may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency. Complete your assignment as soon as you're able, and email it to your instructor.

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting its requirements, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations. **Please make it clear in your subject line that you are requesting a second accommodation**. Examples: If you were granted an extension for a paper but are still unable to meet the new deadline, or if you miss a make-up term test, you must submit *another* MTW form and supply documentation according to the "subsequent absences" column in the chart above. *Note: In the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not necessarily be provided.