

N121/N233: Drug Addiction
Web-Based Course, Spring 2020

Course Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am – 10:50am PDT

Location: Zoom and Canvas (Zoom link to be sent via Email/Canvas)

<https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/24288>



Instructor Contact Information

<i>Instructor</i>	Office	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Dr. Christie Fowler</i> (Course organizer)	1232 McGaugh Hall	cdfowler@uci.edu	824-8363
<i>Dr. Stephen Mahler</i> (Course co-organizer)	1203 McGaugh Hall	mahlers@uci.edu	824-6128
<i>Dr. Marcelo Wood</i>	2205 McGaugh Hall	mwood@uci.edu	824-2259
<i>Dr. Shahrdad Lotfipour</i>	310A Med Surge II	shahrdad@uci.edu	824-8529
<i>Dr. Sean Ostlund</i>	3111 Gillespie	sostlund@uci.edu	824-1347
<i>Angeline Dukes</i> (Teaching Assistant)		aeugene@uci.edu	

Purpose:

The objective of this upper level undergraduate (N121) and graduate (N233) course is to provide a comprehensive overview of topics and controversies in the addiction field. Main topics will include drug pharmacology, models/approaches to investigate addiction, brain circuits, genetics, epigenetics, and the cellular and molecular biology of drug addiction.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should have a basic understanding of:

1. Principles of drug pharmacology
2. Strengths and limitations of the current models/approaches to investigate processes mediating addiction
3. Basic understanding of brain circuits underlying different aspects of addiction processes
4. Mechanisms of action for the most common drugs of abuse
5. Contribution of genetics and epigenetics in vulnerability to addiction and addiction-related processing
6. Current controversies in the addiction field

Zoom Logistics:

You will be required to log in during the scheduled class time. If you are unable to do so, please contact Dr. Fowler prior to the class session.

- Please plan on logging in 5-10 min prior to the start of class.
- Your microphone will be muted when joining the class. Please only unmute when speaking.
- Beginning exactly at 9:30 am each day, attendance will be taken. For the first class, names will be called in alphabetical order (A to Z), so you will need to be prompt. To assist in the process, please ensure your full name is entered into the Zoom profile so that it will be displayed when you speak.
- Session WILL be recorded. Thus, with your participation in class, you consent to having this recording occur for each class session.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance and active class participation are expected and will account for 25% of the course grade. Active class participation includes reading any assigned material prior to the class meeting, completing reading assignments, and intellectually contributing to discussions via Zoom meetings and online chats with Canvas. Further, you will be called on to answer questions during class, so please ensure that you pay attention during Zoom online discussions – if you don't respond in a timely manner, you will not receive these participation points. When called on during class, be sure to first unmute your microphone promptly prior to talking.

Class Project/Presentation:

You and a classmate (groups of 2) will be required to create handout material and an 'elevator pitch' (e.g., <5 min) to inform a lay audience about the dangers of drug abuse based on scientific evidence. You will present to the class via Zoom, and your presentations will be recorded videos. Creativity is encouraged!! Your classmates will evaluate your handout and presentation. This will be worth 25% of your final grade. Further instructions will be provided in a separate handout.

Exams:

Two sectional exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in, matching and/or short answer questions. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade and will be open book/open note. The exam time will be restricted to the class period time of 80 min.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined by total points earned out of a possible 400 points. Active class participation will be worth a total of 100 points, and the project/presentation will be worth 100 points. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The grade scale will be based on the UCI standard scale.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible.

Classroom Etiquette:

In an effort to create a classroom environment conducive to learning and open participation, the following classroom etiquette is *required*:

- Be polite and respectful to others in class. The online classroom is considered a 'safe' environment, allowing for everyone to express their opinions in an open manner.
- **Appropriate online behavior needs to be observed:**
 - MUTE your microphone when not talking (no one will hear anything if everyone has their microphones activated)
 - Be respectful of your professors/classmates and do not try to speak over one another. Please use the 'raise hand' function on zoom if you have a question.
 - Inform others in your household that you need a quiet place to participate in class (you don't want your mom/roommate loudly divulging any personal information to the class!)
 - Activate your videocamera so that we can see your face – it is difficult to communicate with a black box on the screen. If you are very uncomfortable with this, you can enter a profile picture to use on the screen, but please keep in mind that we will not be able to read non-verbal cues so communication may be difficult.
 - If calling in from a phone for audio, do not use the speaker function on the phone – no one will hear you clearly – you should use headphones/earphones that have a microphone.
 - Wear a full set of clothes to avoid unexpected 'exposure' (full coverage pajamas are OK, especially if they have little rats on them!).

- o Pet 'photobombing' during zoom is encouraged, just so they don't become too distracting to the class 

Academic Honor Code:

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of California, Irvine. The Academic Honor System is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community by reporting to the proper personnel, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community. Further information can be found on the University's website at: <http://honesty.uci.edu/students.html>

Tentative Schedule of Classes and Exams

DATE	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR
T 31 March	Conceptualizing Addiction	Fowler
Th 2 April	Considerations in Studing Addiction	Fowler
T 7 April	Cannabis and Synthetic Cannabinoids	Mahler
Th 9 April	Cannabis and Synthetic Cannabinoids	Mahler
T 14 April	Tobacco and E-Cigarettes	Fowler
Th 16 April	Tobacco and E-Cigarettes	Fowler
T 21 April	Presentation Techniques for Effective Science Communication Guest lecture – Addiction	Fowler TBD
Th 23 April	EXAM 1	Fowler/Dukes
T 28 April	Hallucinogens, PCP and Ketamine	Ostlund
Th 30 April	Hallucinogens, PCP and Ketamine	Ostlund
T 5 May	Alcohol	Lotfipour
Th 7 May	Alcohol	Lotfipour
T 12 May	Opioids, Clinical perspective – Guest lecture	Fowler Nelson
Th 14 May	Opioids	Fowler
T 19 May	Opioids	Fowler
Th 21 May	Cocaine and Methamphetamine	Wood
T 26 May	Cocaine and Methamphetamine	Wood
Th 28 May	EXAM 2	Fowler/Dukes
T 2 June	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	Fowler/Dukes
Th 4 June	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	Fowler/Dukes

Th 11 June	PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	Fowler/Dukes
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**Note: All requirements and schedule are subject to change based on the feasibility and operational success in implementing the online format. This will be at the instructor's discretion.*