

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Science/Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC/PH 126, Drugs, Brain, and Behavior, Section 80, Fall, 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Susan Snycerski, Ph.D.
<b>Office Location:</b>	DMH 311
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) (924-5662) I am not on campus this semester. Please use course website to contact me.
<b>Email:</b>	susan.snycerski@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 (see details below)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	This class is ASYNCHRONOUS and will not have scheduled live meetings.
<b>Classroom:</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1569475">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1569475</a>
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Psyc 30, Biological Psychology

**Course Format**

This class is a fully online asynchronous course, which means we will not meet as a class on any set day or time. You will proceed through the course at your own pace watching posted lectures and documentaries/media content, and completing homework, quizzes, exams, and writing assignments by their due dates. Lectures will be posted weekly following the course schedule. Given the flexibility of this course format, it is imperative that students manage their time effectively. To that end, one of the first assignments will consist of completing a semester class schedule wherein you identify the days of the week and specific times on those days that you will dedicate to this course; more information on this assignment is provided in the Assignments link on Canvas.

**Course Description**

Survey of psychoactive drugs, including prescription and street drugs; social, behavioral, and physiological effects of drugs; neural mechanisms of drug action; history of drug use.

**Warning: This class discusses drug use in great detail. Those with previous or existing drug problems should be aware of this and consider whether or not exposure to these discussions may serve as triggers for cravings for drug use and possible relapse. If so, you may wish to consider dropping the course. Your instructor is not responsible for any adverse reactions to the course material.**

**Learning Outcomes and Course Goals**

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Knowledge base of physiological, psychological, and behavioral effects of drugs; historical and contemporary theories of drug use and abuse; drug regulations and laws (CLO 1); research methods used in basic and applied behavioral pharmacology and in clinical evaluations of investigational new drugs (CLO 2); critical thinking

skills as applied to evaluating basic and applied psychopharmacological research (CLO 3), applications of drugs in the treatment of mental disorders and other conditions (CLO 4); and ethical considerations of using human and nonhuman animals in studies investigating basic and applied psychopharmacological research (CLO 5) comprises the overall course learning outcomes.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Be able to describe the history of drug regulation in the United States, including the process of bringing a drug to the marketplace.
2. Be able to classify drugs according to their legal status and drug class.
3. Be proficient in describing the actions of drugs in the brain and body.
4. Be able to describe the behavioral and psychological effects of drug classes, in general, and specific drugs, in particular.
5. Be able to identify the genetic, personality, social, and environmental factors leading to substance abuse as well as effective drug abuse treatment options.

## **Program Learning**

### **Required Texts/Readings:**

#### **Textbook**

Hanson, G. R., Venturelli, P. J., & Fleckenstein, A. E. (2022). *Drugs and Society* (14<sup>th</sup> ed). Jones and Bartlett: Saldbury: MA

**ISBN:** 9781284197853

Text can be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore or online.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

#### **Library Liaison**

Christa Bailey

Email: [christa.bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:christa.bailey@sjsu.edu)

#### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

#### **Grading Policy**

#### **Grading Information**

Your grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn throughout the semester. Late papers will receive a 10% penalty for each day late, up to two days, after which time a grade of zero will be recorded.

## Grading

4 Exams @ 150 points each	= 600	(70%)
11 Quizzes @10 points each	= 110	(13%)
The Meth Epidemic @ 50 points	= 50	(6%)
The Heroin Epidemic @ 50 points	= 50	(6%)
Semester Planning @ 40 points	= 40	(5%)
Total points available	= 850	(100%)

## Grading scale

Points earned	Percent	Letter Grade	Points earned	Percent	Letter Grade
≥ 98	≥ 98	A+	73	73	C
93	93	A	70	70	C-
90	90	A-	68	68	D+
88	88	B+	63	63	D
83	83	B	60	60	D-
80	80	B-	< 60	< 60	F
78	78	C+			

Grading is based on total points earned according to the values above.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

## Classroom Protocol

Given that this is a fully asynchronous class, it is imperative that students have good time-management. Please be sure to start the reading and homework assignments earlier enough so that you meet the due date deadline. No late work is accepted for quizzes and exams. Papers will lose 10% for each day late up to two days after the due date. Papers will not be accepted after three days after the due date. Use the Discussion link in Canvas to post all content related questions. Use the Canvas email to contact me for personal questions (e.g., grade questions, emergencies, etc.).

## University Policies

### General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90–5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

## Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet (syllabus) include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class-by-class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”
  - **You may not make audio or video recordings of course material appearing on Canvas. By enrolling in this course, you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.**
  - **Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as quiz or exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions. You agree not to take screen shots or photos of any content provided in the course.**
  - **You may never sell or upload any course content material to an outside agency (e.g., a study website) as this information is copyrighted and protected by both the professor and SJSU.**

## Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Students agree that all submitted writing assignments are their own work. Any text-generating software (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

**Cheating on exams or other assignments will result in a failing grade (F) for the course; a grade of F will be recorded and the student(s) will be reported to the Office of Student Code and Ethical Conduct. Plagiarism on written work will also result in a failing grade for the course.**

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

## **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

## **SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

## PSYC/PH 126 / Drugs, Brain, and Behavior, Fall 2023, Course Schedule

The schedule below and the following breakdown contains of all assignments and due dates required to for the course. This schedule is *tentative* and may subject to change. Any changes will be announced on Canvas in the Announcements section. Students are responsible to check the website regularly for communications with Dr. Snycerski.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21	Introduction to the course Chapter 1: Introduction to Drugs and Society
2	Aug 28	Chapter 2: Explaining Drug Use and Abuse
3	Sept 4	The Meth Epidemic
4	Sept 11	Chapter 3: Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law
5	Sept 18	Research Methods in Behavioral Pharmacology & Basic Research with Humans
6	<b>Sept 25</b>	<b>Exam 1</b> Chapter 4: Homeostatic Systems and Drugs <i>September 26</i>
7	Oct 2	Chapter 5: How and Why Drugs Work
8	Oct 9	Classical and Operant Conditioning and Drug Use
9	Oct 16	Chapter 6: CNS Depressants
10	<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Exam 2</b> Chapters 7: Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects Behavioral Effects <i>October 24</i>
11	Oct 30	Chapter 8: Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects Behavioral Effects
12	Nov 6	Chapter 9: Opioids
13	Nov 13	The Heroin Epidemic
14	<b>Nov 20</b>	<b>Exam 3</b> Chapter 10: Stimulants <i>November 21</i>
15	Nov 27	Chapter 13: Cannabis/Marijuana
16	Dec 4	Chapter 12: Hallucinogens
Final exam	<b>Dec 15 7:00 am - 9:00pm</b>	<b>Exam 4 (final)</b>

**All assignments open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 11:00 p.m. No late work accepted for quizzes and exams.**

Papers will lose 10% of final for each day late for up to two days. Papers will not be accepted after two days after the due date.

Chapter Quizzes	Opens on	Closes and due on
Syllabus Quiz	August 22	September 1
Chapter 1 – Introduction Chapter 2 – Explaining Drug Use	September 5	September 24
Chapter 3 – Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law	September 18	September 24
Chapter 4 – Homeostatic Systems and Drugs	October 2	October 22
Chapter 5 – How and Why Drugs Work	October 9	October 22
Chapter 6 – CNS Depressants	October 17	October 22
Chapter 7 – Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects & Chapter 8 – Alcohol: Behavioral Effects	November 6	November 19
Chapter 9 – Opioids	November 13	November 19
Chapter 10 – Stimulants	November 27	December 14
Chapter 13 – Cannabis/Marijuana	December 4	December 14
Chapter 12 – Hallucinogens	December 6	December 14

**Quiz due dates: all quizzes available from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. All quizzes are worth 10 points each.**

Syllabus Quiz due September 1 at 11:00 p.m.

Unit 1 Quizzes due September 24 at 11:00 p.m.

Unit 2 Quizzes due October 22 at 11:00 p.m.

Unit 3 Quizzes due November 19 at 11:00 p.m.

Unit 4 Quizzes due December 14 at 11:00 p.m.

**Exam due dates: all exams available from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. All exams are worth 150 points each.**

Exam 1: September 25 - Chapters 1, 2, 3, Research Methods in Behavioral Pharmacology, & Basic Research with Humans

Exam 2: October 23 – Chapters 4, 5, 6, & Classical and Operant Conditioning and Drug Use

Exam 3: November 20 – Chapters 7, 8, & 9

Exam 4: (final) December 15 – Chapters 10, 12, & 13

### **Writing Assignments:**

Semester Planning: September 8 at 11:00 p.m. (40 points)

The Meth Epidemic: September 18 at 11:00 p.m. (50 points)

Heroin/Fentanyl: November 27 at 11:00 p.m. (50 points)



There will be a variety of writing assignments that pertain to films, documentaries, and readings related to our course material. These will be discussed in more detail on Canvas. All papers should be in APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition format, including a title page and in-text citations and references when appropriate (some papers will be reflection/response opinion papers). Papers will be submitted to turnitin.com for originality analysis. **All writing assignments should be composed by the student with no use of AI-generated content.** Students must submit original work for academic integrity.