Overview: Psychology is the study of mind and behavior. Mental and behavioral abilities are made possible by the functioning of the brain and central nervous system. Communication between neurons (and between neurons and glial cells) in the brain and nervous system is chemical in nature. Psychoactive drugs, whether taken for recreational or therapeutic purposes, exert their effects by altering neuronal communication within the brain and nervous system. In our course, we will study psychoactive drugs, their absorption, distribution, and mechanisms of action. Along the way, we will also learn about a great variety of other topics, such as development of tolerance, dependence, the reinforcing properties of certain drugs, etc.

Grades: For undergraduate students, the grades in the course will be determined by the performance on three in-class exams (20% each; total of 60%), four quizzes (together worth 20% of final grade), and the final exam (20%). The quizzes will occur at the beginning of selected classes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be no makeups for missed quizzes. Therefore, regular class attendance is important. If you miss a quiz, that will be the quiz that will be dropped.

Graduate students (and undergraduates earning honors credit) will be required to conduct a thorough literature review. The topic must be approved by me ahead of time. The resulting manuscript will be worth 20% of your final grade, while the tests and quizzes will be worth a total of 70 and 10 percent, respectively.

Following calculation of the final average, letter grades for the course will be assigned according to these criteria:

- A - 90 percent of total points & above
- B - 80 to 89 percent
- C - 70 to 79 percent
- D - 60 to 69 percent
- F - 59 percent and below
**Makeup Policy:** If you know in advance that you must miss an exam, see me at least one day before the exam so that we can discuss the reason, and if the reason is legitimate, schedule a time for you to take a makeup exam. Under any circumstances, I should be notified of the reason for the absence at the next class meeting. Depending on the situation, I may require written documentation of the reason for missing the exam (note from doctor, lawyer, pastor, etc.).

Failure to provide adequate documentation to me for the absence may result in a grade of zero for that exam.

Missed exams must be made up within two weeks of the scheduled exam date; makeup exams will not be given following the expiration of this two week period.

**Miscellaneous Information:** If there is an emergency and you must miss classes or an exam and you are unable to contact me personally (my telephone answering machine is not sufficient), you should contact the Academic Advising and Retention Center (745-5065), and they will notify me of your absence.

**Tentative Schedule***

- Pharmacology, Chapter 1, pp. 3-38
- The Nervous System, Chapter 2, pp. 41-74
- Neurotransmitters and Hormones, Chapter 3, pp. 77-103
- Catecholamines: Dopamine & Norepinephrine, Chapter 5, pp. 143-164
- Drug abuse/Neurobiology of Drug Addiction, Chapter 9, pp. 227-262
- Amphetamines, Chapter 12, pp. 362-371
- Serotonin, Chapter 6, pp. 167-182
- Cocaine, Chapter 12, pp. 339-362
- Hallucinogens, Chapter 15, pp. 429-442
- Acetylcholine, Chapter 7, pp. 185-198
- Nicotine, Chapter 13, pp. 373-393
- Caffeine, Chapter 13, pp. 393-399
- Glutamate & GABA, Chapter 8, pp. 201-224
- Anxiety Disorders: Sedative-Hypnotic and Anxiolytic Drugs, Chapter 18, pp. 509-541
- Affective Disorders: Antidepressants and Mood Stabilizers, Chapter 19, pp. 543-572
- Schizophrenia: Antipsychotic Drugs, Chapter 20, pp. 575-607

If time permits:

- PCP & Ketamine, Chapter 15, pp. 442-449
- Opioids, Chapter 11
- Alcohol, Chapter 10
- Marijuana and the Cannabinoids, Chapter 14

**Final Exam:**  
Tuesday, December 8 at 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC) in Downing Student Union, 1074.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC).

* this schedule is tentative and subject to modification