



FALL 2006
Stern 2021

Psychology 654-41 (Psychopharmacology Laboratory)

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Fri. 10-12
Stern 2021

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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30-11:00 and by appointment

Required Text: None

Course Description and Objectives: Psychopharmacology laboratory provides demonstrations and hands-on experience in research methods used in contemporary psychopharmacology including receptor measurement, models of drug abuse and psychopathology, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. The objective is for the student to obtain a better understanding of the methodology and techniques commonly used in the study of pharmacological substances.

Evaluation/Grading: Your grade will be determined by the number of points you accrue based on a total of 400 points. The assignments and breakdown of points is presented below:

<u>Activity/assignment</u>	<u>Relative percent</u>	<u>Points</u>
Dilemma or design assignment	05%	20
Introduction	10%	40
Methods and results	10%	40
Abstract/Discussion/References	10%	40
Completed manuscript	15%	60
Quiz 1 Oct. 6	15%	60
Quiz 2 Dec.1	15%	60
Lab performance	20%	80
	100%	400

The dilemma or design assignment is a short written assignment. The abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion and references are part of a manuscript that is required in the course. Information on these sections will be provided in class. The quizzes will be multiple choice or short answer and will be taken in class. Your lab performance grade will be determined by showing the proper demeanor and attention to detail that is required of a laboratory exercise. Late arrival or absence, inappropriate talking, playing with equipment, or any other inappropriate or disruptive behavior will result in a loss of points for lab performance. Serious infractions or disruptions will result in expulsion from the lab.

Letter grades will be based on the total points you obtain from the assignments/quizzes. Of the total points possible, students that accrue 100-90% will be graded as A, 89-80% as B, 79-70% as

C, 69-60% as D, and 59-0% as F. Plus and minus grades will be assigned based on the final class distribution. I reserve the right to curve the grading scale based on class performance or any unusual circumstances that may arise during the semester.

Honor Code: This course strictly adheres to the standards of conduct expressed in the Tulane University Honor Code, which can be found here: <http://provost.tulane.edu/HonorCode.htm>
If you have concerns, it is better to ask questions before you begin as opposed to after the work is complete.

Special Instructional Needs: If you have any special needs or require accommodations by the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling (ERC), please bring this to my attention during the first week of the semester. Please bring all required paperwork to me no later than one week prior to an exam or assignment and note that accommodations do not apply retroactively (ERC policy).

Classroom Etiquette and Communications: Attendance is expected and required. Students should arrive on time and conduct themselves in a demeanor appropriate to an academic environment. Students that are habitually late or disruptive will be counseled and it may affect your final letter grade. Feel free to ask relevant questions during lecture. Turn off cell phones and beepers *prior* to class and do not speak on phones during class. If you are expecting an important call, notify me *prior* to class and we can make arrangements. To protect confidentiality, I ordinarily do not report grades by email or telephone. However, if a student makes *prior* arrangements with me, an exception may be made. Unless approved by the ERC or me, audio or video recording of lectures is prohibited. Lecture notes or slides are not available for students. Use of laptops is allowed as space permits.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is not available except in the rarest of circumstances. To be considered for extra credit, a student must have shown sufficient prior involvement in the course and present a justification that I believe is viable and worthy of extra credit.

The Academic Experience: In regards to your time spent in college, my feelings are very similar to the quote below by the famous psychologist, William James. To a large extent, college is what you make of it. The more you put into it, the more you will receive from it. As someone who speaks from the experience of many years as a student, I urge you to give your best effort in this and all your courses. Run the race to win and you will not regret it, regardless of where you finish.

Tentative Psychopharmacology Laboratory Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
September 1	Introduction
September 8	Ethics/Experimental Design Dilemma or design assignment given
September 15	Classic Experiments Dilemma or design assignment due
September 22	Manuscript Writing
September 29	Receptor Measurement
October 6	Receptor Data Analysis
October 13	Introduction due
October 20	Stimulants Introduction returned
October 27	Opioid Effects Methods, Results due
November 3	Quiz 1 Methods, Results returned
November 10	Drug Dependence Abstract, Discussion, References due
November 17	Alcohol Effects Abstract, Discussion, References returned
November 24	Holiday
December 1	Anxiety Effects Complete Manuscript Due
December 8	Quiz 2 Manuscript returned

Please feel free to see me if you are having difficulties with this or any other course.
“Life is what you make it.” William James (1842-1910)