

**PSYC 4332-110, Psychopharmacology  
Spring 2023**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

Jan 17 – May 12, 2023

This is a 100% online course.

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System  
[<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Simone Alvarez, Sc.D.

**Office:** N/A

**Phone:** N/A

**Email:** [simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu](mailto:simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu)

IMPORTANT: For all course related communication please use Canvas messaging. Only when Canvas is not available you may use [simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu](mailto:simone.alvarez@tamuct.edu) for communication.

**Office Hours**

**Office Hours**

I will be available via Canvas Collaborate. Date and time can be arranged prior via email on an appointment-basis.

**Student-instructor interaction**

Emails are checked daily and will try my best to respond within 24 hours (except on weekends). Appointments can also be set for virtual meetings. Just e-mail me to arrange a date and time.

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]

- [Android Phone / Tablet](#)  
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
- 2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
- 3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

**For updates on COVID information**, please monitor the University [website](#)  
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

## COURSE INFORMATION

Study neuroscientific basis of the effects of drugs on behavior. Emphasis will be placed on major antipsychotic, antianxiety, antidepressant drugs and their clinical use and side effects and drug abuse such as alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine.

### Student Learning Outcomes

#### Course Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Student Learning Outcome	Assessment
<i>Demonstrate comprehension and application of factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends) related to psychopharmacology.</i>	Chapter Quizzes; Exams
<i>Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view related to the role of psychotherapeutic drugs and drugs of abuse.</i>	Reaction Papers, Short Concept Presentation
<i>Find and use resources for answering questions regarding various topics in the field of psychopharmacology</i>	Discussion questions

### Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Advokat, C. D., Comaty, J. E., & Julien, R. M. (2019). *Julien's primer of drug action* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Worth.

### Strongly Recommend Reading

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://doi.org/10.1037/0000165-000>

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### What you will be graded on:

#### I. Quizzes (50 pts each x 5 = 250 pts total):

There will be five quizzes during this course. Each quiz is worth 50 points each. Quizzes will be online, open book, and open note but must be completed individually. Quizzes must be taken in Canvas on the dates in the attached schedule (see course calendar). Once begun, quizzes must be completed within 50

minutes. You will be given one opportunity to take each quiz. Make sure that you are someplace with a reliable connection to Canvas. Student computer or student Internet Service Provider problems will not be accepted as an excuse for failing to take or complete the quiz. Students will only be allowed to retest if there is a problem with Canvas or with University computing facilities. If a problem occurs with University equipment, please have the computing lab staff document the problem. Alternate test forms may be presented to the students. If you want to challenge a test item, you will do so in writing no later than 1-day after the test has been closed. You are required to provide me with the question, your argument as to why the quiz question is incorrect and any supporting information from the text or your notes supporting your argument. Your misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the item is not justification to present a challenge to the quiz. Students are on the honor system for these quizzes and any violation will result in the student receiving a zero (0) for the quiz and the possibility of further sanctions according to university policy (see Academic Honesty & Integrity, below). Make-up quizzes will only be given for University excused absences. The professor reserves the right to change the quiz format for make-up quizzes (e.g. essay as opposed to objective). Appropriate documentation will be required to be given a make-up quiz. If you know that you will not be able to take a quiz by the due date, contact me PRIOR to the scheduled date, alternate arrangements may be made at my discretion.

## **II. Reaction Papers (100 pts each x 2 = 200 pts total)**

You will be given access in Canvas to several short (and some long) videos about psychopharmacology (see calendar below). You will write two reaction papers to the videos. The first reaction paper should be written about content presented in one or more of the videos presented in the first half of the class about drugs of abuse and will be submitted online by the end of week 9. The second reaction paper should be written in response to one or more of the videos (Breggin) presented in the second half of the class about psychotherapeutic drugs and will be due by the end of week 15. Each paper should be approximately 800 to 1,000 words in length (about 3 pages), formatted according to current APA style guidelines, and you must cite at least three empirical articles in your paper to support your opinions. More information on this assignment (including a grading rubric) will be provided in Canvas.

## **III. Short Concept Presentation (100 points total)**

Since by definition an online course does not meet in the classroom, you can't just set up a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation to present information to the class. So, you will have to design a short presentation on a topic of your own choice and submit it in the assignment tab in Canvas as well as in a discussion thread for everyone else to see. You are required to submit your topic via Canvas assignment tab by week six of the course. Keep in mind: If you do not submit a topic by the due date, you will not be able to receive credit for the assignment! More information on this assignment will be added in Canvas.

## **IV. Discussion questions + responses to classmates (20 pts each x 10 = 200 pts total)**

You will have a number of discussion board posts during the semester and will be required to comment according to the instructions in the assignment (i.e., number of original posts and posts to classmates). All posts must be substantive and demonstrate that you are actively engaged with the material. Some discussion questions will require you to conduct internet research. In order to get full credit for your individual and response posts, you must create and respond to the questions as outlined by the grading criteria for the instructions assignment in Canvas. Each discussion is worth 20 points (The initial introductory post is worth 10 points, each of the two responses to your classmates is worth 5 points). You can find your weekly questions posted in the "Discussions" tab in Canvas. In your tentative schedule below, you will find the dates and times when postings open for discussion and when they are no longer available. "No longer available" means that once the discussion board is closed and you will not be able

to make up those points. Weekly posts are currently open and will close at the day and time indicated in Canvas.

### V. Comprehensive Final Exam (250 pts)

A comprehensive final examination that includes all content discussed in the course will be available during final exam week. The exam must be completed by 11:59pm on May 14<sup>th</sup>. You may use your book and notes when taking the exam. However, using internet resources and/or working with another individual to complete the exam constitute academic dishonesty and will result in failure of the exam and potentially other academic consequences.

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion questions/responses (10 x 20)	200
Quizzes (5 x 50)	250
Reaction Paper (2 x 100)	200
Short Concept Presentation	100
Final exam	250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

Course grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned by each student and will be assigned as follows:

<b>A</b>	90-100 % 900-1000 pts Mastery of content	<b>B</b>	80-89 % 800-899 pts Above average understanding of content	<b>C</b>	70-79 % 700-799 pts Average understanding of content	<b>D</b>	60-69 % 600-699 pts Below average understanding of content	<b>F (&lt;60 %)</b>	<600 pts Failure to understand content
----------	--	----------	--	----------	--	----------	--	---------------------	---

### Posting of Grades

Grades will be kept on Canvas gradebook. Grades will be posted for assignments no later than a week from assignment submission. Students should monitor their grading status through this tool.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

### Complete Course Calendar

#### Course Calendar

WEEK	READ	TOPIC	TO-DO	WATCH
<b>WEEK 1</b> JANUARY 17– JANUARY 22		Welcome	-Familiarize yourself with the course requirements -Identify at last two computers with a reliable internet connection to complete course assignments/quizzes/exams -Acquire textbook -Post your Introduction by 1/22 (Discussion 1) and responses by 1/24	
<b>WEEK 2</b> JANUARY 23–	Ch. 1 Ch. 2	Synaptic Transmission Pharmacokinetics	Post discussion 2	Video-Getting High for God

JANUARY 29				
<b>WEEK 3</b> JANUARY 30- FEBRUARY 5	Ch. 3	Pharmacodynamics	Take Quiz 1 (Ch 1-3)	
<b>WEEK 4</b> FEBRUARY 6- FEBRUARY 12	Ch. 4 Ch. 5	Neurobiology of Addiction Alcohol & Inhalants	Post discussion 3	Video—Johann Hari TED talk
<b>WEEK 5</b> FEBRUARY 13- FEBRUARY 19	Ch. 6 Ch. 7	Stimulants Pt. I	- Post Discussion 4 -Take Quiz 2 (Ch 4-7)	Video—Cocaine and Crack
<b>WEEK 6</b> FEBRUARY 20- FEBRUARY 26		<i>No reading assignment</i>	-Submit Presentation Topic - Post discussion 5	Video-Meth Inside Out: II. Brain & Behavior
<b>WEEK 7</b> FEBRUARY 27 MARCH 5	Ch. 8 Ch. 9	Psychedelic Drugs Cannabis	Post discussion 6	Video—The Long, Strange Trip of LSD
<b>WEEK 8</b> MARCH 6- MARCH 12	Ch. 10	Opioids	-Post Discussion 7 -Take Quiz 3 (Ch 8-10)	Video—Hooked on Painkillers
Spring Break 😊				
<b>WEEK 9</b> MARCH -20 MARCH 26		<i>No reading assignment</i>	-Turn in Reaction Paper #1 -Post Discussion 8	
<b>WEEK 10</b> MARCH 27- APRIL 2	Ch. 11	Antipsychotics	Post Discussion 9	Breggin Video 1 Breggin Video2 Breggin Video 3
<b>WEEK 11</b> APRIL 3- APRIL 9	Ch. 12	Antidepressants	Turn in Presentation	Breggin Video 4 Breggin Video 5
<b>WEEK 12</b> APRIL 10- APRIL 16	Ch. 13	Sedatives & Anxiolytics		Breggin Video 6 Breggin Video 7
<b>WEEK 13</b> APRIL 17- APRIL 23	Ch. 14	Treatment of Bipolar Disorder	Take Quiz 4 (Ch 11-14)	Breggin Video 8 Breggin Video 9 Breggin Video 10
<b>WEEK 14</b> APRIL 24- APRIL 30	Ch. 15	Developmental Issues: Pediatrics	Post Discussion 10	Video-The Power of Placebo
<b>WEEK 15</b> MAY 1- MAY 7	Ch. 16 Ch. 17	Developmental Issues: Geriatrics Challenging Times for Mental Health	-Take Quiz 5 (Ch 15-17) -Turn in Reaction Paper #2	
<b>WEEK 16</b> MAY 8- MAY 12			Take Final Exam by 5/12	

## Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>]

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

*You need to include information about Technology Requirements and Support. In addition, include a statement on the technology requirements for the successful completion of the course and when applicable, information on how to access these resources (for example, how to obtain a certain software through University site license).*

### Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

### Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

### Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

### Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

---

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

### Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the student conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlssso&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%2fStart%2f53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu).

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Library & Archives**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat

service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS**

#### **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if

someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

### **Behavioral Intervention**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/bit) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

---

### **OTHER POLICIES**

This course will be completely online using the Canvas system. Canvas will also be used to upload your course work. Students are to adhere to deadlines for submission of assignments as stated in each assignment description or syllabus. **There is no tolerance for late submissions, students must work within deadlines.** All online work submitted for class MUST be submitted through the Assignment links on Canvas; no work submitted by email will be accepted unless arranged with me beforehand. Class will include class discussions and other individual work. Participation in class is a priority. Waiting until just before an assignment is due to complete, one may find himself/herself missing the deadline. Although this is an online class, regularly logging on to the website is required to ensure that you have all the information needed to complete the various assignments.

### **Copyright Notice**

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

**#Professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time#**