

BBB 481, Behavioral Pharmacology

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Heerding (heerding@sas.upenn.edu)

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-11 a.m.

Text: Principles of Neuropsychopharmacology, Feldman, Meyer & Quenzer

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Aug. 27	Introduction to Pharmacology	Chapter 1
Sep. 1, 3	Molecular Research Techniques	Chapter 2 (pp. 27-56)
Sep. 8	Behavioral Research Techniques	Chapter 2 (pp. 57-73)
Sep. 10, 15	Dopamine	Chapter 8 (pp. 303-323)
Sep. 17	Presentation Resources	
Sep. 22	Midterm exam #1	
Sep. 24, 29	Opiates	Chapter 12
Oct. 1, 6	Acetylcholine	Chapter 7
Oct. 13, 15	Norepinephrine	Chapter 8 (pp. 324-343)
Oct. 20	Society for Neuroscience Conference	Chapter 9
Oct. 22, 27	Serotonin	
Oct. 29, Nov. 3	Exercise and the Brain	Chapter 13
Nov. 5, 10	Cannabinoids	
Nov. 12, 17	Neuropsychimmunology	
Nov. 19, 24	Amino Acid Neurotransmitters	Chapter 10
Dec. 1, 3	Stress	
Dec. 8	Midterm exam #2	

Behavioral Pharmacology is a seminar course designed to familiarize students with current research in the field. After surveying introductory material, primary journal articles will be discussed. Each student will be expected to give a presentation of current work on a subject chosen from a list of topics. The journal club format necessitates student attendance and participation, which will be monitored. This course utilizes the Canvas website for distribution of journal articles. Please visit: <https://upenn.instructure.com/> to access the course site. Course grades will be based on class participation and attendance (10%), two midterm exams (30% each) and one oral presentation (30%).

Class Participation and Attendance:

Students are expected to read all assigned journal articles before coming to class. Journal articles will be available to the class on the course Canvas site by the end of class on Tuesdays for Thursday presentations. Students should be prepared to participate in discussions following presentations.

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. All absences must be reported through the Course Absence Report System. The system allows a student to inform his or her instructor about absences of five days of class or less. Students can submit a Course Absence Report through Penn InTouch. Repeated tardiness will be counted towards an absence. Students are responsible for making up any work assigned during an absence and for understanding the material presented in their absence. If an absence is for more than a week's worth of classes, the College Office must be contacted for assistance.

Midterm Exams:

The first exam will consist of short answer questions designed to assess basic knowledge of the concepts discussed in class as well as the ability to apply that knowledge to novel research questions. As such, the student should understand the material in sufficient depth to be able to integrate information from different lectures.

The second exam will involve analysis of a novel research article. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the article as it relates to other papers discussed in class as well as the ability to critique the paper.

Oral Presentation:

Presentations should focus on one or more research articles published within the last 10 years in the assigned area. Proposed articles must be submitted for approval *one week* before the scheduled presentation.

Presentations should be 35-40 minutes in length plus 5-10 minutes for discussion. Presentations are generally given in PowerPoint format, but other mediums may be used with prior instructor approval. Presentations should include: an introduction to the area of research, a discussion of the methods, results and conclusions of the paper(s) and a general conclusion incorporating the results of all the material presented. Students are required to meet with a speaking advisor from Communication Within the Curriculum (CWIC) at least 2 days prior to their in-class presentation.

Missed exams will only be given at a later date with an authorized university absence. If an exam is submitted for a re-grade, it must be done in writing within *one week* of receiving the graded exam. All submitted exams will be re-graded in their entirety and the resulting score may be higher or lower than the original grade. A fraction of exams are photocopied before being returned to the students. If an exam is found to have been altered before submission for re-grading, the student will be reported to the Office for Student Conduct.