

Montgomery County Community College
 PSY 217
 Drugs – Their Use and Abuse
 3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the scientific facts about drugs commonly used and abused and their impact on human life. It details and integrates biological, psychological, social and cultural components of the most popular psychoactive substances. Legal, illegal, prescription, over-the-counter, performances enhancing substances as well as herbal medications are researched and described.

PREREQUISITE(S):

None

CO-REQUISITE(S):

None

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

| LEARNING OUTCOMES | LEARNING ACTIVITIES | EVALUATION METHODS |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Identify and describe the major drugs of abuse. | PowerPoint Presentation Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials Reference Resources | Film Summaries Analysis of Resource Reference |
| 2. Explain how substances of abuse exert their influence on key neurotransmitters and affect the human body. | Videos Small Group Exercise Student Presentation | Quiz Student Presentation |
| 3. Summarize the ways that print and electronic media, both news and advertising, influence drug use and abuse. | Explore Internet Sites Identify Key Print Sources Discussion | Critique of Internet Site Analysis of Print Source Student Presentation |
| 4. Compare and outline at least three major Local, State and Federal laws governing drug use in Pennsylvania. | Drug Court Observation Small Group Exercise Lecture | Report on Drug Court Site Visit Quiz Class Presentation |

| LEARNING OUTCOMES | LEARNING ACTIVITIES | EVALUATION METHODS |
|--|---|--|
| 5. Evaluate data on the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention strategies and programs. | Guest Speaker Research and Reading Lecture and Discussion | Critical Evaluation of a Major Study on Prevention |
| 6. Compare and contrast important substance abuse treatment modalities including Abstinence, Harm Reduction, Inpatient, Outpatient and Co-Occurring treatment. | Guest Speaker Lecture Discussion Research Paper | Quiz Class Presentation of Research Results |
| 7. Demonstrate and give examples of the “Stages of Change” and their importance to understanding and supporting change in treating addictions. | Reading Small Group Discussion Lecture | Class Presentation and Written Summary Quiz |

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Introduction and overview
2. Explaining Drug Use & Abuse
3. Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law
4. Homeostatic Systems and Drugs
5. How and Why Drugs Work
6. Over-the-Counter (OTC), Prescription, and Herbal Drugs
7. Inhalants
8. CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics
9. Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects
10. Alcohol: A Behavioral Perspective
11. Narcotics (Opioids)
12. Stimulants
13. Hallucinogens (Psychedelics)
14. Drug Abuse Prevention
15. Treating Drug Dependence

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Hanson, G. R., Venturelli, P. J., & Fleckenstein, A. E. (2015). *Drugs and society*. (12th ed.). Jones & Bartlett Publishers, Burlington, Mass.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: H. Carter

Date: 4/1998

Revised by: D. Kline

Date: 6/2014

Revised by: M. L. Whitehill

Date: 6/2014

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 6/24/2014



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.