

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** PSYC/SOC 155  
The Physiology and Pharmacology of Psychoactive Drugs

**UNIT VALUE:**        3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:**        48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:**        Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:**    None

**COREQUISITE:**    None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**    PSYC 100

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

This course will examine how psychoactive drugs affect the nervous system. Ways of classifying drugs will be identified including the processes of physical and psychological dependence, tolerance, withdrawal, and genetic predispositions. Temporary and permanent consequences of specific drugs will include: nutritional deficiencies, Korsakoff's syndrome, impact on sexual functioning, brain effects (including memory consequences), and behavioral consequences.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Successful students will be able to:

1. identify the physiological effects of alcohol and other psychoactive drugs on the human system.
2. identify overdose and withdrawal effects of psychoactive drugs.

3. describe the processes of tolerance, cross-tolerance, physical and psychological dependence, and addiction, including similarities and differences among them.
4. describe methods of detoxification and issues affecting relapse and recovery for the range of psychoactive drugs.
5. describe the behavioral, psychological, and social effects of psychoactive drugs on the consumer and significant others.
6. identify the ways substance use disorders can mimic a variety of medical and psychological disorders and discuss issues of dual diagnosis.

### **CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

#### **I. Psychoactive Drugs**

- A. history of use
- B. classifications

#### **II. Mechanisms of Action of Psychoactive Drugs**

- A. neuron mechanisms
- B. nervous system structures
- C. physiology of response to psychoactive drugs\
  - a. dependence
  - b. tolerance
  - c. addiction
  - d. withdrawal
  - e. overdose

#### **III. Stimulants**

- A. cocaine and its variations
- B. amphetamine and its variations
- C. caffeine
- D. nicotine

#### **IV. Sedative-Hypnotics and Variations of Opiates**

- A. alcohol
- B. barbiturates
- C. benzodiazepines
- D. heroin
- E. other opioids

V. Psychedelics and Hallucinogens

- A. marijuana
- B. LSD and other hallucinogens

VI. Other Categories of Psychoactive Drugs and Related Addictions

- A. inhalants
- B. gambling, eating disorders

VII. Dual Diagnosis Issues

**REQUIRED READING:**

**Inaba, D. S. and Cohen, W. E. Uppers, Downers, All Arounders, 4th edition. CNS Publications, 2000**

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Julien, R. M. A Primer of Drug Action, 7th edition. W. H. Freeman, 1995

**REQUIRED WRITING:** None

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:** None

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.**

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

**Check all that apply:**

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

**DISTANCE LEARNING:**

**This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

**If yes, check all that apply.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- \_\_\_\_\_ One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Students will complete four examinations to receive credit for the course. Each examination will include multiple-choice questions and essays. These tests will each compose 25% of the final grade for the course.

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes \_\_\_ No X      Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:**      Barbara F. Williams X2342

**SIGNATURES:**

**By signing this form, I certify that this course outline of record meets all the minimum requirements for associate degree credit courses as specified in Title 5 Section 55002.**

SIGNATURES ON FILE