**Boston University**

**PS333/ NE333 Drugs and Behavior**

**Spring 2024**

**Lecture: 3:30 – 4:45 pm T,TH**

**Location:** **SAR 103**

Teaching Fellow: Christopher Gill

Office hours: TBD or by appt.  
Email: ctgill@bu.edu

Instructor: Benjamin Scott

Office hours: After class or by appt.

Office location: 705C KCILSE

Email: bbs@bu.edu

**Course description**:

Comprehensive survey of drug influences on behavior; introduces a neuroscience approach to behavior. Several classes of drugs discussed, including abused and addictive substances and psychoactive and therapeutic agents.

**Learning goals:** After completing this course, students should understand:

1. Neuronal cell biology – cell-cell communication and intracellular signaling.
2. How drugs influence cellular communication, intracellular signaling and gene expression.
3. How drugs change behavior, perception and thought by modifying neural circuits.

**Readings**:

Julien's Primer of Drug Action by Advokat, Comaty and Julien, Worth Publishers; 14th edition, 2018

Primary literature and other readings will be available online: <https://www.scottcognitionlab.com/readings-psne-333>

**Prerequisites:** [PS101](https://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/search.php?search=CASPS101&yearsem=*&college=), and [PS231](https://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/search.php?search=CASPS231&yearsem=*&college=) or [NE101](https://www.bu.edu/phpbin/course-search/search.php?search=CASNE101&yearsem=*&college=), and junior or senior standing; or consent of instructor.

**Web:** <https://www.scottcognitionlab.com/teaching/> for readings and syllabus

Blackboard Learn: <https://learn.bu.edu/ultra/course> for grades, exams and other materials

**Grading:**

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|  | **Points** |
| Exam I | 25% |
| Exam II | 25% |
| Exam III | 25% |
| Exam IV | 25% |
| Discussion Section | 15% |
| Daily Quizzes | 10% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

Exams: There are four exams in this course. There is no final exam, however each exam may involve material from previous exams. Exams are multiple choice, closed book and closed note. Your lowest exam will be dropped from your final score.

Exam dates: Feb 8; Feb 29; April 4; April 30

Discussion Section: Discussion section will be an opportunity to review course material, ask questions, learn more about clinical applications of course topics, and prepare for exams. A syllabus for the format, content and expectations will be provided by the teaching fellow on the first discussion section.

Daily Quizzes: Each day in class a one question quiz will be administered. Students are required to bring a writing implement to class, paper will be provided. Questions will be based off material presented in class that day or any previous day. Unless otherwise announced, quizzes will be open note. Exam questions will be very similar in format and topic to the daily quizzes, so please use those quizzes as study material for the exam. A total of ~20 such quizzes will be administered, but only the top 17 of scores (i.e. the ones with the highest score) will be counted toward your final grade. The lowest 3 quizzes will not count to your final grade. This effectively allows you to miss 3 days of class without direct adverse effect to your grade. Unexcused absences beyond this limit will result in loss of points. See information of Attendance and Absences below for more information.

**Attendance & Absences:** Students will be expected to attend all of the classes. Excused absences are available for sanctioned school events, medical or religious reasons. If you know that you cannot attend a class due to one of the aforementioned reasons, email the instructor ASAP and well in advance of class. For details of the University Policies on absences for religious reasons please see the following website: <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/absence-for-religious-reasons>

**Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities**: If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact Disability and Access Services at (617) 353-3658 or [access@bu.edu](mailto:access@bu.edu) to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. Disability and Access Services is located at 25 Buick Street. Website: <https://www.bu.edu/disability/>

**Academic Conduct:** Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code, which can be found online: <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

**Courtesy:** Please be courteous to your fellow students and instructors. This includes punctuality, silencing electronics, not distracting other students.