

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	6206PSYSCI
Formal Module Title	Psychopharmacology and Addictive Behaviour
Owning School	Psychology
Career	Undergraduate
Credits	10
Academic level	FHEQ Level 6
Grading Schema	40

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Psychology

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	16
Online	1
Seminar	4

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
			12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

Aims	1. To introduce students to popular drugs of abuse, their mechanisms of action and their effects. 2. To examine how the effects of drugs can be harmful, and are related to many factors including purity, dose and route of administration. 3. To discuss the neurobiological and psychological basis of the addiction cycle from voluntary drug taking to compulsive drug seeking and relapse. 4. To critically evaluate current neurobiological theories of drug addiction
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Evaluate the biological and psychological basis of drug effects.
MLO2	2	Critically appraise psychopharmacological theories and concepts (e.g. reward, dependence, tolerance, withdrawal, relapse).

Module Content

Outline Syllabus	The purpose of the module is to provide a broad understanding of the behavioural and biological mechanisms underlying drug effects and drug addiction. The module starts by introducing students to common drugs of abuse, and examining the effects of these drugs from both phenomenological and pharmacological perspectives. This will involve exploring the relationship between drug-induced changes in neurotransmission, subjective effects of drugs and long-term changes in behaviour and experience. Students will then use this knowledge during a seminar to explore how harmful some of these drugs might be, and will evaluate the UK legal classification of drugs of abuse. The second half of the module will focus on the addicted state, a transition from taking drugs voluntarily because of their positive reinforcing properties to compulsive drug taking triggered by craving the drug, despite no longer liking it. In the context of current neurobiological theories, students will learn how habitual drug use changes the brain, discuss the impact that has on cognitive processes and in a seminar consider whether there are individual differences in vulnerability to addiction.
Module Overview	This module will introduce you to popular drugs of abuse, their mechanisms of action and their effects. You will learn how the effects of drugs can be harmful and are related to many factors including purity, dose and route of administration.
Additional Information	Psychopharmacology and Addictive Behaviours is a 10 credit optional module at level 6.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Test	Case Study Analysis	100	0	MLO1, MLO2

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Cathy Montgomery	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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