



➔ Start Here

📄 Syllabus

[Course Pacing Guide](#)

Welcome to PSY 4390N: Psychopharmacology

New to the course?

- Be sure to familiarize yourself with the [Syllabus](#) and *review the information carefully*.
- To succeed in this course, please fill out your [Course Pacing Guide](#) and take no more than 7 days from when you enroll to submit it via Modules.

- Click [Start Here](#) to begin your course.

Returning to the course? Click [Modules](#) and resume where you left off.

Important reminders:

- This is a **6-month, online, correspondence self-paced course**.
- **All submissions, including exams, must be completed by the course expiration date.** When you registered for the course, you were sent an email to your Texas State account indicating registration and expiration dates.
- **You may not submit more than 2 assignments per week.**

**At the end of the course, you will be asked
to complete a brief course evaluation.
Your input will help improve the course.**

Meet Your Instructor

Natalie Ceballos, PhD

Email: nc18@txstate.edu

Phone: 512-245-2526

Office: UAC 253A

Office Hours: By Appointment

Faculty/Student Contact

Even though this is a correspondence course, you are encouraged to contact your instructor if you have any concerns, questions, or problems. Any email received between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours, except during holiday breaks or announced away times. Emails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply within 48 hours of the next business day.

To ensure timely delivery of all e-mails related to this course, you must use your official Texas State Bobcat Mail student account.

General Information

Dr. Natalie Ceballos is a first-generation college graduate raised in rural Oklahoma. She earned her bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1998 and a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in 2003. Following an NIH-sponsored postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health Center, she joined the faculty of Texas State University in 2006. Currently, Dr. Ceballos is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Texas State, where her research interests focus on the interactions of stress and addictive behaviors in college students. Her work has been funded by the NIH and Humanities Texas. You can learn more about Dr. Ceballos by watching this video:





Correspondence Course Information

As a correspondence studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the [Correspondence Course Information page](#) as well as the [Correspondence Studies website](#).

Orientation Video

Please view [this orientation video](#) to help you get started in this correspondence course. This video addresses many topics such as Bobcat Mail, navigating this course site, test requests, and more.

Online Student Resources

[This webpage](#) contains multiple resources for online students at Texas State University. Note: Some resources are only available to students who pay a student service fee.

Technical Requirements and Support

This online course requires technical skills and access to certain technology and software that face-to-face courses may not require.

- Learn about [skills and technology](#) you need to be successful in this course. Also review these [tips](#) and [interaction guidelines](#) to be a successful online learner.

Many users encounter fewer problems when they **use Chrome** to access Canvas courses.

Here's how to **get help with Canvas**:

- 24/7 [Live chat](#)
- 24/7 Phone support: 245.ITAC (4822)
- [Tool-specific help](#)
- Click Help in the left navigation of any Canvas course

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of [free tutoring resources](#) are available for students enrolled in Texas State correspondence courses.



The Office of Distance and Extended Learning

FREE TUTORING



University Writing Center

The Texas State University Writing Center's online tutoring service allows Texas State correspondence, self-paced study students, to work with a writing tutor in real time in an online environment. During the online tutorial, both the student and the tutor are

Academic Integrity

Texas State Academic Honor Code

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The [Honor Code](#) serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community. As stated in the [Texas State Student Handbook](#), [Violation of the Honor Code](#) includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Definitions

As stated per [Texas State Honor Code, UPPS No. 07.10.01, Issue no. 8](#).

*Please note that not all activities that constitute academic misconduct are listed in specific detail in [UPPS No. 07.10.10, Honor Code](#). It is expected that students will honor the *spirit* of academic integrity and will not place themselves in the position of being charged with academic misconduct.

Please cite all unoriginal material through the use of [standard bibliographical practice](#) explained through the [Alkek library site](#).

Incidents of [academic dishonesty as outlined by the University](#) will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action. In addition, students will receive a 0 for the assignment or assignments without the opportunity to redo the work.

Academic work signifies outcomes and products such as essays, theses, reports, exams, tests, quizzes, problems, assignments, or other projects submitted for purposes of achieving learning outcomes.

Cheating in general means, but is not limited to, engaging or attempting to engage in any of the following activities:

- Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, computer files, data listing, programs, or from any electronic device or equipment;

- Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work;
- Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the content of an unadministered test;
- Substituting for another student—or permitting another person to substitute for oneself—in taking an exam or preparing academic work;
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test;
- Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work, any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist;
- Submitting the same essay, thesis, report, or another project, without substantial revision or expansion of the work, in an attempt to obtain credit for work submitted in a previous course;
- Falsifying data.

Plagiarism

in general means, but is not limited to, the appropriation of another's work and the inadequately or inappropriately acknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written, oral, visual or the performance of an original act or routine that is offered for credit.

Collusion

in general means, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing any work offered for credit.

Abuse of resource materials

in general means, but is not limited to, the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course content.

Please cite all unoriginal material through the use of [standard bibliographical practice](#) as explained on the [Alkek Library site](#).

Incidents of academic dishonesty as outlined by the University will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action. In addition, students will receive a 0 for the assignment or assignments without the opportunity to redo the work.

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materials provided, thereby creating derivative works from my lectures and other materials. However, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes or answers for your own personal use and no other use. You are not authorized to provide copies, notes or examination questions to anyone else, or to make any commercial use of them without prior written consent.

As stated per [Texas State Honor Code, UPPS No. 07.10.01, Issue no. 8.](#)

Students Requiring Accommodation Through the Office of Disability Services

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals.

A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking.

Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY).

Students should then notify the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) at corrstudy@txstate.edu of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

Course Syllabus

PSY 4390N Psychopharmacology

Course Description

In 4390N, we will review psychopharmacology topics including neuronal and chemical mechanisms underlying drug action; environmental factors modulating the impact of drugs on emotion, cognition, perception, and behavior; the processes underlying drug dependency, tolerance, and withdrawal; and the implications for drug abuse treatment and prevention strategies.

Communication Policy

Instructor: Dr. Natalie Ceballos

Email: nc18@txstate.edu

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How to Succeed in this Course

1. Pace yourself in the course, giving yourself plenty of time to complete each module.
2. Complete the reading assignment(s) for the module, and then view the e-lecture or other audio-visual material in the module to reinforce key concepts.
3. Take the self-assessment quizzes and/or complete the scavenger hunt assignments to test how much you focused on and learned from the lesson. Then, go back and review any material that you may not have mastered in your first pass.
4. Complete the reflection essay assignments for each module to gain a deeper understanding of how the key concepts apply to real life.
5. For the last module, choose one of your reflection essays and expand it into a short paper in APA format.
6. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your instructor.

Course Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the factors that influence drug action.
2. Demonstrate an ability to interpret dose response curves.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function of the nervous system.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of the mechanisms of communication within the nervous system.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of different neurotransmitter systems and how they work in the brain and body.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of factors influencing the development and maintenance of drug misuse and addiction.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of different classes of recreational drugs and how they work in the brain and body.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of different classes of psychiatric medications and how they work in the brain and body.

Course Organization

You have **six months** (approximately 24 weeks) to complete the course. You will be reading and learning information from 14 chapters, taking quizzes and/or completing application assignments. In addition, for your last assignment you will expand prepare a video presentation on the course-related topic of your choice.


Here is a suggested schedule for how to budget your time:

- Week 1: Familiarize yourself with the syllabus and introductory materials.
- Week 2: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 1.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 3: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 1.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 4: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 2.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 5: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 2.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 6: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 3. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 7: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 4.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 8: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 4.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 9: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 4.3. Complete

the online quizzes and application assignment.

- Week 10: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 5. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 11: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 6. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 12: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 7.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 13: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 7.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 14: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 8.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 15: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 8.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 16: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 9. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 17: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 10. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 18: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 11.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 19: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 11.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 20: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 12. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 21: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 13. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 22: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 14.1. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 23: Read the assigned chapter and view the online course content for Lesson 14.2. Complete the online quizzes and application assignment.
- Week 24: Complete Lesson 15 and prepare a video presentation on a course-related topic of your

choice.

Be sure to fill out the [Course Pacing Guide](#)  and submit it within 7 days of enrollment. *You may complete no more than two lessons per week.*

Course Materials

The required textbook for this course will be Meyer, J.S., Farrar, A.M., Biezonski, D., & Yates, J.R. (2023). *Psychopharmacology: Drugs, The Brain, and Behavior, Fourth Edition*. New York: Sinauer Associates.

Grading

Activity	Points
Self-Assessment Quizzes	140 points (28 quizzes, 5 points each)
Application Assignments	140 points (14 assignments, 5 points each)
Video Presentation	20 points (1 presentation, 20 points)

Total: 300 points

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- 240 – 300 points = A
- 180 – 239 points = B
- 120 – 179 points = C
- 60 – 119 points = D
- 0 – 59 points = F

You must submit all assignments and make a 60 percent or better on the final presentation in order to pass the course.

Quizzes, Assignments, and Video Presentation

Quizzes: Each lesson will include two self-assessment quizzes. You will be allowed to complete each quiz up to three times, and your highest score will be recorded. These quizzes are not timed. Each quiz will be worth five points.

Assignments: Each Lesson will include one application assignment. Each assignment will be worth 10 points. These assignments will require you to apply what you've learned in the lesson to real-life situations.

Final Presentation: In the last Lesson of the course, you will prepare a video presentation on a course-related topic of your choice.

Lesson 1: Overview

Lesson 1

Overview



Introduction

Pharmacology is the science of drug action. In Lesson 1.1, we'll explore how drugs work in the body and how their actions can be influenced by both physical and psychological factors. Pharmacodynamics is the study of the physiological and biochemical interaction of drug molecules with target tissue that is responsible for the ultimate effects of a drug. In Lesson 1.2, we'll learn about these interactions and their relevance to drug safety, as well as chronic drug use.



Module Learning Objectives

After completing this Lesson, you should be able to answer the following questions, as well as recognize, discuss, analyze, and use the key concepts (shown in bold type).

1. What is the **placebo effect** and why are **double-blind experiments** preferred?
2. What are the **pharmacokinetic factors** that determine drug action?
3. How do different methods of **drug administration** influence drug action?
4. What are the factors that influence a drug's **absorption, elimination, and bioavailability**?
5. What is a **dose-response curve** and what can it tell us drug **efficacy, potency, and therapeutic index**?
6. What is drug **tolerance** and how is it related to **cross-tolerance**?



Activities

1. Read Chapter 1, Part 1.1 in your textbook.

2. Watch Dr. Ceballos' mini-lecture on The Science of Drug Action. **Click Next at the bottom of this page to watch the lecture.**

3. Complete the Self-Assessment Quiz for Lesson 1.1.

4. Read Chapter 1, Part 1.2 in your textbook.

5. Watch Dr. Ceballos' mini-lecture on Pharmacodynamics.

6. Complete the Self-Assessment Quiz for Lesson 1.2.

7. Finally, complete the Application Assignment for this Lesson.

Click Next at the bottom of this page to begin Lesson 1.

Lesson 1.1

Pharmacology: The Science of Drug Action



Readings

Read Section 1.1 in your textbook.



Videos



Watch Later



Share

Principles of Pharmacology



Lesson 1.1

Watch on  YouTube