

CHEMISTRY OF DANGEROUS DRUGS
TENTATIVE Lecture Syllabus

Instructor: *Dr. Ellen Hondrogiannis*

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Office hours: By appointment

Schedule: TR (SC 3333) 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Purpose of course: A study of the chemistry, methods of detection and analysis of narcotics, depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens. Also, the influence of physiochemical properties upon the pharmacological effects of drug receptor interactions. Historical, forensic and socio-economic implications associated with drug abuse will also be reviewed.

Course prerequisite: CHEM 332, CHEM 220/220L

Optional text: Julien, R.M., *A Primer of Drug Action* any edition.

Course Evaluation: Your grade will consist of 4 **cumulative** in class exams (each worth 100 points) and one **cumulative** final exam (worth 100 points). You are also required to attend 2 seminars or webinars (on anything related to science 😊) and email to me a half page summary of each. Each summary is worth 5 points. This summary is due to me by the start time of your final exam.

If you miss an exam for any reason, your final exam will count a proportionally higher percentage. There are no makeup exams for any reason. You do not need to notify me that you are not taking the exam. If you miss the final exam for any reason **and have taken all 4 of the in class exams**, then I will record the average of your 4 in class exams for your final exam grade. If you miss the final exam for any reason **and have not taken at least one in class exam**, then I will average the in class exams that you took and divide the number by 2. This is the score that will be recorded for your final grade. This is also the score that will be recorded for the missed exam grade(s).

Point corrections to exams will be made only within one week from the date the exam was returned. Any review of your exam will result in the entire exam being regraded.

If the university moves to remote learning then I reserve the right to weigh any exams taken in class considerably greater than exams taken remotely. For example, if you only take one exam in class and the rest of the exams are taken remotely (because the university moves to remote learning) then I may weigh the first exam at 90% of your grade and the remaining exams, including the final, at a total of 10% of your grade.

Course Grading Standards:

A	(94.10-100%)
A-	(90.10-94.00%)
B+	(87.10-90.00%)
B	(83.10-87.00%)
B-	(80.10-83.00%)
C+	(77.10-80.00%)

C	(70.10-77.00%)
D+	(68.10-70.00%)
D	(60.10-68.00%)
F	(< 60.10%)

Policy on Attendance: There are no points for attendance. However, “attending” lectures is highly advantageous for learning the material and succeeding in the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining all missed material from another student. You will benefit from obtaining the optional textbook and reading the appropriate sections. For some lectures I may upload to BB an outline of the power point that I deliver in class. This will be done at a minimum of 24 h prior to lecture. You will only be able to fill in the information by attending class.

Policy on Cheating: Before an exam is handed out, you must put books, notes and cell phones away. You must have nothing in your lap or on your desk including purses and/or clothing. If you need to use the restroom you should do so before the exam/quiz, since you will not be allowed to leave the room once the exam/quiz are handed out. It is assumed that if a cell phone is in use or out during an exam/quiz then the student is cheating and the exam/quiz score will be zero. (Cell phones are not to be used as calculators.) Please avoid the appearance of dishonest behavior by looking only at your paper or straight ahead. You are further not allowed to talk to any student once the exam/quiz is passed out. If you have a question then remain in your seat and raise your hand. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled in compliance with the Towson University Student Academic Integrity Policy (<http://wwwnew.towson.edu/studentaffairs/policies/>). Depending on the offense, the penalty may be a failing grade on the particular exam/quiz or for the entire course. If you observe another student cheating, I encourage you to let me know. I will keep your information strictly confidential. Students sharing the same “wrong” answer on a quiz or exam will both be given zeros for that quiz or exam.

Copyright Notice:

Your instructor retains all copyrights to all original materials distributed in this course (including, but not limited to, hard copies and electronic copies of lecture slides, notes, practice problems, worksheets, assignments, lab materials, and exams). Reposting, selling, or otherwise distributing these materials in any fashion at any time is prohibited.

Disabilities: Students with approved accommodations should submit their memos to the instructor the first week of class, or as soon as possible thereafter. It is the student’s responsibility to present this paperwork in a timely fashion and to follow up regarding accommodations that require instructor participation (eg testing accommodations). If you think you need accommodations but do not yet have them, please contact Disability Support Services (410-704-2638).

Mental Health: Students who are experiencing personal difficulties or mental health challenges are encouraged to seek free and confidential assistance at the Towson University Counseling Center (TUCC). Same-day appointments are available, and you can reach a crisis counselor by phone after hours. For more information about TUCC, please visit their website at

<https://www.towson.edu/counseling/> . To make an appointment or for after-hours crisis assistance, please call 410-704-2512.

All TU students can access 24/7 digital peer support through TogetherAll, an online community to share feelings anonymously and get support to improve mental health and well-being. Register [here](#)

Welltrack Boost is a self-help app that all TU students can access for free. Through self-assessment and the use of fun and engaging tools, it will help you improve and maintain your mental health. Register [here](#).

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We all experience emotional distress and personal difficulties as a normal part of life. As your instructor, I am not qualified to serve as your counselor. However, The Towson University Counseling Center (TUCC) provides free and confidential mental health services that are not connected to your academic record in any way. If you are experiencing mental health challenges, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of TUCC's services. For more information about TUCC, please visit their website at <https://www.towson.edu/counseling/>. To make a same-day appointment or for after-hours crisis assistance, please call 410-704-2512.

Course Communications: You are responsible for anything sent by the instructor via email or posted on Blackboard. All email communication will be sent to university email accounts; you are responsible for checking your university email account frequently. I will usually respond within 24 hours of receiving an email (48 hours on weekend). However, if you are requesting an appointment, then please email me at least three days prior.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topics</u>
Aug 25	Introduction to the course (<i>not in text</i>) Drug Testing (<i>not in text</i>) (R) GC/MS (Wear lab attire)
Sept 1	GC/MS (<i>not in text</i>) (R) GC/MS (Wear lab attire)
Sept 8	GC/MS
Sept 15	E 1 (T); Pharmacokinetics (Thursday)

Sept 22	Pharmacodynamics; The Neuron, Synaptic Transmission, NTs
Sept 29	Brain Imaging (<i>not in text</i>), Ethyl Alcohol, Inhalants
Oct 6	Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines
Oct 13	E2 (T) ; Antidepressants (Thursday)
Oct 20	Intro to Stimulants Caffeine, Nicotine
Oct 27	Cocaine, Amphetamines
Nov 3	Pain, NSAIDs
Nov 10	E3 (T) ; Opiates Thursday
Nov 17	Cannabinoid Agonists
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break (T and R)
Dec 1	Psychedelic Drugs; E4 (Thursday). This is your last class.
Dec 11 Thursday	Final Exam 8:00-9:00 a.m.