

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** SOSC 302    **TITLE:** Pharmacology and Physiological Effects of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

**Semester Units/Hours:** 3.0 units; a minimum of 48.0 lecture hours/semester

**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 838 or 848.

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

A theory course focusing on the effects of alcohol and other drugs upon the body and studying the physiology of alcohol and other drugs in two areas: physical effects of alcohol and other drugs on the body and the physiological effects of the disease of alcoholism and of drug abuse.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Define the basic metabolic and neurological processes involved in psychoactive drug use, including synergistic effects and risk factors.
2. Outline how to screen clients for psychoactive substance toxicity, intoxication, and withdrawal symptoms.
3. Cite the differences and similarities between physical and psychological dependency, tolerance and withdrawal.
4. Describe the medical and pharmacological resources available in the treatment of substance abuse disorders.
5. Identify the special service needs and staff precautions when working with clients who may be HIV-, hepatitis-, STD-, or tuberculosis-positive.
6. List and understand which areas of the brain and nervous system are effected by specific drugs which in turn present as behavioral and diagnostic signs and symptoms for assessment.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Define the basic metabolic and neurological processes involved in psychoactive drug use, including synergistic effects and risk factors.
2. Outline how to screen clients for psychoactive substance toxicity, intoxication, and withdrawal symptoms.
3. Cite the differences and similarities between physical and psychological dependency, tolerance and withdrawal.
4. Describe the medical and pharmacological resources available in the treatment of substance abuse disorders.
5. Identify the special service needs and staff precautions when working with clients who may be HIV-, hepatitis-, STD-, or tuberculosis-positive.
6. List and understand which areas of the brain and nervous system are effected by specific drugs which in turn present as behavioral and diagnostic signs and symptoms for assessment.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Disease of Chemical Dependency.
2. General Pharmacological Principles.
3. Alcohol and Disulfiram (Antabuse).
4. Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines and Other Sedative Hypnotics.
5. Opiates.
  - A. Methadone Maintenance.
  - B. Other Opiates.
6. Stimulants.
  - A. Amphetamines.

- B. Cocaine.
- 7. Psychedelics.
  - A. Marijuana.
  - B. Other Psychedelics.
- 8. Inhalants.
  - A. Over-the-counter Drugs.
  - B. Drug Testing.
- 9. Medical Aspects of Psychoactive Drug Use.
- 10. Screening Tests, Intervention, Detoxification.
- 11. Chemical Dependency Treatment.
- 12. Family Aspects of Addiction.
- 13. Recovery -- Living Sober.
- 14. Special Populations in Recovery.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Guest Speakers

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Student research and write reports on psychoactive drugs

**Reading Assignments:**

Weekly reading assignments from the assigned text(s).

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Oral Presentation
- D. Papers
- E. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Darryl Inaba, William E. Cohen, Michael E. Holstein. *Uppers, Downers, All Arounders: Physical and Mental Effects of Psychoactive Drugs*, 7th ed. CNS Publications, 2011

**Origination Date:** August 2010  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** December 2013  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2014  
**Course Originator:** Kevin Henson