



**San José State University**  
**Department of Psychology**  
**PSYC/PH 126-01,**  
**Drugs, Brain, and Behavior (47667/49602), Fall 2025**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Jill Citron, PhD
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jill.citron@sjsu.edu">jill.citron@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Drop-in Hours:</b>	Tuesday & Thursday, 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm, and by appointment.
<b>Office Location:</b>	DMH 352
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Hugh Gillis Hall 122
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Either (a) PSYC 30 or (b) 3 units of BIOL You must <u>complete</u> the prerequisites before taking this course.

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### **CANVAS and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of some course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on Canvas. Messages to the class may be sent through Canvas or MYSJSU.

### **Course Description**

Neuroscience is defined as the study of the nervous system. This field comprises several related disciplines including: Neuroanatomy, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neurophysiology, neuroimmunology, and neuropathology. The united efforts of such disciplines have produced a better understanding of the function of the nervous system and its relationship to behavior. This course will examine each of these sub-disciplines in detail, with a focus on both the healthy nervous system and disorders of the nervous system including depression, Alzheimer's disease, and schizophrenia. We will examine specific topics and research methods in depth.

### **Communication with instructor**

Use email, drop-in hours, or class time to ask questions. I respond to email M-F 9:00-5:00. Please allow 1-2 days for a response. When emailing, include a relevant title and our course number (126). If you have extensive questions about an assignment or class work, please come to office hours. Do not hesitate to reach out to me during drop-in hours, after class, or via email. I welcome your questions.

## Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, PSYC/PH 126 students will be able to:

1. Describe the history of drug regulation in the United States, including bringing a drug to the marketplace.
2. Be able to classify drugs according to their legal status and drug class.
3. Be proficient in describing the actions of drugs in the brain and body.
4. Be able to describe the behavioral and psychological effects of drug classes, in general, and specific drugs, in particular.
5. Be able to identify the genetic, personality, social, and environmental factors leading to substance abuse as well as effective drug abuse treatment options.

Knowledge base of physiological, psychological, and behavioral effects of drugs; historical and contemporary theories of drug use and abuse; drug regulations and laws (CLO 1); research methods used in basic and applied behavioral pharmacology and in clinical evaluations of investigational new drugs (CLO 2); critical thinking skills as applied to evaluating basic and applied psychopharmacological research (CLO 3), applications of drugs in the treatment of mental disorders and other conditions (CLO 4); and ethical consideration of using human and non-human animals in studies investigating basic and applied psychopharmacological research (CLO 5) comprises the overall course learning outcomes.

## Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements, students will be able to:

**PLO1:** Knowledge Base of Psychology- Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

**PLO2:** Research Methods in Psychology- Design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

**PLO3:** Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology- Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.

**PLO4:** Application of Psychology- Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

**PLO5:** Values in Psychology- Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

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**Our class meets on campus. We will use Canvas for discussions, assignment submissions, and as a repository for articles we will use during the semester. Be sure to sign up for Canvas notifications as I send out announcements during the semester. Canvas is an important component of our class, but it does NOT replace class.**

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**It is strongly recommended** that students use the Chrome Web Browser when using Canvas. Using Chrome will decrease the number of glitches and errors you experience, as Canvas was developed using the Chrome platform.

In addition, update your Canvas setting to receive messages from this course, as announcements are sent out on a regular basis.

**Note:** clearing your cache may help if you have trouble logging into the site.

## Accessing Course Canvas site

To access the Canvas site go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/> and click on “Log in to Canvas”

**Username** = *SJSU 9-digit ID*

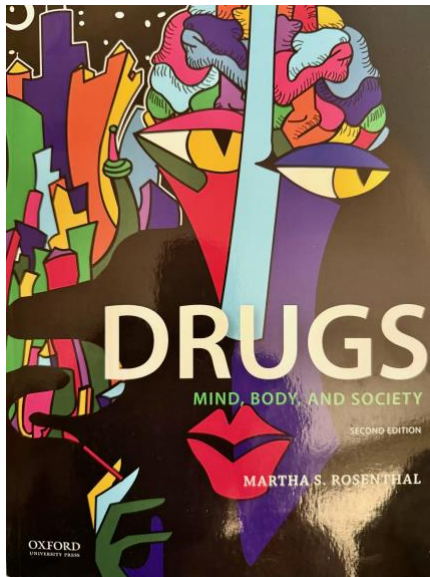
**Password** = *your current SJSUOne password*

For additional information or help with logging in:

**Canvas Student Tutorial:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>

## Required Textbook

Our required textbook is



Martha Rosenthal, Oxford University Press. (2022). ISBN 978-0-19-758528-3. *IF YOU CAN LOCATE THE TEXT FOR A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER PRICE, PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE CLASS!*

## Library Liaison

The SJSU library has a librarian who specializes in psychology (and other social sciences), and this librarian can serve as a very valuable resource for helping you to develop research ideas and locating appropriate research materials. The library also has an abundance of resources for doing psychology research:

Christa Bailey, 408-808-2422, [christa.bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:christa.bailey@sjsu.edu), <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/psychology>

## Classroom Protocol

As a member of this class, you are part of a community. Students are expected to maintain a level of professional and courteous behavior. You are required to put your cell phone and other distractors away before the beginning of class. We will be respectful of our class members and expect the same respect in return. Do not have side conversations, make unrelated comments in class, or look for deals on eBay during class. You may not realize that your actions are distracting for those around you. Students that do not abide by these policies (after being alerted to their behavior) will be asked to leave the class.

## Diversity Statement

This class strives to be an inclusive community, learning from the many perspectives that come from having differing backgrounds and beliefs. As a community, we aim to be respectful of all. We reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including but not limited to those based on age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Together we can create an environment that supports inquiry and self-expression, and respect for diverse viewpoints.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's catalog, <https://catalog.sjsu.edu/>, policy section. The Late Drop Policy is available at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. It is the student's responsibility to make sure classes are dropped <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S20-9.pdf>. Visit the Advising Hub at <https://www.sjsu.edu/advising/> with addition questions. This semester, the last day to add a class or drop a class without a "W" is Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. Life happens. If you are going to miss class, please let me know as soon as you are able.

*According to University Policy F15-12, "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated."*

## Definition of a Credit Hour

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course. As an example, the expectation of work for a 3-credit course is 150 minutes of direct faculty instruction and six-hours of out-of-class student work each week.

Please review the following sources and policies, as well:

- University Syllabus Policy S16-9 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>
- Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of San Jose State University. Familiarize yourself with the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-7.pdf>. When practiced, academic integrity ensures that students are fairly graded. A reminder about academic integrity and Chat GPT: All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic Misconduct includes (but is not necessarily limited to) using ideas, words, images, or content in any other media that you did not create and presenting that content as if you were the creator.

Copying content that you have not created—either directly or in a modified form—without properly acknowledging the creator qualifies as academic misconduct. Likewise, utilizing unauthorized digital tools such as artificial intelligence to create content qualifies as academic misconduct. An assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized tools will automatically receive a zero, and you will not be given an opportunity to repeat it for me.

**University Policies:** Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

## **GRADING INFORMATION AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

This course uses a grading contract. You will receive a B+ if you pass the Core Course Requirements below.

1. (Complete 4 of 5) Participation in Class Activities
2. (Complete 11 out of 12) Chapter Reading Responses (due before weekly class meetings)
3. Literature Review Project
4. Flash Talk
5. Reaction Essay to a documentary film
6. (Complete 10 out of 12) Quizzes- The quizzes will only count toward your grade if you miss more than two.

For each of the six core requirements that you do not complete, your grade will decrease 1/2 of a letter grade (e.g., if you do not do the literature review project but do complete the other three requirements, you'd earn a B- as your course grade).

How do I earn an A? You can earn a grade higher than a B+ by completing the Literature Review, in addition to the above core requirements. Your specific grade would then be as follows, assuming you also complete the four required elements:

- “Satisfactory” on the Literature Review = A- in the course
- “Above Expectations” on the Literature Review = A in the course
- “Outstanding” on the Literature Review = A+ in the course

### **Major Assignments**

#### **Reading Response**

For each chapter, you will write a one-page (~250 word) reaction. You should write about the 2-3 things that stood out most from the readings. Because we only meet once a week, there will be four occasions during the semester when we will read two chapters.

#### **Literature Review Project**

In the first half of the semester, you will identify a topic of interest concerning drugs, the brain, and behavior. Then, you will find a recent review article to provide you with more information and background. This will take the form of a five-page paper summarizing each study and critically evaluating its strengths and weaknesses. What gap in the research does this study answer? Specific instructions will be posted on Canvas.

#### **Favorite Article flash talk**

You are to prepare a 3-minute flash talk on a topic that is interesting to you. This assignment is designed for you to communicate research findings with a general audience in mind, using succinct, accessible language. Please choose one research article that is the most interesting to you from your literature review project. Your article must be recent, within the past 2 -3 years (published in 2021, 2022, or 2023). Your presentation will be an elevator pitch (4 slides) introducing the research topic and focus of the article, a brief discussion of the methods, results, conclusion, and the relevance of the research findings to the world. Your goal is to promote understanding

and interest in this topic for individuals who may not know about this topic. Therefore, being concise, clear, and accessible is essential for this presentation.

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### **Documentary Review**

You are to choose a documentary on a topic of interest relevant to **Kanopy Streaming**. You will need to sign in to your MySJSU to gain access to Kanopy. Your review will be a one-page response paper. What did the documentary get right? Was there misinformation presented? Did the documentary have an agenda? What did you learn? Wrap up your one-page review with a summary statement!

### **Student Resources**

#### **Student Computer Resources –**

Computer labs and other technological resources for students can be found in various places on campus:

- For information regarding the loan of laptops, tablets, and other computer materials; <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>
- For IT Support visit - <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php>
- For a list of software available to all SJSU students visit - <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/software-available>

#### **ACCESS Success Center**

The Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in Social Sciences (ACCESS) Success Center “provides general education advising for undergraduate students majoring or intending to major in any of the departments in The College of Social Sciences.” Visit their webpage for more information and to schedule an online appointment, <https://www.sjsu.edu/education/studentsuccesscenter/advising-and-tutoring.php>.

#### **Accessible Education Center (AEC)**

Ability Redefined - Please reach out to me as soon as possible in the beginning of the semester, for any support.

“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability.” [Academic Senate Policy F06-2 \[pdf\]](#)

#### **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections website “offers free mentoring, tutoring, and supplemental instruction services for students at SJSU. Peer Educators are students just like you; they understand the triumphs and challenges of being a student at San José State University.” If you have questions about services, contact the Peer Connections at 408-924-2587 or email at [peerconnections@sjsu.edu](mailto:peerconnections@sjsu.edu), or visit their webpage for more information, <https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/programs/tutoring/index.html>

**SJSU Writing Center**– Check for different ways to access these services.



The SJSU Writing Center “offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of our services are free for SJSU students.” If you have questions about services, call the Writing Center at 408.924.2308 or email us at [writingcenter@sjsu.edu](mailto:writingcenter@sjsu.edu), or visit their webpage to make an online appointment <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

### **SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services invites “all students to come into Counseling and Psychological Services, located at the Student Wellness Center, room 300B, for any support.

*If you have questions about services, contact CAPS at (408) 924-5910 or email at [counseling.services@sjsu.edu](mailto:counseling.services@sjsu.edu)*

or visit their webpage, <https://www.sjsu.edu/counseling/>

### **Student Support Services-**

Housing Assistance for students that lack stable and adequate housing

<https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/housing.php>

**Spartan Food Pantry** is a walk-in full-service food assistance program for qualifying students.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/spartan-food-pantry/index.html>

**CalFresh Foods** offers monthly cash assistance to pay for groceries. CalFresh has supported many students who are experiencing budget restraints. <https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/calfresh.php>

### **Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence**

A reminder about academic integrity and Chat GPT: All cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Academic Misconduct includes (but is not necessarily limited to) using ideas, words, images, or content in any other media you did not create and presenting that content as if you were the creator.

Copying content you have not created—either directly or in a modified form—without adequately acknowledging the creator qualifies as academic misconduct, as does utilizing unauthorized digital tools such as artificial intelligence to create content. An assignment found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized tools will automatically receive a zero, and you will not be allowed to repeat the assignment for a passing grade. Depending on the severity of the case, academic misconduct may result in a failing grade in the course.

A simple guide to follow is that if more than four words are taken from another source, they must be cited.

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for the recording of the class, etc., and available student services (e.g., learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](#) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to modification (with fair warning, no surprises, promise) as necessary to accommodate flexibility in our class schedule.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic Covered in Class</b>	<b>Reading Due Before Class</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>1</b>	Th- 8/21	Course Introduction Syllabus Pace of class.	You are not expected to have the text for our first class meeting.	<u>Due: 2/05</u> Name Coach
<b>2</b>	Tu- 8/26 Th- 8/28	Drugs, Mind, Body, and Society	Chapter 1	RR Chapter 1 Quiz 1
<b>3</b>	T- 9/02 Th- 9/04	Drug Laws and Policy	Chapter 2	RR Chapter 2 Quiz 2
<b>4</b>	T- 9/09 Th- 9/11	The Nervous System	Chapter 3	RR Chapter 3 Quiz 3
<b>5</b>	T- 9/16 Th- 9/18	Pharmacology: How Drugs Work	Chapter 4	RR Chapter 4 Quiz 4
<b>6</b>	T- 9/23 Th- 9/25	No Class- Stimulants	Chapter 5	RR Chapter 5 Quiz 5
<b>7</b>	T- 9/29 Th-10/02	Hallucinogens No Class-	Chapter 6	RR Chapter 6 Quiz 6 Documentary Reaction Paper
<b>8</b>	T- 10/07 Th-10/09	Opioids	Chapter 7	RR Chapter 7 or 8 Quiz 7 Quiz 8
<b>9</b>	T- 10/14 Th-10/16	Sedatives, Hypnotics, and Inhalants	Chapter 8	RR Chapter 9 Quiz 9
<b>10</b>	T- 10/21 Th-10/23	Cannabis	Chapter 9	
<b>11</b>	T- 10/28 Th-10/30	Tobacco and Nicotine Caffeine	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	
<b>12</b>	T- 11/04 Th-11/06	Alcohol	Chapter 12	RR Chapter 11 Quiz 11
<b>13</b>	T- 11/11 Th-11/13	Veteran's Day- No Class Drugs for Treating Psychological Disorders	Chapter 13	RR Chapter 12 Quiz 12
<b>14</b>	T- 11/18 Th-11/20	Performance Enhancing Drugs	Chapter 14	RR Chapter 13
<b>15</b>	T- 11/25 Th-11/27	Over-the-Counter Thanksgiving- No Class	Chapter 15	
<b>16</b>	T- 12/02 Th-12/04	FLASH TALKS!		



