



UNSW
AUSTRALIA

Medical Sciences
Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

PHAR 3202

Neuropharmacology

COURSE OUTLINE

SESSION 2, 2015

CRICOS Provider Code 00098G

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Please read this manual/outline in conjunction with the following pages on the

[School of Medical Sciences website:](#)

- [Advice for Students](#)
- [Learning Resources](#)

(or see "STUDENTS" tab at medicallsciences.med.unsw.edu.au)

PHAR3202 COURSE INFORMATION

Neuropharmacology (PHAR3202) is a 3rd year Science Course worth Six Units of Credit (6 UOC). The course will build on the information you have gained in Pharmacology (PHAR2011) and Physiology (2101 & 2201) as well as Biochemistry (BIOC2101/2181) and Molecular Biology (2201/2291) or Chemistry (2021/2041).

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Building on basic pharmacology skills learned in PHAR2011, the objectives of this course are to a) provide both knowledge and conceptual understanding of the use and action of various classes of drugs in the treatment of different human diseases affecting the brain and b) develop an appreciation of the need for further research to identify new drug targets for more effective therapies.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR and LECTURERS

Course Co-ordinators:

Dr Nicole Jones

Room 327

Wallace Wurth East

Ph: 9385 2568

N.JONES@UNSW.EDU.AU

Professor Margaret Morris

Room 322

Wallace Wurth East

Ph 9385 1560

M.MORRIS@UNSW.EDU.AU

Consultation time: Monday 12-1pm

(outside these times please be sure to make an appointment via email as undergraduate students do not have access to the upper floors of the Wallace Wurth building)

Students wishing to see the course coordinator outside consultation times should make an appointment via email.

Lecturers in this course:

Dr. Trudie Binder

W.BINDER@UNSW.EDU.AU

A Prof Kay Double

KAY.DOUBLE@SYDNEY.EDU.AU

Dr. Ross Grant

R.GRANT@UNSW.EDU.AU

Dr. Nicole Jones

N.JONES@UNSW.EDU.AU

Dr. Gila Moalem-Taylor

GILA@UNSW.EDU.AU

Prof. Margaret Morris

M.MORRIS@UNSW.EDU.AU

Dr Greg Smith

G.SMITH@UNSW.EDU.AU

COURSE STRUCTURE and TEACHING STRATEGIES

Learning activities occur on the following days and times:

- Lectures: Monday (10am-11am), Wednesday (5-6pm)
- Tutorials: Thursday (*1-2pm, *2-3pm *3-4pm)
- Practicals: Thursday (*10am-1pm or *2-5pm).

*Once enrolled in one of the two tutorial or practical sessions, students cannot change.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled activities for their full duration (2 hours of lectures per week and up to 4 hours of practical and tutorial sessions per week). Students are expected to attend all scheduled activities for their full duration. Students are reminded that UNSW recommends that a 6 units-of-credit course should involve about 150-180 hrs of study and learning activities. The formal learning activities are approximately 76 hours throughout the semester and students are expected (and strongly recommended) to do at least the same number of hours of additional study.

Lectures will provide you with the concepts and theory essential for understanding the mechanism of action and clinical effects of drug classes which are used to treat CNS disorders. For each disease the pathological process will be outlined in the lecture and the relevant drug targets in the disease process identified and current pharmacological treatments will be described. While lectures will focus on the mechanism of action and adverse effects of drugs currently in use, potential new therapies, drug targets and areas requiring further research for more effective therapies, will be identified and discussed.

To assist in the development of research and analytical skills practical classes and tutorials will be held. These classes and tutorials allow students to engage in a more interactive form of learning than is possible in the lectures. The skills you will learn in practical classes and tutorials are relevant to your development as professional scientists.

APPROACH TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

The learning and teaching philosophy underpinning this course is centred on student learning and aims to create an environment, which interests, challenges and enthuses students. The teaching is designed to be relevant and engaging in order to prepare students for future careers.

Although the primary source of information for this course is the lecture material, effective learning can be enhanced through self-directed use of other resources such as textbooks and Web based sources. Your practical classes will be directly related to the lectures and it is essential to prepare for practical classes before attendance. It is up to you to ensure you perform well in each part of the course; preparing for classes; completing assignments; studying for exams and seeking assistance to clarify your understanding.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

PHAR3202 will develop those attributes that the Faculty of Science has identified as important for a Science Graduate to attain. These include; skills, qualities, understanding and attitudes that promote lifelong learning that students should acquire during their university experience.

Graduate Attributes

- A. Research, inquiry and analytical thinking abilities
- B. The capability and motivation for intellectual development
- C. Ethical, social and professional understanding
- D. Effective communication
- E. Teamwork, collaborative and management skills
- F. Information Literacy – the skills to locate, evaluate and use relevant information.

On completion of this subject students should:

1. Be able to describe the synthetic and metabolic pathways of the major CNS neurotransmitters
2. Be able to list examples of drugs used to treat major classes of brain and mind disorders.
3. Be able to outline the mechanism of action of specified drug classes used to treat the major types of brain and mind disorders.
4. Be able to communicate scientific information in a report.
5. Be able to demonstrate their ability to work in teams and communicate scientific information effectively.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Progress exam (40 min duration) | 10% |
| • Tutorial preparation and participation | 2.5% |
| • Practical quizzes (5 in total) | 10% |
| • Assignment – “Controversial Research Topic in Neuropharmacology” | 17.5% |
| • End of session examination (2 hours duration) | 60% |

The *practicals and tutorials* are provided to support lecture material and practise analytical skills. The practical classes and tutorials help you to develop graduate attributes A, C, D & E. During the practical course you will be required to submit a written report for one of the practical sessions. The report itself should be in the form of a scientific communication comprising aims, results and discussion. Reports must be legible and as concise as possible, and are limited to a maximum of 4 pages of writing (excluding tables, figures and computer traces). The report will be due one week after the relevant practical class. Written assessment tasks must be accompanied by a signed plagiarism form and submitted to the BABS.SOMS.BEES (B.S.B.) Student Office, located on the Ground Floor Room G27, of the Biosciences Building. Office hours are 9.00 am - 4:30pm. A penalty will apply for late submissions. Material covered in the Practical Classes will be examined.

Student assignment

Students will work in teams of 3-4 to research a “Controversial Research Topic in Neuropharmacology”. Each group member must participate in the development of an argument for or against the topic and groups will debate the topic in weeks 8 and 9. Groups and Topics will be assigned in the first prac session. Individual group members will be required to submit a 500 word synopsis of their own debate topic. This assessment task will allow you to develop your research, information literacy, communication and time management skills, as well as allowing you to demonstrate your ability to work in a team and collaborate successfully (Graduate attributes A, D, E & F). Marking criteria will be distributed along with assignment details at the first practical session. Written assessment tasks must be accompanied by a signed plagiarism form and submitted to the BABS.SOMS.BEES (B.S.B.) Student Office, located on the Ground Floor Room G27, of the Biosciences Building. Office hours are 9.00 am - 4:30pm. A penalty will apply for late submissions (10% per day).

Written Assessment tasks must also be submitted electronically *via* Moodle, through Turnitin.

The *progress examination* will be held during the lecture session (September 9th) in week 7. This exam will give you feedback on how you are succeeding in the course. The *progress examination* and *end of session examination* will test not only your knowledge of drugs used to treat major classes of brain and mind disorders but also your ability to apply the knowledge you have acquired from multiple lectures. The progress examination will be in the form of multiple choice and short answer questions. The questions will be based on the material covered in the lectures, practical classes and tutorials. Material covered prior to the progress exam may be again examined in the final exam. The exam will address graduate attributes A and B. The end of session examination will be held during the official examination period.

TEXTBOOK AND READING LIST

Recommended Primary Text:

- Nestler, Hyman, Holtzman and Malenka; *Molecular Neuropharmacology: A Foundation for Clinical Neuroscience*. 3rd Edition McGraw Hill, 2015. This book is available for purchase through the UNSW bookshop and there will be a copy available in the UNSW library.

Additional reading suitable as Secondary Resources:

- Rang, Dale, Ritter Flower and Henderson; “Rang and Dale’s” *Pharmacology* 7th Edition. Elsevier, Churchill Livingstone, 2012. This textbook is available from the UNSW bookshop and there are copies available in the UNSW library
- Brunton, Lazo and Parker; Goodman and Gilman’s *The Pharmacological basis of therapeutics*. 11th Edition. McGraw Hill. There are copies of this textbook and there is also an electronic resource – both are available through the UNSW library.

Other Resources:

- Additional articles of interest will be placed on the course pages on Moodle

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Each year feedback is sought from students about the courses offered in the Department of Pharmacology and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. The Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement [CATEI] Process of UNSW is the way in which student feedback is evaluated and significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students. Also a staff-student liaison group will be set up and students will be invited to become class representatives to seek feedback from their colleagues and meet with academic staff to discuss any issues that arise.

Based on student feedback received 2013-2014 the following changes have been made: the student assignment and has now been allocated a larger proportion of the total assessment marks – 17.5%, and includes a reflective process related to group work. The tissue culture practical class is modified and an accompanying tutorial has been added, to allow students a chance to research and design their own neuroprotection experiment (within class time and resource constraints), and time to work on group assignments has been allocated within prac class sessions. There are 2 new online tutorials which will be devoted to revision questions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Pharmacology is part of the School of Medical Sciences and is within the Faculty of Medicine. It is located on the lower ground, 2nd and 3rd floors of the Wallace Wurth building. General inquiries can be made at the BABS.SOMS.BEES (B.S.B.) Student Office, located on the Ground Floor Room G27, of the Biosciences Building. Office hours are 9.00 am - 4:30pm.

Professor Margaret Morris is Head of Department and appointments may be made through the Administrative Assistants in Wallace Wurth.

There is an honours program conducted by the School. There are two honours programs within the School of Medical Sciences (SOMS), the SOMS Honours Program and the Neuroscience Honours Program. The SOMS Honours Program is currently coordinated by Dr Thomas Fath (T.FATH@UNSW.EDU.AU; Ph: 9385 9690), and Dr. John Power, is the coordinator for Neuroscience Honours (JOHN.POWER@UNSW.EDU.AU, Ph: 9385 1676). Any students considering an Honours year should discuss the requirements with the Honours co-ordinator. Outstanding students may be considered for scholarships offered by the University and School and these are offered annually.

Postgraduate research degrees

The Department of Pharmacology offers students the opportunity to enter into the following graduate programs:

Course Work Masters: Masters in Drug Development. For more information contact Dr Orin Chisholm (O.CHISHOLM@UNSW.EDU.AU)

Research Masters: In Pharmacology. For more information contact the postgraduate co-ordinator Dr Pascal Carrive (P.CARRIVE@UNSW.EDU.AU)

Doctorate (Ph.D): In Pharmacology. For further information contact the postgraduate co-ordinator Dr Pascal Carrive (P.CARRIVE@UNSW.EDU.AU)

Departmental Vacation Scholarships: The Department of Pharmacology supports several summer vacation scholarships each year to enable good students to undertake short research projects within the department. For further details contact the Administrative Officer.

The School Teaching Administrator

Ms Carmen Robinson is able to provide additional information on any courses offered by the School. She is located in the BABS.SOMS.BEES (B.S.B.) Student Office, G27 Biosciences Building.

Ph: 9385 2464, Email: CARMEN.ROBINSON@UNSW.EDU.AU

BEHAVIOUR IN PRACTICAL CLASSES

The practical class is an opportunity for students to develop graduate attribute C by behaving in an ethical, socially responsible and professional manner within the practical class.

- Punctual arrival is expected.
- Turn off mobile phones before entering the class.
- A lab coat must be worn when required for practical classes.
- Enclosed shoes are compulsory.

Students must take due care with biological and hazardous material and make sure all equipment is left clean and functional. Those who don't adhere to these basic laboratory rules will be marked absent.

The experimental procedure and safety information for each practical is given in this course outline. Students are required to familiarise themselves with the experimental procedure before attending each class. In the interests of safety, special attention should be paid to any precautionary measures recommended in the notes. If any accidents or incidents occur they should be reported immediately to the demonstrator in charge of the class who will record the incident and recommend what further action is required.

Animal Experimentation: The procedures used in the laboratory classes involving *the use of animals* have been approved by Animal Care and Ethics Committee (registration number 13/76B). All experiments undertaken in the Department of Pharmacology adhere to the NHMRC code of conduct for animal experimentation.

HANDWRITING

Students whose writing is difficult to understand will disadvantage themselves in their written assessment. Make every effort to write clearly and legibly. Do not use your own abbreviations.

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

The University does not give deferred examinations. However, further assessment exams may be given to those students who were absent from the final exams through illness or misadventure. Special Consideration applications for final examinations and in-session tests will only be considered after the final examination period when lists of students sitting supplementary exams/tests for each course are determined at School Assessment Review Group Meetings. Students will be notified via the online special consideration system as to the outcome of their application. You cannot assume you will be granted supplementary assessment. **It is the responsibility of all students to regularly consult their official student email accounts and myUNSW in order to ascertain whether or not they have been granted further assessment.**

NOTE: The supplementary exam will be held in the week beginning the 7th December

MISSED TESTS

If you unavoidably miss one of the tests in PHAR3202, you must inform the course coordinator immediately. You must supply adequate documentation (medical certificate) to be considered for any supplementary tests. Such tests may consist of an oral examination that will be held during the first week of the stuvac period.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

Students who miss practical classes due to illness or for other reasons must submit a copy of medical certificates or other acceptable documentation to the course co-ordinator. **Certificates should be lodged no more than 7 days after an absence. Certificates lodged after 7 days will not be accepted.** The following details must be attached: Name, Subject number, Group number, Date of the class, Name of class/es missed.

REPEATING STUDENTS

Practical class exemptions may be granted to repeat students but students **must** check with the course co-ordinator whether they have exemption **prior** to their first practical class. All students must be familiar with the material covered in the practical classes.

Neuropharmacology

LECTURE OUTLINES

The course timetable is appended at the end of these notes and can also be found on Moodle.

The course is divided into 5 main themes covering Neuropharmacology

1. Introduction to Neuropharmacology
2. Neurotransmitter and Receptor systems in the brain
3. Brain Disorders – and drugs used to treat them
4. Analgesics and Anaesthetics
5. Neurodevelopment and Neuroimmunology

1. Introduction to Neuropharmacology

This lecture will provide an introduction to neuropharmacology - the study of drugs that affect the brain. It will briefly review the way that nerve cells communicate to each other via chemicals and receptors and provide an overview of the variety of different chemicals and receptors utilized and the nerve pathways and neuronal functions associated with different neurotransmitter systems.

2. Neurotransmitter and Receptor systems in the brain

Serotonin / Noradrenaline

This lecture will cover the mechanisms involved in synthesis and metabolism of serotonin and noradrenaline. Principle serotonergic and noradrenergic pathways in the CNS. Agonists and antagonists at receptors. Provide a general overview of therapeutic uses of drugs affecting 5HT, NA systems in the CNS.

Acetylcholine / Dopamine

This lecture will cover basic aspects of acetylcholine synthesis, storage and release. Nicotinic and muscarinic receptors in the brain and drugs which mediate cholinergic transmission in the CNS. An overview of cholinergic drugs used to treat CNS conditions. This lecture will cover pathways involved in dopamine synthesis and metabolism. Provide an overview of functional aspects of dopaminergic pathways in the brain (including motor control and behaviour). Pharmacology of drugs affecting dopamine; important adverse reactions to dopamine antagonists including the underlying mechanisms; selectivity of dopamine antagonists; types of dopamine receptors in the brain. Provide a brief summary of dopaminergic drugs used to treat brain disorders.

Neuropeptides

This lecture will cover the general characteristics of neuropeptides; how they act as neurotransmitters and neuromodulators; possible roles in modulating CNS functions; specific receptors; agonists and antagonists. Examples: substance P, neuropeptide Y and neurotensin

ATP/NO as neurotransmitters

ATP as a neurotransmitter; adenosine as a modulator; P1 and P2 classes of purinergic receptors; functional aspects of the receptors; drugs acting on the receptors. Nitric oxide, the only neurotransmitter not stored in vesicles; effects of nitric oxide; clinical conditions in which nitric oxide may play a role.

Amino Acids

Glutamate and GABA are amino acids that are key neurotransmitters within the mammalian CNS. This lecture will cover their synthesis and storage, the structure and function of glutamate and GABA receptors *in vivo* and look at some selective glutamatergic and GABAergic drugs.

3. Brain disorders – and drugs used to treat them**Depression**

Monoamine theory of depression; pharmacology of antidepressant drugs (tricyclic antidepressants; monoamine oxidase inhibitors; "atypical" antidepressants); important adverse reactions to these drugs including the underlying mechanisms; mode of action of lithium

Schizophrenia / Neuroleptic Drugs

Neuroleptic drugs are drugs that are used to treat psychosis such as schizophrenia. This lecture will briefly describe what schizophrenia is and the neuroleptic drugs which are used to treat this disorder. This lecture will also cover the brain and peripheral neurotransmitter receptors which neuroleptic drugs interact with, the proposed mechanism of clinical action and the side effects associated with neuroleptic drug use.

CNS control of Feeding / Obesity

Obesity is a growing health problem and a major contributor to burden of disease in our society. This lecture will review the physiology of appetite control and the major potential therapeutic targets: fat absorption, food intake and thermogenesis. The mechanism of action of current anti-obesity drugs, their adverse effects, and central signals that are potential new therapies for obesity will be considered.

Drug Addiction / Dependence

This lecture provides an overview of the effects of chronic drug use on the CNS and the adaptive responses that underlay withdrawal and dependence. Key concepts include drug withdrawal and dependence, synapses and cell signalling and the modulation of neurotransmitters and biochemical pathways contributing to drug addiction. Signalling pathways modulated by drugs of abuse can provide new targets for treating drug addiction.

Motor coordination: Parkinsons disease

This lecture is an introduction to pharmacological treatments for Parkinson's diseases. Mechanisms of action, efficacy and side-effects of commonly used pharmacological treatments will be considered. Choice of treatment and other treatment issues will also be discussed.

Epilepsy and anticonvulsants

This lecture will provide an overview of the different types of epilepsy. Anticonvulsant drugs and how they work: (clonazepam, valproate, vigabatrin, phenobarbitone, primidone, phenytoin, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, trimethadione); adverse effects on CNS, blood and other tissues.

Sedatives and Hypnotics

This lecture will provide a brief overview of sleep and anxiety. We will discuss a number of different classes of pharmacological agents that are used to help with these conditions, their mechanism of action and potential side effects.

Stroke and Neuroprotection

This lecture will cover the incidence of stroke and the mechanisms involved in brain injury. It will provide an overview of the current therapies used to treat or prevent stroke in humans. There will be a mention of current clinical trials for stroke treatment and models used to identify neuroprotective drug candidates.

Neurodegeneration

These lectures will provide an overview of a number of neurodegenerative diseases (e.g. Alzheimer's disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntingtons disease, Parkinson's disease); their pathophysiology, possible novel areas for therapeutic intervention and efficacy of current therapies.

4. Analgesics / Anaesthetics**Pain and Analgesia in the CNS**

This lecture provides an overview of central nervous system mechanisms of pain and analgesia. It encompasses modulatory mechanisms in nociceptive pathways, neurotransmitters involved in nociception, chemical signalling and the pharmacology of drugs such as opioids which modulate pain.

Local and General Anaesthetics

This lecture will provide an overview of the different types of local and general anaesthetic agents. Mechanisms of action of a number of different commonly used anaesthetics. The central nervous system effects; sites of action; adverse effects; effects on axonal and synaptic transmission.

5. Neurodevelopment and Neuroimmunology**Neuroimmunology**

This lecture will cover the immune response within the central nervous system including the description of cells involved, inflammatory mediators and examples of pathologies.

Neurodevelopment

This lecture will provide an overview of the role of neurotrophic factors in development. Neurotrophic factors, receptors and signaling pathways. Importance of neurotrophic factors as possible therapeutics in degenerative disorders.

CNS drugs and blood brain barrier

This lecture will discuss the blood brain barrier and its importance in protecting the brain and regulating the exchange of factors between the blood and brain. One problem facing the design of drugs for CNS disorders is blood brain barrier permeability, in particular large molecules are not able to get into the brain. Novel approaches to deliver agents to the brain will be discussed.

Assessment Tasks and Due Dates

Task	Due Date
Practical Quizzes	Submit prior to midnight on the day of prac class
Mid Session Test	Wednesday 9 th September – <u>5-6pm</u>
Research Debate Presentations	Thursday 17 th September – <u>10-1pm or 2-5pm</u>
Research Debate Synopsis	Friday 25 th September – <u>9am</u>
Final Examination	Official Exam period

The individual 500 word synopsis is due exactly 1 week after your group has made their oral presentation.

Neuropharmacology 2015 Timetable

Wk	Wk beginning (Mon)	Lecture 1 Monday 10-11am Mathews C	Tutorials Monday 1-2pm (Mathews 232), 2-3,3-4pm (Mathews 130)	Lecture 2 Wednesday 5-6pm Mathews C	Practical Class Thursday 10-1 or 2-5pm WW120
1	27/7	Introduction: Neurochemical transmission and neuromodulation N. Jones / M. Morris	NO TUTORIAL	Serotonin / Noradrenaline N. Jones	NO PRAC CLASS
2	3/8	Acetylcholine / Dopamine N. Jones	Summarising Research Articles	ATP and NO as neurotransmitters L. Liu	Behavioural Pharmacology Research Debate Topics Distributed N. Jones
3	10/8	Amino Acids – Glutamate N. Jones	Cutting Edge Research in Neuropharmacology – Animal models	Amino Acids –GABA and Glycine TBA	Animal Handling / Group Work T. Binder / N.Jones
4	17/8	Neuropeptides as transmitters M. Morris	CNS Neurotransmitters	Neurotrophic factors N. Jones	Barbiturates T. Binder / N.Jones
5	24/8	Neuroleptic Drugs and Schizophrenia G.Smith	ONLINE REVISION QUESTIONS NO FORMAL TUTORIAL	Pain and Analgesia in CNS T. Binder	Group Work – Research Debates NO FORMAL CLASS
6	31/8	Depression N. Jones	Cutting Edge Research in Neuropharmacology - Neuroimaging	Hypnotics and sedatives N. Jones	Narcotic analgesics T. Binder / N.Jones
7	7/9	CNS control of Feeding/Obesity M. Morris	Treatments for Mood / Psychiatric Disorders	Mid-Session TEST	Neurogenesis computer exercise / Group Work
8	14/9	Drug Addiction / Dependence T. Binder	Drugs of Addiction	Stroke and Neuroprotection N. Jones	Research Debate Presentations Pharmacology Academics
9	21/9	Motor coordination: Parkinson's disease K. Double	Neuronal toxicity prac preparation	Epilepsy and anticonvulsants N. Jones	Neurodegeneration: Parkinson's disease N. Jones / K. Double
Mid Session Break – 28/9-04/10					
10	5/10	No lecture PUBLIC HOLIDAY	No tutorial PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Neurodegeneration I R. Grant	Zebrafish behaviour N.Jones
11	12/10	General and Local Anaesthetics N. Jones	ONLINE REVISION QUESTIONS NO FORMAL TUTORIAL	Neurodegeneration II R. Grant	Tissue Culture – neuronal toxicity N. Jones
12	19/10	Neuroinflammation G.Moalem-Taylor	Treatments for Neurological Disorders	CNS drugs and blood brain barrier N. Jones	Tissue Culture – neuronal toxicity data analysis / Exam Revision Quiz N. Jones

Group Assignment Information

Students will work in teams of 3-4 to research a “Controversial Research Topic in Neuropharmacology”. Each group member must participate in the development of an argument for or against the topic and in the prac class in week 8, groups will debate the topic. Topics will be assigned to groups in the first prac class session. Individual group members will be required to submit a 500 word synopsis of their own debate and research into the topic. This assessment task will allow you to develop your research, information literacy, communication and time management skills, as well as allowing you to demonstrate your ability to work in a team and collaborate successfully. Written assessment tasks must be accompanied by a signed plagiarism form and submitted to the student enquiry counter, located on the ground floor of the Student Inquiries Office (G27), BSB Office, Biological Sciences. The report must also be submitted electronically *via* Moodle, through Turnitin. A penalty will apply for late submissions (10% per day).

Groups: Will be assigned in the first prac class session. Each group will be assigned a topic in this class.

General Instructions

Groups will need to examine and critically evaluate the available evidence on their topic. They will be required to use available experimental and clinical data in order to reach a conclusion. The validity of the evidence needs to be considered and discussed.

Group Oral presentation (10%)

- Groups will construct a debate on the assigned topic and prepare a presentation from their research.
- One member of the group will give the presentation, while other group members will be required to help with the rebuttal and answer questions following the presentation.
- The oral presentation (per group) will be a maximum of 8 minutes in length and will be followed by a 2 minute rebuttal (per group) and 5 minutes of question time per topic.

Individual Written Synopsis (5%)

The individual written synopsis should include the following information:

- A brief introduction to the topic and why it is controversial.
- Discuss the pharmacological issues (receptors, drug, side effects, interactions), disease condition, methods used to assess drug efficacy in experimental and clinical studies and how these studies have led to advances in our understanding of a CNS disorder.
- Evaluate the available evidence and reach a conclusion about your research topic.

Group Work Log (2.5%)

- You will also be required to keep a log of your group work contributions using EPortfolio (this requirement will be further outlined in the First Prac Class).

Overall Assignment Assessment

- The synopsis and debate will be worth 17.5% of your total grade.
- The oral presentation will be assessed by two members of Pharmacology staff and one peer group (see attached).

Research Debates: will be presented in random order in the prac sessions of week 8 (Thursday 17th September – 10-1 or 2-5pm).

Due Date of Individual Written Synopsis: Friday 25th September – (9am - submitted via Turnitin). 10am submission of hardcopy at BSB office.

Please Note: A penalty will apply for late submissions (10% per day).

GROUP ASSIGNMENT – INDIVIDUAL SYNOPSIS : MARKING CRITERIA

	Exemplary (>8.5)	Very Good (8.4-7.5)	Good (7.4-6.5)	Satisfactory (6.4-5.0)	Unacceptable (<5.0)
Title & Formatting ____/10 x 0.5	Title clearly indicates the subject matter of the paper. Name and student number and departmental address given. Word count 500 ± 50	Title indicates the subject matter of the paper. Name and student number and departmental address given. Minor errors in formatting. Word count 500 ± 50	Title indicates the subject matter of the paper. Name and student number and departmental address given. Errors in formatting. Word count 500 ± 50	Title does not indicate the subject matter of the paper. Name and student number and departmental address given. Errors in formatting. Word count >550	Title, author's name and/or address not given. Formatting requirements not followed. Word count >550 or <450.
Introduction ____/10 x 2.5	Focused introduction to the topic and explanation of the controversy. Concise and clear account of the pharmacological issues, disease condition and methodologies used to assess efficacy.	Introduction to the topic and explanation of the controversy. Clear account of the pharmacological issues, disease condition and methodologies used to assess efficacy. Minor omissions or errors.	Introduction to the topic and some explanation of the controversy. Clear account of the pharmacological issues, disease condition and methodologies used to assess efficacy. A few factual errors or omissions.	Some introduction to the topic and explanation of the controversy. Some of the pharmacological issues, disease condition and methodologies used to assess efficacy are described. More detail needed.	No real introduction to the topic or explanation of the controversy. Some of the issues, disease condition and methodologies used to assess efficacy are mentioned. Lacking detail.
Discussion & Conclusion ____/10 x 4	Critical evaluation of the issues identified and supported by chosen sources. A well balanced and logical presentation that explores available evidence supporting / against your topic. Re-stated key findings and main conclusions conveyed in a final paragraph.	Critical evaluation of the issues identified and supported by chosen sources. A balanced and logical presentation that explores available evidence supporting / against your topic. Some re-stating of key findings and main conclusions conveyed in a final paragraph.	Some critical evaluation of the issues identified. A mostly balanced and logical presentation that explores available evidence supporting / against your topic. Some re-stating of key findings and conclusions conveyed in a final paragraph.	Some critical evaluation of the issues identified. A mostly balanced and logical presentation that explores available evidence supporting / against your topic. Some errors in interpretation. Some re-stating of key findings and some conclusions conveyed in a final paragraph.	No critical evaluation of the issues identified and supported by chosen sources. No balance or logic to presentation. Main conclusions not conveyed in a final paragraph.
Referencing ____/10 x 0.5	In-text citations and reference list follow BJP conventions. Relevant information selected. A wide range of references used.	In-text citations and reference list follow BJP conventions. Relevant information selected. A wider range of references needed.	In-text citations and reference list follow BJP conventions, with minor errors. Relevant information selected. A wider range of references needed.	In-text citations and/or reference do not follow BJP conventions. Relevant information selected. A wider range of references needed.	BJP conventions not followed. Non-peer reviewed sources used. Information is not referenced. Wider range of references needed.
Writing Conventions ____/10 x 2.5	Excellent sentence structure, correct grammar and word usage. Sentences and paragraphs well connected. Appropriate written expression- using discipline specific vocabulary and formal not oral language. Has been proof read.	Very good sentence structure, correct grammar and word usage. Sentences and paragraphs well connected. Appropriate written expression- using discipline specific vocabulary and formal not oral language. Proof reading needed to eliminate minor errors.	Good sentence structure, correct grammar and word usage. Sentences and paragraphs not always well connected. Appropriate written expression- better use of discipline specific vocabulary and formal not oral language needed. Proof reading needed.	Poor sentence structure, grammar and word usage. Sentences and paragraphs not well connected. Appropriate written expression- better use of discipline specific vocabulary and formal not oral language needed. Proof reading needed.	Use of paragraphs and improved sentence structure needed. The report is difficult to read due to poor grammar and word usage. No evidence of proof reading.
TOTAL /100					

Additional Comments:

**Group Debate
Academic Assessment Form**

Group:

Topic:

	Mark (/10)
Presentation	
Brief introduction to topic. Why is the topic controversial?	/10
Critical evaluation of the literature	/10
Concluding statement to summarise the group's argument	/10
Questions	
Students understand the questions and answers are appropriate	/10
Overall impression – <u>were you persuaded?</u>	/10
Total (Mark / 50)	/50

Comments:

Strengths:

Improvement:

Points for clarification (if necessary)

Assessor: (sign) Date:

**Group Debate
Peer Assessment Form**

Group:

Topic:

Peer Group members:

Name:

Name:

Name:

Name:

	Mark (/10)
Presentation	
Brief introduction to topic. Why is the topic controversial?	/10
Critical evaluation of the literature	/10
Concluding statement to summarise the argument	/10
Questions	
Students understand the questions and answers are appropriate	/10
Overall impression – <u>were you persuaded?</u>	/10
Total (Mark / 50)	/50

Comments:

Strengths:

Improvement:

Points for clarification (if necessary)