

Keck School of Medicine of USC

HP250: Introduction to Addiction Science

Units: 4

Term—Day—Time: Spring 2021, T Th 3:30-4:50PM

Location: TBD

Course Coordinator: Jessica Barrington-Trimis, PhD, MS, MA; Terry David Church, DRSc, MA, MS

Office: HSC Campus SSB312G (Barrington-Trimis), CHP104 (Church)

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30PM (Barrington-Trimis) | Friday 10:30AM-12:30PM (Church)

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Students can expect a response to emails within 48 hours.

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Contact Info: TBD

Course Description

Addiction science is the transdisciplinary scientific study of the nature, causes, consequences, prevention, intervention, and treatment of the broad spectrum of addiction-related problems. Addiction science also bridges the gap between science, practice, and policy, to educate and be educated by those impacted by the addictions. Addiction science spans the study of all addictive behaviors, substance and nonsubstance, acknowledging both the common and unique elements across different manifestations of the disease. It takes a real-world approach, recognizing that addictive behaviors exist within a complex environment involving commercial-economic, political, cultural, and social forces.

This course examines current studies of the nature of various forms of addiction and abuse in the context of individual and cultural use. The course takes a transdisciplinary approach to the study of addiction science. Themes of this course include (1) Addiction as a brain disease (the pharmacology and neuroanatomy of addiction and dependence) (2) Addiction as a chemical process, (3) Addiction as a public health problem (characteristics of addiction as elucidated in ethnographies, epidemiological studies, and biomedical research), (4) Addiction as a heritable process (genetics and epigenetics), (5) Addiction as a sociological process (the history of drug addiction, theories of addiction treatment and recovery, international and national drug policies related to addiction). The course will examine these facets of the addiction process and apply these theories to the study of specific classes of substance and nonsubstance addiction, including e-cigarettes and tobacco products, sedatives, alcohol, stimulants, opioids, cannabis, hallucinogens, and behavioral addictions (digital media, technology, sex and love, pornography, self-harm, gambling, food addiction). The course will conclude with discussion of the prevention, treatment, and recovery from addiction, legal and ethical issues, and hot topics in the area of addiction science. These themes will be presented in ways that are designed to lead to lively discussions during class.

Learning Objectives

Throughout this course, students will:

1. Understand the psychological, sociological, and physiological effects of addiction on individuals and society
2. Evaluate current policies that inhibit or exploit substances of abuse

3. Understand the effects of common substances on the body throughout the lifespan of addiction from exposure to recovery
4. Analyze the consequences of abuse and its relationship to health, economy, well being and society as represented in modern culture
5. Demonstrate how theoretical frameworks from health promotion, pharmacology, and social work pertain to the addiction process
6. Define the nature of addiction as related to behavior, brain, and cultural influences
7. Differentiate how international, national, and local drug policies impact addictive behavior

These objectives are linked to the quizzes, exams, and assignments for this course. Upon completion of this course students will be able to draw from these objectives for a variety of uses, including, future coursework, academic endeavors, and/or professional utility.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Course Notes

This course will be in the format of a directed seminar/lecture under the guidance of the instructor for the specific session. During each biweekly session the instructor will engage the students with questions and draw comments or interpretations primarily based on the assigned reading. Students are expected to ask questions and participate in an interactive fashion. Because this is an area of rapid change in policies, the readings may vary from one term to the next. Additional readings for each section that may be of added use are listed in the table below.

Content Warning

Our course readings and classroom discussions will often focus on mature, difficult, and potentially challenging topics. As with any course dealing with drug use, misuse and addiction, course topics can at times be political *and* personal. Readings and discussions might trigger strong feelings—anger, discomfort, anxiety, confusion, excitement, humor, and even boredom.

Some of us will have emotional responses to the readings; some of us will have emotional responses to our peers' understanding of the readings; all of us should feel responsible for creating a space that is both intellectually rigorous and respectful. Above all, be respectful (even when you strongly disagree) and be mindful of the ways that our identities position us in the classroom.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

This course requires use of Blackboard and Microsoft Word

Required Materials

Readings for this course will be posted on BlackBoard.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Attendance at all classes is expected. Participation will include asking and answering questions and being actively involved in the discussion. It is expected that the students read the assigned papers prior to the lecture and be prepared to discuss background, current understanding, treatments, and gaps in knowledge for the topic in each lecture.

Midterm: There will be 1 midterm for this course that will cover the first 8 weeks of course material. The midterm will consist of a series of questions involving short answers as well as a longer question requiring critical thought and its articulation in written responses. This midterm exam will help students to generate a critical assessment of key topics in this course, to develop a suitable argument, and to convey their ideas and interpretations through the written word.

Final: The Final Exam will be in the form of an in-class examination during exam week. The final exam will be composed of two parts, each having equal weight towards the final grade. The first part of the exam will include questions from the lectures and from the textbook in the form of multiple choice, T/F and fill-in the blank questions. The second part of the final examination will consist of short written answers to demonstrate the students' knowledge regarding topics covered in the course. This latter part of the final exam will allow students to express their ideas based on facts derived from the course.

Reaction Reports: 15% awarded for reaction papers to class topics. Beginning in Week 2 and continuing to Week 15 students will be required to prepare two (2) reaction reports. These reports will be related to the weekly topics and students will sign-up for their topics via blackboard. Students will prepare a one-page reaction paper. Students will need to research their topic and present on a journal article, news report, legal case, ethical issue, or policy review. In place of one (1) reaction paper, students may instead elect to investigate a topic in the real world (e.g., interviewing someone with an addiction, attending a policy meeting at City Hall, etc.) and prepare a short oral presentation (5 minutes). Students are encouraged to sign-up early as it is first come, first served – once a topic week has passed, no additional reactions will be accepted for that week.

Grading will be based upon the quality of your analysis and how clearly you present the information within your answers. You are expected to incorporate key terms and concepts you have learned in this course. Points will be deducted for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. You should start with a brief outline for each answer, create a rough draft, and then produce a final draft. **The final draft of each essay is the only document you need to submit.**

These are reaction / response essays to the material covered in lecture; your essays must consist of:

- A. **An Introduction paragraph**, which contains a minimum of two sentences that introduces your answer to the reader and establishes a foundation for the remainder of your answer.
- B. **Body paragraph(s)**, which present the major content of your answer. Include at least one body paragraph with three or four sentences within the paragraph.
- C. **A conclusion paragraph**, which contains a minimum of two sentences and summarizes the major points contained in the body paragraphs.

Format Requirements

Carefully follow the format requirements below. Any variation will result in lost points or no credit.

- Margins = 1 inch
- Font type = Arial, Times New Roman, or any Sans type font
- Font size = 11 point
- **1 page (1.5 lines spaced) – (references not included)**
- Use week number to indicate your topic (e.g. Week 3 – Rome)
- Filename should have your last name and first name (e.g. Trojan_Tommy_ShortEssay1)
- Submit as a word document (.doc, .docx; no other formats accepted)

Direct Quotations

These essays are expected to be written in your own words therefore no more than 5% of the essay should be quoted or copied word – for – word. If you submit an essay with more than 5% quoted material, you will be penalized one point for each percentage above 5%. If you submit an essay with more than 15% quoted material, you will receive an automatic zero.

APA Citations

THIS IS NOT AN APA paper; however, you are expected to demonstrate understanding of the rules of plagiarism and expected to use APA style citations appropriately, which include in-text and full citations with a Reference page.

You are expected to cite at least **2** sources (class books and articles, articles from journals, books, etc) per essay. You will be penalized **-5** points for each missing resource.

Do NOT use Wikipedia or any other similar form of wiki to write these essays.

Grading Breakdown

Grades will be recorded in the Blackboard gradebook. Evaluation will be based on one midterm examination, a final examination, and reaction reports.

Assignment	% of Grade
Midterm exam	35
Final exam (partially cumulative)	45
Reaction Reports (2 @ 10 pts each)	20
Total	100

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale.

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Course-specific Policies

Assignment Submission

All assignments (in-class work and presentation components) should be submitted through Blackboard.

Grading Timeline

All graded work will be returned no later than 2 weeks from the submission deadline or exam date.

Late work

No late assignments will be accepted, except when verifiable extenuating circumstances can be demonstrated.

Academic integrity

A grade of zero will be applied to submitted work that does not comply with the USC standards of academic conduct. Such work may not be resubmitted for a new grade

Attendance

You are expected to attend all class sessions, on time, for the entire course of the class, and prepared to discuss the reading assignment. If you miss an in-class assignment, you will not be allowed to make up those points.

Course evaluation

Two surveys will gather student opinions about the course: the mid-semester evaluation and the standard USC course evaluation survey at the end of the semester. Your opinion is valued and can make a difference in how this course is conducted; please give your honest and constructive recommendations.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

The lectures are designed to provide historical, cultural, social, economic, and political overviews of the topics listed. In weeks 1-4, lectures will focus on broad topics related to the addiction process overall. In weeks 5-9 and weeks 11-12, the lectures will focus on a specific substance, providing a pharmacologic overview, history of use, legal / regulatory practices, and commentary related to any socio-cultural phenomenon surrounding the substance. In weeks 13-15, lectures will conclude with broad spectrum issues regarding the implications of substance use in society, including issues with regulation / legalization, economics, ethical concerns, and treatment and recovery. The course will conclude with a lecture on modern topics concerning drugs and society. The course schedule is provided below, but may be subject to change.

Week	Date	Subject	Instructor	Guest Lecturer
Week 1	Tues 19 Jan	Introduction	Church / Barrington-Trimis	--
	Thurs 21 Jan	Introduction	Church / Barrington-Trimis	--
Week 2	Tues 26 Jan	Neurochemistry of Addiction, Part 1	Church	Davies
	Thurs 28 Jan	Neurochemistry of Addiction, Part 2	Church	Davies
Week 3	Tues 2 Feb	Epidemiology of Addiction, Part 1	Barrington-Trimis	McConnell
	Thurs 4 Feb	Epidemiology of Addiction, Part 2	Barrington-Trimis	McConnell
Week 4	Tues 9 Feb	Genetic Basis of Addiction	Church	Phan
	Thurs 11 Feb	Epigenetic Basis of Addiction	Church	Phan
Week 5	Tues 16 Feb	CNS Stimulants: Cocaine, Methamphetamine	Church	TBD
	Thurs 18 Feb	CNS Stimulants: Ritalin, Adderall, MDMA	Church	TBD

Week 6	Tues 23 Feb	Tobacco: Cigarettes, Cigars, Hookah	Barrington-Trimis	Leventhal
	Thurs 25 Feb	Tobacco: E-cigarettes	Barrington-Trimis	Leventhal
Week 7	Tues 2 Mar	Cannabinoids, part1	Barrington-Trimis	Unger
	Thurs 4 Mar	Cannabinoids, part 2	Barrington-Trimis	Unger
Week 8	Tues 9 Mar	Opioids and Opiates: Prescription opioids, Heroin	Barrington-Trimis	Bluthenthal
	Thurs 11 Mar	Hallucinogens: DMT, Ketamine, LSD, PCP, Psilocybin	Barrington-Trimis	Bluthenthal
Week 9	Tues 16 Mar	CNS Depressants: Sedatives, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Eszopiclone	Church	TBD
	Thurs 18 Mar	MIDTERM EXAM		
Week 10	Tues 23 Mar	Alcohol, part 1	Church	Davies
	Thurs 25 Mar	Alcohol, part 2	Church	Davies
Week 11	Tues 30 Mar	Non-Substance Related Behavioral Addictions: sex, love, pornography, gaming, digital media, technology	Church	Jakowec
	Thurs 1 Apr	Non-Substance Related Behavioral Addictions: food, exercise, working, self-harm, compulsive criminal behavior	Church	Jakowec
Week 12	Tues 6 Apr	Drug Policy: decriminalization and legislation	Barrington-Trimis	--
	Thurs 8 Apr	Economic Factors of Addiction and Society	Church	--
Week 13	Tues 13 Apr	The Role of Industry in Addiction	Barrington-Trimis	--
	Thurs 15 Apr	Substance Use as a Public Health Problem	Barrington-Trimis	--
Week 14	Tues 20 Apr	Prevention of Addiction	Church / Barrington-Trimis	--
	Thurs 22 Apr	Treatment and Recovery from Addiction	Church / Barrington-Trimis	--
Week 15	Tues 27 Apr	Legal Issues and Ethical Concerns	Church	--
	Thurs 29 Apr	Modern Topics: Drugs & Society, Careers in Addiction Science	Church / Barrington-Trimis	--
Final Exam – 7 May 2021; 11am – 1pm				

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu