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| Course title | Drugs and Addictive Behaviours | | | | |
| Course code | PSY4702 | | | | |
| Course type | Elective | | | | |
| Level | Bachelors | | | | |
| Year / Semester | Year 4 / 7 th Semester | | | | |
| Teacher's name | Dr Florentia Hadjiefthyvoulou | | | | |
| ECTS | 6 | Lectures / week | 3hrs | Laboratories / week | - |
| Course purpose and objectives | <p>The aims of the course are to explore addiction through the lens of psychological theories and to examine the effects of substances and certain behaviours on the brain and psychosocial functioning. Students will investigate a range of addictive behaviours, both drug-related and behavioural, analyse theoretical and empirical models that account for their development and maintenance, and evaluate evidence-based treatment options. The course encourages a critical and applied understanding of addiction.</p> | | | | |
| Learning outcomes | <p>On successful completion of the course and with further independent study, students will be able to:</p> <p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an understanding of psychopharmacological mechanisms associated with specific addictive behaviours. 2. Critically evaluate a range of theoretical frameworks explaining addictive behaviours and assess their relevance to both substance-related and behavioural addictions, including treatment approaches. <p>Competencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Integrate knowledge from multiple addiction theories and models to analyse the effects of substances and behaviours, and formulate appropriate, evidence-informed intervention or treatment strategies. 4. Identify and critically evaluate theoretical and treatment approaches relevant to specific addictive behaviours, using empirical evidence to support decision-making and clinical reasoning. <p>Transferable Skills</p> | | | | |

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| | 5. Independently locate, evaluate, and synthesise relevant academic research, demonstrating advanced written and oral communication skills and adherence to academic conventions appropriate to the discipline of psychology. | | |
| Prerequisites | PSY1101 Foundations of brain, social psychology and individual differences; PSY1205 Foundation of cognitive and developmental psychology; PSY2301 Biological basis of behaviour | Required | none |
| Course content | <p>Indicative Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories of addiction (key theoretical models explaining why individuals develop and maintain addictive behaviours e.g. biological; Psychological, Cognitive, biopsychosocial model) • The mechanism of action, treatment and recovery of addictive behaviours such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Smoking and Nicotine Dependence ○ Alcohol and Alcoholism ○ Heroin Addiction ○ Psychostimulant addictions (i.e. cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine) ○ Cannabis and psychedelics ○ Gambling disorder ○ Behavioural addictions (e.g. gaming, internet and social media use) ○ Sex addiction | | |
| Teaching methodology | Teaching will consist of lectures, in-class discussions, case studies and quizzes designed to assess understanding and provide opportunities for formative feedback. Teaching will be supported by online materials and additional readings | | |
| Bibliography | <p>Core Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chandler C. & Andrews A. (2018) Addiction: A Biopsychosocial Approach. SAGE. • West R & Brown J (2013): Theory of Addiction. 2nd Ed. Blackwell Publishing: Oxford <p>Recommended:</p> | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julien R.M., Advokat C.D., & Comaty J. (2023). Julien’s Primer of Drug Action. 15th Edition. Worth Publishers • Hancock S.D., McKim W.A. (2018). Drugs and Behaviour: An Introduction to Behavioural Pharmacology. Pearson, NY. <p>Further reading:</p> <p>A reading list will accompany each lecture, highlighting relevant articles accessible through the library, as well as open-access and e-learning resources.</p> | | | | | | |
| Assessment | <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Attendance and participation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presentation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Case study assessment (2000 words) Exam</td> <td style="text-align: right;">60%</td> </tr> </table> | Attendance and participation | 10% | Presentation | 30% | Case study assessment (2000 words) Exam | 60% |
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| Language | English | | | | | | |