

Introduction to Substance Abuse

[Jump to Today](#)



Syllabus: PSY 121 Introduction to Substance Abuse

Course Information

Course Title: Introduction to Substance Abuse

Course Prefix/Number: PSY 121

Semester: Fall 2020

Class Days/Times: Asynchronous, no specific class times

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Name: Michael Medrano

Phone/Voice Mail: 6825935651

E-mail: Medrano.mrm@gmail.com ; mmedrano@tocc.edu

Office hours: By video conference, please email me for an appointment

Course Description

This course will provide a survey of the causes, treatment, and prevention of substance abuse. This class will be an overview of the major theories underlying addiction and current treatment approaches

for various substance use disorders. Additionally, the mode of action and specific nature of the most common addictive substances and their effects will be explored. Psychosocial, familial, and medical perspectives on substance use will be discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify the history and classification of psychoactive drugs, the use of drugs across the life span, the impact of heredity and environment on drug use, the development of substance use disorders, community capacities and strength based principles in addressing substance use disorders.
2. Identify other drugs and addictions, the impact of drug use on mental health, including dual diagnoses or co-occurring disorders, and the impact of decriminalization or legalization of marijuana in addressing substance use disorders.
3. Identify the prevalence of substance use and substance use disorders, health care reforms and integrated care, and the competencies of addiction counseling.
4. Describe psychoactive substances by category (stimulants, depressants, opiates, opioids & sedative-hypnotics, psychedelics, hallucinogens, cannabinoids, etc.) and describe their actions on the brain and body, including the mechanisms of tolerance, tissue dependence, withdrawal and craving, as well as other physical and emotional effects.

Course Structure

This course will include weekly readings, discussion posts, one writing assignment, and two exams (midterm and final; multiple choice).

Discussion Posts (10 in total x 5 points each= 50 points)

You will be given a discussion prompt for a particular week and be expected to respond using information from your notes, lectures, textbook, and personal experience. In order to get full points you will also be expected to respond to at least **1 other classmate's post**. Generally, a Discussion Post that gets full points is 3-5 sentences long and clearly answers the question.

Writing Assignment (50 points)

This writing assignment will focus on the impact of substance abuse in Native American communities. More information will be provided in Canvas. **2-3 pages, APA format**

Exams (25 points each x 2=50 points)

You will have two exams: a midterm and final. They will each be worth **25 points**

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

Required Reading:

Drugs in Perspective: Causes, Assessment, Family, Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment 9th edition. By Richard Fields (2016). I highly recommend renting the eBook and then if you find it worthwhile (as well as financially feasible) you may choose to purchase it at the end of the class. You can ultimately get the book in whatever format suits you (hardcover, eBook, loose leaf, etc.) and from whatever vendor (Amazon, Chegg, etc.).

https://www.amazon.com/Drugs-Perspective-Assessment-Prevention-Intervention-ebook-dp-B01GGMMFUI/dp/B01GGMMFUI/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=
(https://www.amazon.com/Drugs-Perspective-Assessment-Prevention-Intervention-ebook-dp-B01GGMMFUI/dp/B01GGMMFUI/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=)

Courses Outline and Important Dates

Course Schedule

READING

ASSIGNMENT

DUE DATE

Week 1 Aug. 24th -30th	Chapter 1	Discussion Post #1	Sunday, Aug 30 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 2 Aug. 31st–Sept.6th	Chapters 2	Discussion Post #2	Sunday, Sept. 6 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 3 Sept.7th –Sept. 13th	Chapter 3	Discussion Post #3	Sunday, Sept. 13 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 4 Sept.14th –Sept.20th	Chapter 4	Discussion Post #4	Sunday, Sept. 20 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 5 Sept.21st –Sept. 27th	Chapter 5	Discussion #5	Sunday, Sept. 27 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 6 Sept.28th – Oct. Oct.4th	No class!	No Assignments due	
Week 7 Oct.5th – Oct. 11th	Chapter 6	Discussion Post #6	Sunday, Oct 11 th @ 11:50 PM
Week 7 Oct.12th – Oct. 18th	Chapter 7	No Discussion post. Study for midterm next week.	

Week 8				Sunday, Oct 25 th
<i>Oct. 19th – Oct. 25th</i>	Chapter 8	MIDTERM	No discussion post	@ 11:50 PM
Week 9				Sunday, Nov. 1 st
<i>Oct. 26th – Nov. 1st</i>	Chapter 9	Discussion Post #7		@ 11:50 PM
Week 10				Sunday, Nov. 8 th
<i>Nov 2nd – Nov. 8th</i>	Chapter 10	Discussion Post #8		@ 11:50 PM
Week 11				Sunday, Nov. 15 th
<i>Nov 9th – Nov. 15th</i>	Chapter 11	Discussion Post #9		@ 11:50 PM
Week 12				Sunday, Nov. 22 nd
<i>Nov 16th – Nov. 22nd</i>	Chapter 12	Discussion Post #10		@ 11:50 PM
Week 13			Writing Assignment	Sunday, Nov. 29 th
<i>Nov 23rd – Nov. 29th</i>	Chapter 13		No discussion post	@ 11:50 PM
Week 14				
<i>Nov 30th – Dec. 6th</i>	No chapter	No Assignment. Study for Final.		
Week 15				Thursday Dec. 10 th
<i>Dec. 7th – Dec. 11th</i>	No chapter. Study for	Final Exam		

Evaluations and Grading & Assignments:

90 and above is an A

80 - 89 is a B

70 - 79 is a C

60 - 69 is a D

Under 60 is Failing

Your grade will be determined by the following:

Discussion Posts (10 in total x 5 points each= 50 points)

Writing Assignment (50 points)

Exams (25 points each x 2=50 points)

Total= 150 points

Himdag Cultural Component

Tohono O'odham traditions and cultural beliefs will be discussed as relevant to course topics, and only as appropriate to the Tohono O'odham Nation's traditional standards for sharing information as

determined by the Himdag Committee.

Policies and Expectations

Attendance Policy

This is an asynchronous online course. There is no specific expectation of attendance outside of completing your assignments in a timely fashion and submitting them before they are due.

Incomplete Policy

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

Instructor Withdrawals

Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent) not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on [date of 45th day found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion. [faculty members should be clear in their withdraw policy, if you do not withdraw students please note in appropriate sections].

Student Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by the withdrawal deadline date found in Academic

Calendar on TOCC website if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" grade.

Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations

Tohono O'odham Community College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO). It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact: Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and assistance.

Title IX

Tohono O'odham Community College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.







Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services Title IX Coordinator/Counselor, Alberta Espinoza, M.Ed. located in I-We:mta Ki: Room 18. Phone 520-383-0033 email: aespinoza@tocc.edu

Conduct: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Aug 30, 2020	 Discussion Post #1 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/19489	due by 11:50pm
Sun Sep 6, 2020	 Discussion Post #2 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/19902	due by 11:50pm
Sun Sep 13, 2020	 Discussion Post #3 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/20371	due by 11:50pm
Sun Sep 20, 2020	 Discussion Post #4 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/20783	due by 11:50pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	 Discussion Post #5 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/21078	due by 11:50pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	 Discussion #6 https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/2101/assignments/21332	due by 11:50pm