

COURSE OUTLINE

1. GENERAL

SCHOOL	SOCIAL SCIENCES		
DEPARTMENT	PSYCHOLOGY		
LEVEL	<i>Undergraduate</i>		
COURSE CODE	PSY-2404	SEMESTER	4 th
COURSE TITLE	PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY OF ADDICTION AND DRUGS OF ABUSE		
TEACHING ACTIVITIES	WEEKLY HOURS	ECTS	
Lectures	3	4	
COURSE TYPE	Specialized knowledge (Elective)		
PREREQUISITES COURSES:	NONE		
INSTRUCTION/EXAM LANGUAGE:	Greek		
OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	YES (independent study of English literature and exams in English)		
COURSE WEB PAGE (URL)	https://elearn.uoc.gr/course/view.php?id=310		

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes
<p><i>This course focuses on an issue of great interest to psychologists: addiction to substances. The course aims to present various approaches that are used in understanding addiction spanning from the biological to the behavioral level. The course will not cover the social underpinnings of addiction. It will clarify how a complex behavior such as addiction must be understood and interpreted from multiple perspectives. Nevertheless, the main objective of the course is to interpret this behavior based on brain function. The main neurobiological and biopsychological theories that explain substance abuse and addiction will be presented. Moreover, the underlying neurobiological and behavioral mechanisms that are believed to lead to addiction and to the frequent relapses by users (even after long periods of abstinence) will be examined. A large number of lectures will be devoted to presenting the pharmacological properties and actions of addictive substances and the impact of their use long term and short term use on physical and mental health.</i></p> <p>Upon completing the course, students will evaluate the biopsychological approaches to addiction and understand that addiction is a chronic recurrent disease of the brain. In addition, students will comprehend the actions of the major addictive substances at the neural and behavioral levels, as well as the specific characteristics of each.</p>
General Competencies

- Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology.
- Working independently.
- Working in an international environment.
- Production of free, creative and inductive thinking.
- Criticism and self-criticism

3. COURSE CONTENT

- Introduction: Substance use, abuse, dependence, addiction, tolerance, sensitization, withdrawal syndrome, craving, relapse
- Clinical aspects of drug addiction
- Causes of drug abuse and addiction
- Addictive behavior: Theoretical approaches
- Biopsychological and neuroscientific theories of addiction
- Genetics and heredity in drug addiction
- Neurobiology of addiction
- Animals models of addiction
- Risk of relapse and relapse prevention for drug addiction
- Pharmacotherapy in the treatment of drug addiction
- The most commonly addictive drugs: Psychostimulants, Opiates-Opioids, CNS depressants, Hallucinogens/Psychedelics, Nicotine, Cannabinoids

4. INSTRUCTIONAL AND LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

INSTRUCTION METHOD	In class (face-to-face).		
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES USED	Use of ICT in teaching Support for learning (communication with students and delivery of all course material) via the UoC e-learn online platform.		
TEACHING ORGANIZATION	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Semester Workload</i>	<i>ECTS credits</i>
	Lectures	39	1,56
	Independent Study	60	2,4
	Final Exams	2	0,08
	Course Total	101	4,04
STUDENT EVALUATION	The evaluation (written exams) is in Greek for the students of UoC and in English for the Erasmus students. The evaluation criteria are presented during the 1 st lecture of the semester. Moreover, all criteria are available to the students via the website of course on UoC e-learn platform.		

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Julien, R.M. (2003). *Primer of drug action*. Nicosia: Broken Hill Publishers Ltd. (Greek Edition).
- Marselos, M. (1997). *Addictive drugs*. Athens: Tipothito – GiorgosDardanos (Greek Edition).