

**Northwest Indian College**  
**Human Services 130**  
**Pharmacology of the Substances of Abuse**

<b><u>Instructor:</u></b>	Cal Scheidegger
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<b><u>Office Hours:</u></b>	M: 1:30 – 4:30 pm; T: 9 – 11 am; Th: 9 – 11 am & 1:30 – 4:30 pm By appointment <sup>7</sup>

**Required Text:**

*A Primer of Drug Action*, 10<sup>th</sup> Ed., Julien, Robert M., M.D., Worth Publishers 2001, 2005

**Course Description:**

Substances of abuse and abuse potential are discussed, both legal and illegal. All areas, from the classifications to the mechanism of action, subjective, biological, neuroendocrine, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral effects and adaptations. Clinical relevance is addressed. Psychiatric medications are also introduced in the course content as is co-morbidity, also called dual disorder, is presently a more common diagnosis in treatment populations. Mechanism of action and the relationship to chemical dependency as a primary disease is discussed throughout the class.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this class students are expected to, in discussion, written work, or testing:

1. Identify the classifications, the kinds of substances within the classification, it's effects, and an awareness of adjusting counseling and therapy styles according to substance effect impact on the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral components. Included is the aspect of half-life.
2. Define detoxification/withdrawal processes specific to commonly used substances and treatment strategies.
3. Define tolerance, dependence, cross tolerance and cross dependency.

4. Understand and discuss the reward effect of substances in the mechanism of action within the brain's survival domain of drive and reinforcement and how it relates to Substance Use Disorder as a primary disease.
5. Identify the 'route of administration' methods of substance use.
6. Differentiate between psychiatric medications, (benzodiazepines, and like anxiolytics are the exception), and the substances of abuse, as well as understanding the importance of these drugs in treating dual disordered patients. Identify the basic kinds, and the mental disease being treated, is also included.
7. Will develop a Service Learning Project utilizing information from class to create a handout discussing prescription medications, which could cause, or trigger, a relapse for people in chemical dependency recovery. This handout will also discuss methods of informing any physician or other healthcare professional of the existence of a diagnosis of alcoholism/addiction, and its importance. This handout is intended for patients currently in treatment.

#### **Class Format:**

Lectures related to text and other sources, usually with interactive discussion or discussion following lecture. Mid term and final exams with an occasional quiz interspersed throughout the quarter. Testing will involve both memory of class material and retrieval of information.

#### **Attendance:**

One hundred points is automatically earned at class start, if you miss class twice or are late twice you lose the 50 points from your overall grade, three or more absences may require withdrawal from the class or could result in failure. Considerable material and information is covered quickly during the class, therefore punctuality, attendance, and attentiveness, are crucial to your success here. Tardiness of more 15 minutes beyond twice will be point deductions at 1/10<sup>th</sup> of your total accumulated points. Turn off your cell phones during class; exceptions will only be made when prearranged with the instructor.

#### **Grading:**

450-500 = A  
350-449 = B  
250-349 = C  
150-249 = D  
0-149 = F

#### **Point Distribution:**

100 Mid-term  
150 Final  
50 Discussion  
50 Promptness  
& Attendance  
150 Service Learning