

PSYC 3403 C : ADDICTION

Instructor	John Weekes, Ph.D.
Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In-person
Email Address	John.Weekes@carleton.ca
Office Location	TBA
Office Hours	By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTOR'S STATEMENT

This course is designed to introduce students to the diverse field of addictions with particular emphasis on the use of alcohol and other drugs. Topics will include: historical and contemporary theory and research perspectives on addictive behaviour (with emphasis on psychological perspectives), the concept of “substance use health”, stigma influences and barriers, prevalence of substance use in society, overview of the drug-brain interaction, drug classes, diversion and use of pharmaceutical drugs, analysis of the extent and nature of alcohol and other drug use amongst various populations of people living in Canada (including some discussion of unique populations such as Indigenous People, criminal justice involved, youth, and women), approaches to prevention, education, and treatment, assessment techniques and strategies, effective intervention models and clinical approaches including structured relapse prevention, techniques for enhancing motivation for involvement in human services (e.g., Motivational Interviewing) and the Stages of Change model, injection drug use and the spread of blood-borne pathogens, harm reduction (including innovative approaches such as supervised injection sites, prescribed heroin, crack pipe distribution, and “wet” shelters), pharmaceutical (agonist/antagonist) therapies in the treatment of substance use problems (e.g., Disulphiram, Methadone, Suboxone), recent proposals for legislative change, alcohol and drug-impaired driving (e.g., Drug Recognition Experts Program), drug treatment courts, co-occurring substance use and (various) mental health disorders, compliance monitoring, drug detection and drug “interdiction” approaches (including criminal justice populations).

EVALUATION

Midterm Exam – 40%

Final Exam (during scheduled during the Spring formal exam period) – 60%

TEXT

No textbook. Links to internet readings will be provided by the Instructor.