

PSYC 3403 A : ADDICTION

Instructor	Dr. Tarry Ahuja
Term	Fall 2026
Course Delivery	Online Synchronous
Email Address	tarry_ahuja@carleton.ca
Classroom	Online (Asynchronous)
Office hours	by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTORS STATEMENT

How does our brain get addicted? What are we getting addicted to? This course is designed to introduce students to the scientific principles underlying drug taking. Discussion will detail how the brain interacts with the various drugs present in society today, and how they can lead to addiction. Focus will be placed on depressants, psychostimulants, and other drugs of abuse. Biological mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and current treatment strategies are examined. The course will compare the biological, pharmacological and psychological aspects of addiction. (**Note** that both midterm and final exams will be e-proctored)

EVALUATION

Midterm (30%) (will be e-proctored)

Final (50%) (will be e-proctored)

Assignment (20%)

TEXT

A Primer of Drug Action by Robert M. Julien, Publisher: Worth. ISBN:9781319244866 (15th Edition).