

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	BRAIN, TREATMENTS AND BEHAVIOUR		
MODULE CODE	PS3025 (L6)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK CREDITS / <u>10 ECTS</u>
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCES		

MODULE AIMS

The aim of this module is to provide an examination of the field of psychopharmacology with a particular emphasis on studying commonly "abused" drugs in addition, and chemical treatments used for psychiatric disorders. The module is multidisciplinary and approaches these topics from historical, physiological, neurochemical and psychological perspectives.

MODULE CONTENT

Indicative syllabus content:

The module examines how drugs work on the brain and influence behaviour. In terms of addiction, topics may include heroin dependence, alcoholism, cannabis, the stimulants: cocaine and amphetamine, the hallucinogens: LSD and mescaline and the benzodiazepines. With regard to the treatment of psychiatric disorders, the topics may include major depression, schizophrenia, Tourette's syndrome, bipolar disorder and anxiety disorders.

Both approaches emphasise the importance of how drugs work on neurotransmitters in the brain (for example dopamine, serotonin, noradrenaline, GABA). The module will approach topics from a variety of perspectives and emphasise the multidisciplinary nature (e.g. historical, social, psychological, biological, pharmacological) in understanding drug action and behaviour.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate how drugs work on the brain and how this produces change in psychological functioning.
2. Critically discuss the mechanisms underlying addiction and dependence.
3. Critically evaluate the role of biological factors in the aetiology & symptoms of specific psychiatric disorders and the contribution of pharmacological treatments to our understanding.

TEACHING METHODS

Topic areas are covered by lectures, a revision session and directed reading. Students are assessed during the semester via coursework and also by an end of module examination. The examination paper will comprise of a compulsory seen question and also an unseen question from a selection of the topics covered on the module.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an examination and a leaflet.