

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology
Fall/Winter 2026

Psychology 3446G Section 001

Use Disorders: Origins and Treatment

1 Calendar Description

This course will cover information on factors involved in the development of use disorders (substance use disorder, gambling, and other potential behavior use disorders) and some approaches to the treatment of these disorders.

Antirequisites: Not Applicable

Prerequisite(s): Both Psychology 2801F/G (or one of Health Sciences 2801A/B, Psychology 2840F/G, Psychology 2855F/G) and Psychology 2811A/B (or one of Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, Economics 2222A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2830A/B, Psychology 2850A/B, Sociology 2205A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, Statistical Sciences 2141A/B, Statistical Sciences 2143A/B, Statistical Sciences 2244A/B, Statistical Sciences 2858A/B, the former Social Work 2207A/B), or the former Psychology 2820E, or both the former Psychology 2800E and the former Psychology 2810.

3 lecture hours; Course Weight: 0.5

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify

elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Riley Hinson

Office and Phone Number: 6334 SSC, 519-661-2111 ext 84649

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: hinson@uwo.ca

Time and Location of Classes: Wednesdays, 9:30-12:30, TBD

3 Course Materials

Textbook decision not yet made.

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The following table outlines the course learning outcomes and how they are assessed.

Learning Outcome	Learning Activities	How Assessed
Knowledge and Understanding		
<i>1. Depth & Breadth of Knowledge</i> Memorize (M), describe (D) and apply (A) main concepts and principles related to drug use and addiction	Reading Class discussion Guest lectures	Oral Presentations of current news Contribution to Class Discussion (DA) Essay Questions on Tests

Abilities		
2. Knowledge and Application of Methodologies	Reading of literature	Oral/written reports
3. Communication Skills Communicate scientific information in oral and written forms.	Classroom activity	Contribution to class activity and Paper

5 Evaluation

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

- **Term Tests—Total of 52 Points:** There will be two in-class tests, one on February 3 and one on March 17. Each term test is worth 26 points. The term tests may involve any or all of multiple choice, short answer, and longer essay answer questions. **The second term test is designated as requiring formal supporting documentation. Students cannot use an undocumented absence for this designated assessment.**
- **Final Exam—30 Points:** Scheduled by the Registrar. May cover material from the entire term, but emphasis will be on material covered from March 24 to end of class. The Final Exam may involve any or all of multiple choice, short answer, and longer essay answer questions. The Final Exam will be worth 30 points.
- **Assignment--10 Points:** There will be one assignment. The assignment will involve writing a minimum 1000 word summary and discussion of an “in the News” article related to addition. I will have to approve each article. The paper will be posted to a portal on Brightspace for grading.
- **Attendance/Participation. 8 POINTS** Attendance will be taken at every class. The % of attended classes (must arrive on time and must not

leave early) will be used to determine the number of marks earned in a very straightforward manner (% of class attended for full class time x 8).

Policy on Missing Coursework

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University's Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

- There will not be make ups for either Test 1 or Test 2. If you miss Test 1 and are excused, 13 points will be added to the assignment and 13 points will be added to the Final. If you miss Test 2 and are excused, 13 points will be added to the assignment and 13 points will be added to the Final.
- If you fail to complete the assignment by the due day/time, a penalty of 20% (2 marks) will occur for each 24 hour period, or any part thereof, that the assignment is late. For example, if the assignment is due on a Monday at 23:00 hours, and you only submit it some time between 23:01 hours Monday and 23:00 Tuesday, there will be a 2 mark penalty. This then would occur again if you missed another 24 hour period, or any part thereof. After 5 missed periods, the grade on the assignment would be zero (0). In the case of extra points having been assigned to the assignment because of missed tests, then the penalty will be calculated as 20% of the possible marks. For example, if you are excused from Test 1 the assignment becomes worth 23 marks. Each missed 24 hour period, or any part thereof, would result in a penalty of 4.6marks, i.e. 20% of 23. Again, after 5 missed periods the mark would be zero (0).

There is no make up of attendance/participation marks. If you are excused by Academic Counselling from some classes, then the % of attended class will be based on all other classes. Undocumented absences cannot be used for missed classes in terms of the attendance marks.

Because this is an essay course, as per Senate Regulations, you must pass the essay component to pass the course. That is, the average mark for your written

assignments must be at least 50%.

This course is exempt from the Senate requirement that students receive assessment of their work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade at least three full days before the date of the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty.

The Psychology Department follows Western's grading guidelines:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/grades_undergrad.pdf

Course grades within the Psychology Department are expected to be distributed around the following averages:

70% 1000-level to 2099-level courses

72% 2100-2999-level courses

75% 3000-level courses

80% 4000-level courses

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

Final Exam	30%
Term Test 1	26%
Term Test 2	26%
Assignment	10%
Attendance and Participation	8%

7 Class Schedule—tentative and subject to change

Jan	6	Introduction to Class
Jan	13	Overview of Drugs
Jan	20	Conceptualization of Addiction
Jan	27	Personality and Addiction: Impulsivity
Feb	3	TERM TEST to cover material Jan. 6 up through and including Jan 27
Feb	10	Personality and Addiction: CAN
Feb	17	Reading Week No Class
Feb	24	Co-morbidity
Mar	3	Co-morbidity
Mar	10	Outcome Expectancies
Mar	17	TERM TEST to cover material Feb. 10 up through and including Mar 10
Mar	24	Addictive Thinking
Mar	31	Conditioning Model of Tolerance
Apr	7	How the conditioning model informs treatment

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Possible penalties for a scholastic offence include failure of the assignment/exam, failure of the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

You may use electronic devices in class. You may use electronic devices for tests. You may have access to electronic notes during tests.

Plagiarism Detection Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western and Turnitin.com.

AI Policy for Psychology:

Responsible use of AI is allowed in Psychology. This includes using AI for brainstorming, improving grammar, or doing preliminary/background research on a topic.

AI is not to be used in place of critical thinking. AI cannot be used to write any evaluative component of the course except as described just above (brainstorming, improving grammar, preliminary/background research on a topic). AI cannot write your papers.

The misuse of AI undermines the academic values of this course. Relying on AI to create full drafts or fabricate sources is prohibited. You are ultimately responsible for any work submitted, so it is highly advised that you critically review your Generative AI output before incorporating this information into your assignments.

If you use AI, you must clearly explain its role in your work. All written assignments will require an AI Usage Statement, in which you will indicate what tools you have used, what you have used them for, and (broadly) how you have modified this information. Assignments without an AI Usage Statement will not be accepted.

Violations of this policy will be handled according to Western's scholastic offense policies.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

View Western's policy on academic accommodations for student with

disabilities at this [link](#).

Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western.

If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aeu@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Academic Considerations:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html

11 Other Information

- Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca>
- Student Development Services: www.sdc.uwo.ca
- Psychology Undergraduate Program:
<https://www.psychology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the policy documentation at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

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