

MEDI6130: Basis of Drug/Alcohol Problems

Online

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description	Provides an overview of alcohol and other drug use and drug related problems viewed from a range of perspectives including biopsychosocial, pharmacology, medicine and epidemiology. Neuroadaptation, prevention and treatment are also introduced. Emphasises skills for critically analysing sources of information about drugs.
Assumed Knowledge	There is no formal prerequisite for this subject. Experience working in an alcohol or other drug setting is advantageous.
Contact Hours	ONLINE Online Activity Online 2 hour(s) per Week for Full Term Contact hours are an indication only. Self-Directed Learning Self-Directed 8 hour(s) per Week for Full Term
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Online Dr Cassandra Lane C.Lane@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4924 6676
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	School of Medicine and Public Health Education Office SMPH-edoffice@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4042 0550

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Profile of contemporary alcohol and other drug issues2. Models of alcohol and other drug use3. Overview of treatment for alcohol and other drug problems4. Drug effects: pharmacology of psychoactive drugs5. Current alcohol and other drug issues6. Emerging Psychoactive Substances7. Epidemiology of alcohol and other drug use
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the ability to think critically about alcohol and other drug use and associated problems and critically analyse sources of information2. Describe and critique models of alcohol and other drug use3. Describe commonly used psychoactive drugs and their effects4. Discuss patterns of alcohol and other drug use5. Discuss the impact of alcohol and other drug use on individuals and families6. Discuss approaches to prevention of drug related problems7. Discuss current psychological and medical trends in treatment for drug problems8. Define emerging psychoactive and synthetic drugs and understand their effects9. Discuss recent developments in neurobiology and substance use research
Course Materials	All course material is accessed via Canvas.

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Assignment 1: Written Assignment & Quiz	See Canvas for due date.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
2	Assignment 2: Written Assignment & Quiz	See Canvas for due date.	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9
3	Assignment 3: Module Quizzes	See Canvas for due date.	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assignment 1: Written Assignment & Quiz

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	See Canvas for assessment details.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	See Canvas for due date.

Assignment 2: Written Assignment & Quiz

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	See Canvas for assessment details.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	See Canvas for due date.

Assignment 3: Module Quizzes

Assessment Type	Module Quizzes (ongoing with each module)
Description	See Canvas for assessment details.
Weighting	20%
Due Date	See Canvas for due dates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.

Course Evaluation

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse
Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s).

Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy
Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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