

TERM PAPER

PSYC 455 (Neuropharmacology)
Winter 2017, Prof Brake

Topic due: Feb 10

Final Paper due: **Mar 7**

Value: 20% of final grade - minus 10% of paper (2% of final grade) for each day late.

Pick a drug, any drug that affects the brain (e.g. Ritalin, Welbutrin etc...but obviously not Aspirin) and discuss its discovery and effects along with its pharmacology. You need to include the routes of administration, its absorption, distribution, binding, inactivation, and excretion. Discuss these in the context of ideas presented in class. For example, discuss the drug's half-life, lipid solubility, therapeutic index, how it crosses the blood-brain barrier etc... You should start with some background on the drug, then its effects, then its pharmacokinetics and finally its actions. For the actions you need to discuss which receptors it binds to along with affinities for each and its actions at the receptor. These latter two sections are where most of your points will be allocated so make them the major part of your paper.

You have two pages maximum (1.5 spacing or double spaced), not including references. That is, between 900 - 1100 words. Provide a word count at the end. Your information should come from multiple sources (e.g. I don't want to see just a product monograph from the drug company as your only reference). Be sure to add a word count at the end of your paper.

Much of the information you will need for your paper you should be able to find at www.drugbank.ca

Be sure to cite it in your references (the website shows you how). In light of this, you are required to add an **additional two references** that must be current (within the past 10 years) that show some *new research findings* about the *actions* of your drug.

Tips:

- Source (provide reference) all the information in your paper, I will be checking your sources.
- I don't consider Wikipedia a valid reference source and I will be checking papers against it.
- You may add a figure on an additional page if you like but it is not required.
- You do not have to find EVERYTHING about the drug, but you should research and try to find as much as you can, this is where your points will be given.
- Be sure to define any unusual or medical terms so that I know that YOU know what they mean.
- You should not pick a drug that is too new, because there will be less research available on it.
- You should not pick a drug that is too old, because you will have to use history books to find the information.

Refer to the sample term paper on Aspirin to get a sense of what I want. P.s. Aspirin is an old drug and I had to use history of pharmacology texts to find all the information.