
DRUGS AND BEHAVIOURUniversity of Victoria (Spring 2026)

Course Meeting Times:**Pre- or Core- Requisites:**

PSYC 251

Course Instructor: Dr James Clay**Office Hours:** By appointment**Email:** **Teaching Assistant:** TBA on Brightspace**Office Hours:** TBA on Brightspace**Email:** TBA on Brightspace

Territory Acknowledgement: We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

General Information

Description: This course offers an in-depth exploration of the determinants and consequences of drug use by examining the complex interplay between substances and human behaviour. Specifically, this course will explore the pharmacological, psychological, social, and political dimensions of drug consumption and addiction, providing a multidimensional interdisciplinary perspective. A blend of lectures, assigned readings, case studies, discussions, debates, and hands-on sessions will be utilised to provide participants with a holistic understanding about the effects of psychoactive drugs on the brain and behaviour, the broader societal repercussions of drug use, and contemporary strategies for treatment, prevention, and harm reduction.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the basic principles of pharmacology as they relate to drug use and behaviour.
- Examine the psychological and neurobiological mechanisms underlying addiction.
- Analyse the social, economic, and ethical considerations of drug use and policy.
- Evaluate current strategies for the prevention and treatment of substance-related harm.

Learning Technologies: Brightspace, iClicker, Zoom & Microsoft Word.

Required Materials:

- Prus, A. (2020). *Drugs and the neuroscience of behavior: An introduction to psychopharmacology* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Additional required readings will be assigned during the course and will be available through the UVic Library or Brightspace.

Useful Materials:

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Key Course Components

Lectures: Lectures will focus on addressing select questions arising from the required reading and oftentimes supplementing this with my own examples and perspective. They will not simply repeat textbook material. Before each lecture, you are expected to work through the required reading assigned to that session in your own time (see the tentative schedule below). Midterm tests will be taken during some sessions.

Online Forums: The online forums have been designed to facilitate group cohesion and within-group communication. For example, the Q&A forum can be used as an alternative way to ask the course team and/or your peers about course content. All communications should be respectful and professional – see the online conduct section for details.

Course Material on UVic's Brightspace: All course material, including the full course syllabus, slide decks, assignment details and in some cases session recordings will be made available through the Brightspace site. Please note that all distributed materials are for your personal use only. Please do not re-distribute or post the material to other websites, etc. Doing so is an academic integrity violation and will be treated as such.

Important Course Dates:

100 % Fee Reduction	Add Deadline	50% Fee Reduction	Academic Drop No Fee Reduction
Jan 18	Jan 21	Feb 8	Feb 28

Assignments & Evaluation**Grading:**

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
100-90	89-85	84-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-65	64-60	59-50	49-0

Your final grade will be a straight percentage. Your final grade will be rounded at the 0.5 level (e.g., 84.50 will be rounded to 85; 84.49 will be rounded to 84.00). Rounding will only occur for the final grade.

Note. All deadlines & grades submitted for exams & various assignments are final. There are no makeup assignments, no make-up exams, no bonus or extra assignments that you can do post-hoc to alter your grades. The time to invest in achieving the best possible grade is during the course, not afterward.

You may find it useful to note the [UVic description of grades](#).

Activities:

Core Activities	Date	%
(A) iClicker	Throughout	5
(B) Class debates	08 Feb, 22 Feb, 08 Mar	15
(C) Podcast assignment	02 Apr	20
(D) Midterm Exam	24 Feb	25
(E) Final Exam	Exam period	35
Bonus Activities (i.e., Extra Credit)		%
(F) Naloxone training	02 Apr	3

Note. All submissions are due by 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on the specified date.

Students who have completed the following will be considered to have completed the course:

- A passing grade (50% or higher) for iClicker participation.
- The class debate.
- The podcast assignment.
- The final exam

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage of all other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

In accordance with the University’s policy on academic concessions, *“A student who completes all course requirements is not eligible for an academic concession”*. Consequently, students can only request deferrals for completion of required course components, not for non-essential components. Please note that deferral of class debates and iClicker is not possible.

iClicker: In-class activities will primarily consist of iClicker questions used to check understanding, prompt discussion, and apply key concepts in real time. These questions may be individual or group-based and are designed to support your learning during lectures. Towards an access centred approach, the lowest 20% of participation scores will be dropped to account for occasional absences or technical issues.

Note. iClicker is mandatory, and you must get a passing grade (50% or higher). If you do not get a passing grade, you will be ineligible to write the final exam and will receive a failing grade (F) in the course regardless of your performance on the rest of the material.

Class Debates: In each class debate, you will work in teams to argue for or against a given proposition. Effective participation requires you to think critically about the debate topic,

rebut opposing arguments, and benefit from diverse viewpoints. Prepare thoroughly as your contributions will be assessed in terms of critical thinking, argument structure, rebuttal response, participation, and engagement.

Note. The Class Debates are mandatory, and you must get a passing grade (50% or higher). If you do not get a passing grade, you will be ineligible to write the final exam and will receive a failing grade (F) in the course regardless of your performance on the rest of the material.

Example propositions may include:

1. Recreational cannabis use should remain legal in Canada.
2. Psychedelics should be used in therapy.
3. Addiction is a disease.
4. Drug prohibition is beneficial.
5. Involuntary care for individuals with addiction should be a public health measure.

Podcast Assignment: You will complete a podcast-based assignment designed to engage you with course content in a creative and applied way. Working individually or in pairs, you will produce a short podcast that explores a topic related to drugs and behaviour. Your podcast should be accessible to a general audience while grounded in scientific evidence. Possible formats include interviews, storytelling, or investigative reporting. You will be assessed on clarity, engagement, accuracy, and critical insight.

Exams: Midterms are included to assess your broad content knowledge. They will be based on the course objectives, listed on page 1, and on the learning objectives described at the beginning of each lecture.

The Midterm Exam will be in-person during class, while the Final Exam is in-person during the examination period. You are responsible for taking examinations as scheduled. This

responsibility includes the Final Exam. **DO NOT plan your travel until the exam schedule is finalised.**

If you are unable to attend the final test you must apply for a "Request for Academic Concession" through the Office of the Registrar, typically within 10 working days of the test date. If an academic concession is granted for the final test, an alternative date to write the make-up test MUST be arranged with the instructor. **Any student who does not take the final exam will receive an "N" in this course.**

Naloxone training: Lessons on key neurochemical receptors, opioid use and harm reduction initiatives may be supplemented by completing naloxone training. If you want bonus points (i.e., extra credit), you will be required to complete a naloxone training program, which will cover the pharmacology of naloxone, the signs of opioid overdose, and proper administration techniques. Taking part will provide you with the skills and equipment needed to address a critical opioid overdose.

Note. If you do not want to complete the naloxone training but still wish to have the opportunity to earn an equivalent amount of extra credit, you may contact Dr Clay to arrange for an alternative option involving written assignments.

Course Policies

Attendance and office hours: Attending our three weekly classes will deepen your understanding of the material and give you chances to engage with the instructor and classmates in discussions. We encourage you to bring any questions for clarification or share examples that you found helpful in illustrating key concepts.

Manage your own time: Courses can be difficult to complete without sticking to a regular schedule. To stay prepared for tests, ensure that you complete the assigned tasks according to the schedule provided below. Set aside dedicated time each week to work through the

course material. Complete any required readings or assignments before the lecture for which they are assigned, as this will allow you to make the most of class time and participate in discussions. Attending class regularly and visiting student office hours when needed will also help keep you on track. Additionally, we recommend reviewing supplementary readings to deepen your understanding throughout the semester.

Punctuality: Arrive on time because announcements may occur at the beginning of class, and late arrivals are disruptive for the other students. The TAs and I cannot be responsible for information missed due to lateness or unexcused absences.

Check Brightspace often: All course materials will be available through Brightspace: <https://bright.uvic.ca>

IMPORTANT - Be discriminant when sending emails:

We want to hear from you! However, managing emailing can be challenging. To help us stay organised, please follow these guidelines:

- Make sure that you put "PSYC 345A:" as the first part of your subject line, followed by a meaningful subject related to your email.
- In your signature, provide your full name and student number.
- Before emailing, check the course syllabus, your notes, classmates, and Brightspace to see if your question has already been answered.

When to email us:

- ✓ To notify us that you have to miss a test or deadline.
- ✓ To make a comment about something you liked or something that you think could be improved about the course.
- ✓ To make a comment about the course material. Although, speaking to us in office hours about such topics is recommended.

When not to email us:

- ✗ When the answer to your question can be found in the course syllabus or on Brightspace.

- X For information on specific marks. Please refer to the course website, where all grades are posted for you to access.
- X If you have questions about why you received a specific mark, please speak to your TA during office hours. These discussions are best handled in person rather than through email.
- X For advice on improving your study techniques please speak to your TA during office hours for a more effective in-person discussion.

Conduct yourself professionally:

- Listen to and interact with others in a respectful manner. We come from diverse backgrounds, with different values, beliefs, and opinions, so it's important to keep an open mind. While you may debate with others who hold differing views, you must always remain respectful.
- Ensure all electronic devices are turned off during class, as activities like texting, web browsing, and social media use are not allowed during lectures.
- Refrain from talking or participating in any disruptive activities while the instructor is speaking. When the class begins and the instructor starts speaking, please stop any ongoing conversations immediately.
- Disruptive behaviours such as talking, moving around, and engaging in extraneous activities detract from the learning environment. We expect students to remain quiet and attentive during lectures. Avoid activities like talking, reading newspapers, texting, checking emails, or any other distractions that do not contribute to understanding the lecture material.
- **Disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.** If an instructor (whether your classroom instructor or any other) asks you to leave the classroom, please comply promptly. Failure to adhere to these requests may lead to disciplinary action. UVic students have traditionally contributed to a respectful and productive environment, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining these standards.

Online behaviour:

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca

Provide constructive feedback: We welcome any ideas to enhance the course and support learning. We encourage you to share constructive feedback about your experiences by emailing the Dr Clay or the TA, or by visiting during office hours to discuss your suggestions. Around the middle of the semester, an anonymous survey will be available on Brightspace for you to provide course feedback. Additionally, at the end of the semester, time will be set aside in class to complete UVic's Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey.

Academic Integrity: I take academic integrity violations seriously. As a reminder, students are required to abide by all academic regulations set as set out in the University calendar, including standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) are considered serious and may result in significant penalties.

Academic Concession: Medical documentation for short-term absences is not required (approved by Senate). Students who cannot attend due to illness are asked to notify their instructors immediately. If illness, accident, or family affliction causes a student to miss the

final exam or to fail to complete any required assignment/assessment by the end of the term students are required to submit a request for academic concession.

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you are registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning and anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you are a student with a disability or chronic health condition, you can meet with a CAL advisor to discuss access and accommodations.

Accommodations: Let Dr Clay know right away if you require any accommodations for this course. Please notify him as soon as possible, and feel free to reach out if you would like to have a conversation about your specific needs.

Registration / Withdrawal: You are responsible for ensuring that this course is not considered to duplicate or be mutually exclusive with a course already on your transcript. If you wish to drop the course, you are responsible for doing so – if you simply stop attending but stay registered you will receive an N.

Generative Artificial Intelligence: In this course I welcome the use of generative AI for assignments completion and during activities in the classroom. Therefore, you are authorised to use generative AI tools such as ChatGPT. Please note that you can opt for not using generative AI at all as well to complete all the courses assignments successfully, but in case you opt to use generative AI, you must provide proper citation of the tools you used. Although the course allows the use of generative AI, please be aware of the following flaws when using the tools:

- Generative AI does not fact check.
- Generative AI may provide bias and inaccurate answers.
- Generative AI hallucinates and may provide false or/and made-up information.
- Generative AI does not cite the sources of information.

- Generative AI does not critically analysed content.

Therefore, I recommend fact checking any information provided by generative AI against primary sources and including a citation to the primary source of information in any submitted work.

In order to not violate academic integrity, you must cite ChatGPT or any other tool properly using APA style. Additionally, you must add as an appendix all the prompts and questions used within the generative AI to create content as an appendix.

Formatting: All written assignments should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with 1-inch margins, in APA format (7th edition).

Copywrite Statement

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the [Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy \(AC1300\)](#).

Disclaimer

This syllabus, including the course calendar, is subject to change and/or revision during the course. This will allow the instructor to make minor changes to the syllabus such as due dates, altering assignments, etc. Changes, if any, will be announced on Brightspace.

Tentative Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSOCIATED MATERIAL
1	06-Jan	1. Introduction	Chapter 1
	08-Jan	2. The Nervous System	Chapter 2
2	13-Jan	3. Neurotransmission	Chapter 3
	15-Jan	4. Pharmacology (PK-PD)	Chapter 4
3	18-Jan	Debate Topics Assigned	
	20-Jan	5. Psychostimulants	Chapter 6
	22-Jan	6. Nicotine & Caffeine	Chapter 7
4	27-Jan	7. Depressants	Chapter 8
	29-Jan	8. Alcohol	Chapter 9
5	03-Feb	9. Opioids	Chapter 10
	05-Feb	10. Cannabinoids	Chapter 11
6	08-Feb	Opening Statement Due	
	10-Feb	11. Hallucinogens	Chapter 12
	12-Feb	12. Treating Mental Disorders	Chapters 13-15
7	Reading Break		
8	22-Feb	Rebuttal Due	
	24-Feb	MIDTERM	Material from Sessions 1–12 may be examined
	26-Feb	13. The War on Drugs	Cohen et al. (2022)
9	03-Mar	14. The Reward Pathway	Uhl et al. (2019)
	05-Mar	15. Theories of Addiction	Hellig et al. (2021)
10	08-Mar	Closing Statement Due	
	10-Mar	16. The Toxic Drug Crisis	Fischer et al. (2023)
	12-Mar	17. Treatment Modalities	Ray et al (2019)
11	17-Mar	18. Harm Reduction	Ritter & Cameron (2006)
	19-Mar	19. Public Health	Crowley et al. (2017)
12	24-Mar	20. Drug Markets and Incarceration	TBA on Brightspace
	26-Mar	21. From the Frontlines	Gallant et al. (2025)
13	31-Mar	22. Contemporary Issues in Drug Policy	TBA on Brightspace
	02-Apr	23. Course Review & Exam Prep. Podcast Assignment Due Naloxone Training (Extra Credit) Due	

Note. The schedule is tentative and subject to change. All submissions are due by 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on the specified date.

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Department of Psychology Important Course Policy Information Spring Session 2026

Accessible Learning

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you are registered with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) and anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you are a student with a disability or chronic health condition, you can meet with a CAL advisor to discuss access and accommodations.

Attendance and Absences

Attendance is important. Students who do not attend their classes during the first two weeks (and do not inform the instructor of valid circumstances that prevent their attendance) may be dropped from both class registration and the waitlist.

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. Students may be assigned a final grade of N or debarred from writing final examinations if they fail to satisfy a minimum attendance requirement set by the instructor for lectures, laboratories, online course discussions or learning activities, tutorials, or other learning activities set out in the course outline.

Medical documentation for short-term absences is **not required** (approved by Senate). Students who cannot attend due to illness are asked to notify their instructors immediately. If illness, accident, or family affliction causes a student to miss the final exam or to fail to complete any required assignment/assessment by the end of the term students are required to submit a request for academic concession (see below).

Children and Pets

If you need to bring your children or pet to class, please do not hesitate to do so. It is understood that sometimes this is necessary due to care circumstances. However, please aim to have minimal class disturbance so that student learning is not impacted.

Class Recording and Auto-Captioning Statement

The instructor may record class sessions and those recordings may be made available to all students in the class via Brightspace. If you have questions or concerns regarding class recording and privacy, please contact privacyinfo@uvic.ca

Auto-generated captioning may be enabled in this course. Auto-captioning is highly error-prone, especially for specialized terminology and proper names. Students are asked to refer to the audio feed for clarification of any errors. If you find captioning errors that are offensive, please contact your instructor and/or teaching assistant so that they are aware. If you require captions as part of an academic accommodation, please contact [CAL](#).

Commitment to Inclusivity, Diversity, and Respectful Environments in the Classroom and Online

The University of Victoria is committed to providing a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help *create* such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying, or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a University activity.

All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca

Copyright

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class¹. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the [Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy \(AC1300\)](#) or the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), whichever is more appropriate for the situation.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Toward the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to the instructor regarding the course and their teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. You will be reminded nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

1. What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
2. Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
3. Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Disclaimer

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Grading

In classes that are based on a percentage grading scheme, the following [Undergraduate Grading Scale](#) is used

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	51-59	< 50
GP Value	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Rounding is only applied to the final grade and is rounded up at the 0.5% level (e.g., 84.49% is rounded to 84% and 84.50% is rounded to 85%).

Medical Documentation for absences

No medical documentation for short-term absences is required (Approved by Senate).

If you are seeking a Withdrawal Extenuating Circumstances or an Aegrotat grade, medical documentation may be required if relevant.

Ombudsperson and Academic Concerns

From the course calendar...

Depending on the nature of the academic matter of concern to the student, the order in which the student should normally try to resolve the matter is: first, the course instructor; second, the Chair of the department; third, the Dean of the faculty; and finally, the Senate.

If you are having an academic concern or problem that cannot be resolved with your instructor or the Department Associate Chair, you may wish to consult with the Office of the Ombudsperson (<https://uvicombudsperson.ca>). Current contact information for the office can be found here <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/contact/>.

¹ Syllabi belong to the department through which the course is administered.

Policy on Academic Integrity including Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Psychology fully endorses and intends to enforce rigorously the [Senate Policy on Academic Integrity](#). It is of utmost importance that students who do their work honestly be protected from those who do not. Because this policy is in place to ensure that students carry out and benefit from the learning activities assigned in each course, it is expected that students will cooperate in its implementation.

The offences defined by the policy can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** You must make sure that the work you submit is your work and not someone else's. There are proper procedures for citing the works of others. The student is responsible for being aware of and using these procedures.
2. **Unauthorized Use of an Editor.** The use of an editor is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization.
3. **Multiple Submission.** Only under exceptional circumstances may a work submitted to fulfill an academic requirement be used to satisfy another similar requirement. The student is responsible for clarifying this with the instructor(s) involved.
4. **Falsifying Materials Subject to Academic Evaluation.** This includes falsification of data, use of commercially prepared essays, using information from the Internet without proper citation, citing sources from which material is not actually obtained, etc.
5. **Cheating on Assignments, Tests, and Examinations.** You may not copy the work of others in or out of class; you may not give your work to others for the purpose of copying; you may not use unauthorized material or equipment during examinations or tests; and you may not impersonate or allow yourself to be impersonated by another at an examination. The Department of Psychology has a policy of not making old examinations available for study purposes. Therefore, use of old exams without the express written permission of the instructor constitutes cheating by the user, and abetting of cheating by the person who provided the exam.
6. **Aiding Others to Cheat.** It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

The use of a generative artificial intelligence (AI) is strictly prohibited in any submitted work (unless expressly endorsed by the instructor as part of an assignment).

Instructors are expected to make every effort to prevent cheating and plagiarism. This may include the assignment of seating for examinations, asking students to move during examinations, requests to see student identification cards, and other measures as appropriate. Instructors also have available to them a variety of tools and procedures to check for Internet and electronic media-based cheating. In instances of suspected or actual plagiarism or cheating, instructors, following prescribed procedures, are authorized to take steps consistent with the degree of the offence. These measures will range from a zero on the test or assignment or a failing grade for the course, probation within a program to temporary or even permanent suspension from the University.

Rights of Appeal are described in the Policy on Academic Integrity in the University calendar Spring 2025.

The definitive source for information on Academic Integrity is the University Calendar

Other useful resources on Plagiarism and Cheating include:

1. The Ombudsperson's office: <https://uvicombudsperson.ca/academic-integrity/>
The [Office of the Ombudsperson](#) is an independent and impartial resource to assist with the fair resolution of student issues. A confidential consultation can help you understand your rights and responsibilities. The Ombudsperson can also clarify information, help navigate procedures, assist with problem-solving, facilitate communication, provide feedback on an appeal, investigate and make recommendations. Phone: 250-721-8357; Email: ombuddy@uvic.ca; Web: uvicombudsperson.ca.
2. UVic Library Resources: <http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>
3. UVic Library Document on [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

Prerequisites

Students who remain in courses for which they do not have the prerequisites do so at their own risk. Students who complete courses without prerequisites ARE NOT exempt from having to complete the prerequisite course(s) if such courses are required for the degree program.

Program Requirements

For more information see the [UVic Calendar](#).

Registration Status

Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the [deadlines](#) set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Students who do not attend classes must not assume that they have been dropped from a course by an academic unit or an instructor. Courses that are not formally dropped will be given a failing grade, students may be required to withdraw and will be required to pay the tuition fee for the course.

Request for Academic Concessions

Students can apply for [academic concessions](#) if their course requirements are affected by (i) unexpected and/or unavoidable circumstances (e.g., illness, family affliction, etc.), or (ii) conflicting responsibilities (e.g., service in the armed forces or first responder, representing the university).

- **Request an in-course extension**
If you require more time to complete a course requirement or miss a test or midterm exam, then you will need to complete the [“In-Course Extension Form”](#) and submit it directly to your course instructor. All course requirements must be completed prior to the submission of final grades.
- **What to do if you miss the final exam scheduled during the formal exam period**
Apply at Records Services for a [“Request for Academic Concession”](#), normally within 10 working days of the date of the exam. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation (for example, a deferred exam). Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record.
- **What to do if you require additional time to complete course requirements beyond the normal term.**
Apply at Records Services for a [“Request for Academic Concession”](#), normally within 10 working days of the end of the course. Records Services will forward the form to the instructor. If the concession is granted, the instructor will determine how to deal with the situation. Where a concession is not applied for or where such application is denied, an N grade will be entered on the student’s academic record if the missing work has been deemed required. Note, only required course components may be deferred.

Research Participation Opportunities with the Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers multiple opportunities to participate in research studies over the year. Students are encouraged to learn more about the field of psychology by volunteering in these studies. Information about studies can often be found posted on notice boards around the Department as well as through our Participant Pool webpage at <https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/psychology/research/participants/>.

Student Code of Conduct

The [Student Code of Conduct](#) explains how University policies regarding student behaviour are interpreted and applied within the Faculties of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences.

Student Support Services

[Learn Anywhere](#) is the student support portal for a full range of student academic and support services. Services include: [Centre for Academic Communication](#), [Math & Stats Assistance Centre](#), [Counselling Services](#), [Health Services](#), [Library](#), [Ombudsperson](#), and [Computer Help Desk](#)

This classroom is a trans-inclusive space

Please indicate if you have a preferred name and pronoun that you'd like to be used in the classroom. Please e-mail your instructor or your TA if you would like to discuss the climate of this classroom for trans students. Gender neutral bathrooms are available at UVic.

University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS)

The [UVSS](http://uvss.ca) is a social justice based non-profit run by students, for students and is entirely separate from UVic. As an undergrad student, you are already a member! We work on issues affecting students such as affordability, public transit, sexualized violence, sustainability, student employment, and much more. We fund clubs and course unions, and have several advocacy groups. We also have a Food Bank and Free Store, a Peer Support Centre, and run your health and dental plan. We are here to support you, so please reach out to us at uvss.ca!

Academic Important Dates

Spring session – second term (January – April)

Monday, January 5 th	Second term classes begin for all faculties
Sunday, January 18 th	Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees for standard second term courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
Wednesday, January 21 st	Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term
Saturday, January 31 st	Last day for paying second term fees without penalty
Sunday, February 8 th	Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for standard courses. 50% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
Monday, February 16 th	University Closed (Family Day)
February 16 th - 20 th	Reading Break for all faculties
Saturday, February 28 th	Last day for withdrawing from full year and second term courses without penalty of failure
Monday, March 9 th	First registration date for Summer Session 2026
Thursday, April 2 nd	Last day of classes for all faculties
Tuesday, April 7 th	Examinations begin for all faculties
Wednesday, April 22 nd	Examinations end for all faculties

Add and drop dates for standard 2025-2026 Winter Session courses

Term	Start Date	End Date	100% Fee Reduction	Add Deadline	50% Fee Reduction	Academic Drop no Fee Reduction
First term	Sep 3	Dec 3	Sep 16	Sep 19	Oct 7	Oct 31
Second term	Jan 5	Apr 2	Jan 18	Jan 21	Feb 8	Feb 28

Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response at UVic

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Office of Equity and Human Rights, Sedgewick Building, Room C133

Phone: 250 721 8021

Email: eqhr01@uvic.ca

Web: <https://www.uvic.ca/sexualizedviolence/>

BE WELL



A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Social Life, Friends, & Community at UVic:

Having a social network is an extremely important foundation for positive mental health. There are lots of benefits to joining clubs, course unions, intramurals and teams on campus.

<https://www.uvic.ca/undergraduate/housing-student-life/student-life/index.php>

Counselling Services:

The Student Wellness Centre can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/contacts/student-wellness-team/index.php#ipn-counsellors>

Health Services:

The Student Wellness Centre also provides a full service primary health clinic for students. <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/contacts/student-wellness-team/index.php#ipn-physicians>

Centre for Accessible Learning:

The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <https://www.uvic.ca/accessible-learning/index.php>. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Elders' Voices:

The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/

Mental Health Supports and Services:

Mental health supports and services are available to students from all areas of the UVic community: <https://www.uvic.ca/student-wellness/wellness-resources/mental-health/>