**HUS 4442: Substance Abuse and the Family**

Required Textbooks: Hart, C.L. & Ksir, C. (2014). Drugs, society, and human behavior (17th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781259913860

**Important Note: Quoted material is not allowed for course work**

Module 2

Print

Module 2  
How Drugs Work  
  
In order to understand how alcohol and drugs can impact our families, communities, and society in general, it is first helpful to identify some of the physiological and pathological influences of alcohol and drugs, and to understand how they effect individuals.  
  
In this module, we will explore why your body is influenced by, or susceptible to, drugs and other substances. We will look at how drugs interact with the brain to produce effects on behavior, thoughts and emotions. We will also find out how drugs get to the brain and discover the general principles of drug action.  
  
Required Readings:

* Textbook: Chapters 4 & 5

Required Reading for Discussion Forum Preparation (do not panic, they are pretty short in length!):

* [**Addiction is not a brain disease**](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/16066359.2017.1321741?needAccess=true%20%20%5bPDF%5d)
* [Brain disease or biopsychosocial model in addiction? Remembering the Vietnam Veteran Study](http://www.psicothema.com/pdf/4481.pdf)
* [**Addiction as a Brain Disease**](http://www.helpmegetoffdrugs.com/leshner)

Another resource you may wish to review for your discussion post:  [Is addiction a brain disease or a moral failing? Neither](https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s12152-016-9289-0.pdf)

Brief Videos (5 minutes or less) exploration/explanation of the effects of opioids/addiction on the brain; there is also information on the history of their use and information on psychological vs. physiological addiction.

* [Why the human brain loves opioids](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVdXlB89QOA)
* [Opioid addiction inside the brain](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsXsIwewPuI)
* [This is what happens to your brain on opioids](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDVV_M__CSI)
* [How opioids and Heroin affect the brain](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z64qwaaoEDA)

[Module 2 Discussion Forum 1](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/d2l/le/content/306800/viewContent/12710742/View)

Discussion Topic

Module 2 Discussion Forum 1

Is Addiction a Brain Disease?

As we all know, substance use and drug addiction are enormous issues in our communities that result in great loss of life, losses in productivity, costs associated criminal activity, hospitalizations/ER/healthcare, violence, premature death, and the list goes on. In this module, you have had the opportunity to become more familiar with how drugs “work” – in particular, on the brain. No discussion of the effects of substance abuse and addiction related to their impact and/or interaction with the brain would be complete without considering the question of:  Is addiction a disease of the brain? You may already have a strong belief of what the answer to question is in your own mind, but can you support it with evidence?  Perhaps there are other views on this that make sense or could sway your response?

**For this Discussion,** first review the readings/resources provided on the landing page area and then a post of a minimum of 175 words, respond to the question of, Is addiction a disease of the brain? Clearly state your position (no waffling back and forth!) and support your response with evidence. You may also want to include evidence to refute the opposing side to your argument as a way to support your own view on this topic. You may also consider doing a bit more research – there is a lot of research on this topic, and I want to hear in your post that you have a good understanding of the concepts. I do not want to see a series of copied and pasted sentences; I want to hear your words and your application of the evidence to support them (with appropriate citations and references)!  This is the type of discussion situation that you might encounter in the professional workplace, so it will be good practice in articulating and supporting your views/professional stance.

* Submit your first original post of a minimum of 175 words