University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Psychoactive Substances, PG_00188346						
Field of study	Substancje psychoaktywne (Wykład)						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	3		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	5		ECTS credits	2.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	credit			
Conducting unit	Department of Analytical Chemistry -> Faculty of Chemistry -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Paweł Niedziałkowski				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		5.0		15.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to acquaint students with the characteristics of basic psychoactive substances, their effects on the human body, and their mechanisms of action at the biological, psychological, and social levels. The main objective of the course is to develop the ability to recognize the effects of using these substances, understand the risks associated with their use, and analyze the phenomenon of addiction. Students will gain the knowledge to assess risks, interpret data on psychoactive substances, and implement basic prevention measures in this area.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[AKRL3_K04] The graduate is ready to cooperate with representatives of other fields—law, medicine, biology—within forensic expertise.	He can list the equipment used in the analysis of psychoactive substances and in forensic analysis. He acquires knowledge in the field of interdisciplinary connections between various scientific disciplines in order to obtain reliable scientific expertise in the field of psychoactive substances.	[SK4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
[AKRL3_K05] The graduate is ready to promote science and raise social awareness in the field of forensic analytics.	Acquaints students with forensic analysis methods used in forensic investigations of psychotropic substances. Gains the knowledge of the analysis and biological activity of basic psychoactive substances.	[SK4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
[AKRL3_W03] The graduate knows and understands the structure and chemical properties of compounds relevant in forensic examinations.	Gains the knowledge of the properties and effects of basic psychoactive substances. Can mention basic substances that have psychoactive properties.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny
[AKRL3_W05] The graduate knows and understands toxicokinetic and toxicodynamic processes and the methods of identifying toxic substances in forensic contexts.	Achieves knowledge of the biological properties of psychoactive substances and their toxicology. Understands the social impact of psychoactive substance use.	[SW4] test/egzamin - ustny lub pisemny

Subject contents

Definitions and classifications of psychoactive substances. Review of the properties of psychoactive substances.Discussion of the basic properties of psychoactive substances. Classification of psychoactive substances and their characteristics. Overview of the most important groups of psychoactive substances: depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, cannabinoids, opioids, designer drugs, and others. Legal aspects and regulations concerning psychoactive substances. Legal basis for the control of trade in substances. The impact of psychoactive substances on the functioning of individuals and society.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Knowledge of the basics of nomenclature and structural composition of organic compounds, as well as basic analytical techniques for testing the fundamental physicochemical properties of organic substances.

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Test/exam	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	1. T. Białas , M. Jędrzejko, Narkotyki i nowe substancje psychoaktywne Zjawisko, zagrożenia, profilaktyka, PWN 2019 2. M. Jarema, Uzależnienia i substancje psychoaktywne w praktyce lekarza POZ, PZWL, 2018 3. H. Kuntz Narkotyki i uzależnienia, Parpamedia, 2009 4. J. Sein Anand, M.WiergowskiAlkohol i człowiek - toksyczny związek, PZWL 2023
Supplementary literature	1. Noah Whiteman, Przepyszne trucizny Od przypraw do narkotyków, Feeria, 2023
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

1. List the properties of the selected psychoactive substance.
2. Determine which group of compounds ethyl alcohol belongs to.

Work placement

Not applicable

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