

## Quick Study Guide

**Topic:** States of Consciousness

**Related Course(s):** Psych 1100, 2800, 3000, 3200, 3300, 3600

### Drug Use – Key Terms

**Psychoactive drugs:** drugs that influence a person's emotions, perceptions, and behavior.

**Addictive drugs:** drugs that produce a biological or psychological dependence in the user so that withdrawal from them leads to a craving for the drug that, in some cases, may be nearly irresistible.

**Psychoactive drug dependence:** people believe that they need the drug to respond to the stresses of daily living

**Psychological drug dependence:** the body becomes so accustomed to functioning in the presence of a drug that it cannot function without it

**Stimulants:** drugs that have an arousal effect on the central nervous system, causing a rise in heart rate, blood pressure, and muscular tension

**Amphetamines** such as dexedrine and benzedrine, popularly known as speed, are strong stimulants. Amphetamines bring about a sense of energy and alertness, talkativeness, heightened confidence

**Methamphetamine** is a white, crystalline drug that U.S. police now say is the most dangerous street drug. "Meth" is highly addictive and relatively cheap, and it produces a strong, lingering high.

**Bath salts** are an amphetamine-like stimulant containing chemicals related to cathinone. They can produce euphoria and a rise in sociability and sex drive, but the side effects are severe, incl. paranoia and agitation

**Cocaine** is inhaled or "snorted" through the nose, smoked, or injected directly into the bloodstream. It is rapidly absorbed into the body and takes effect almost immediately

**Depressants:** drugs that slow down the nervous system; impede the nervous system by causing neurons to fire more slowly. Alcohol is the most common depressant

**Narcotics:** drugs that increase relaxation and relieve pain and anxiety. Two of the most powerful narcotics, morphine, and heroin, are derived from the poppy seed pod.

**Hallucinogen:** a drug that is capable of producing hallucinations, or changes in the perceptual process. The most common hallucinogen in widespread use today is marijuana, whose active ingredient - tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is found in a common weed, cannabis. MDMA ("Ecstasy") and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD, or "acid") also fall into the category of hallucinogens.