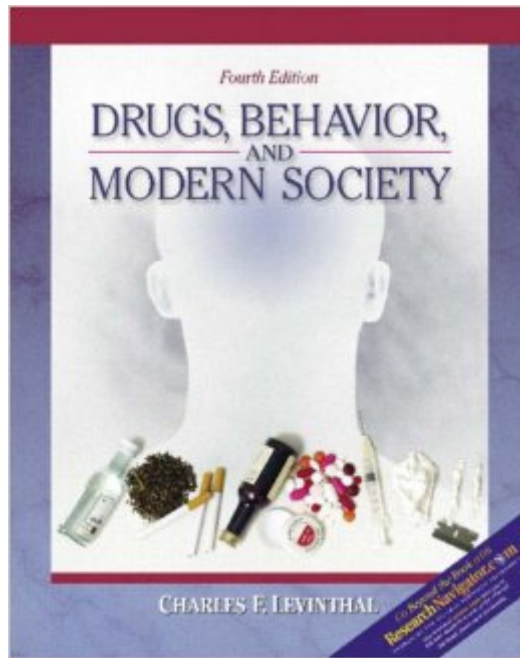


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Drugs, Behavior, And Modern Society With Research Navigator (4th Edition)



Synopsis

This text covers the range of chemical substances that affect our minds and our bodies and discusses the challenges these substances bring to our daily lives. In today's world, drugs and their use present a social paradox, combining the potential for good and for bad. As a society and as individuals, we can be the beneficiaries of drugs or their victims. This perspective continues to be the message of *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society*, Fourth Edition. As has been the case since the first edition published in 1996, students will be introduced to the basic facts and the major issues concerning drug-taking behavior, in a straightforward, comprehensive, and "reader-friendly" manner. *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society*, Fourth Edition has been designed to be the most comprehensive review of psychoactive drugs of any undergraduate college textbook on the market today. It is particularly notable for the attention given to two aspects of drug-taking behavior that have been underreported in other texts: steroid abuse and inhalant abuse. The text also highlights the impact of dietary supplements, whether herb-based or not, on the current drug scene; the impact of "club drugs" on contemporary drug-taking behavior; and the recent increase in the abuse of prescription analgesic (pain-relief) medications such as OxyContin.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am an undergraduate reading this text for my "Drugs and Behavior" course. I don't usually write reviews, but this particular text struck a chord in me. At some points the text does a good job of giving a basic overview of the effects of drugs on the body, but the perspective throughout is

skewed: The historiography of drugs that he constructs is decidedly biased, while the physiological and psychological effects of the drugs listed are selective. Take the section on MDMA, for instance, "The physical health concerns with respect to Ecstasy center on its short-term and long-term toxicity. Acute effects [are] severe hypothermia...dehydration...and long term cognitive impairments and emotional difficulties. Heavy and prolonged Ecstasy use can produce confusion, anxiety, sleep problems, reductions in impulse control, and declines in memory and attention" Mysteriously absent are the well-documented subjective effects on the mind of euphoria, DECREASED anxiety, increased sense of well-being and empathy. Actually, to the author's credit he did mention something about MDMA being explored in the 1980s as a therapeutic drug but concluded by saying that: "Eventually, after several years of hesitations and reversals, the Drug Enforcement Administration put MDMA permanently on the Schedule I list of controlled substances, indicating that there is no accepted medical application for the drug" And then he simply ends it there mentioning nothing further of the debate or putting one of those "Drugs...in focus" background/anecdotal boxes on the proceeding page that he is so fond of.

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