Course Syllabus

CJ 597 Drugs and Society

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Office:

Office Hours: Phone:

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Note: There no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook(s) Required
Drugs and Drug Policy: The Control of Consciousness Alteration by Clayton J. Mosher and Scott Akins (2007) Sage Publications: ISBN 978-0-76-193007-5

Optional
I assigned Darryl Inaba's "Uppers, Downers, and All-Arounders" for those of you who may want a supplemental book "on drugs". If you are not a drug user or do not have contact with drug users on a regular basis this book is helpful in explaining contemporary drug use as well as drug pharmacology. There are several editions of this book in print and you may choose to buy an earlier edition at a much reduced cost.

Course Description: Program Outcome
Our focus is the social reality of drug use, and drug users, within contemporary society. This focus includes a historical analysis of the social construction of drug use, drug users, abuse, and addiction. We will be investigating the complex relationships between individual and group behavior, and social structure. Central concepts such as social learning, labeling, power, and inequality; as well as socio-cultural definitions of drugs, behavior, and the people who use drugs

will be the tools of our analysis. Special attention will be given to the complex legal history surrounding drug use, the link between drugs and crime, the impact of the medicalization of human behavior, and varying perspectives on "doing something about drugs."

The basic objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive survey of the development of sociological theories and analyses of drug use, focusing on images of drug use and the drug user as social constructs rather than as an intrinsically pathological behavior or identity. An additional objective of this course is to survey the current information and research on selected categories of drugs and the socially constructed reality that surrounds their use in contemporary society in order to understand a) the socio-cultural based definitions of drugs and b) the individual, group, and social structural dimensions of drug using behavior. This will include an analysis of the implications of these definitions and relationships for social policy and social control (legislation, prevention and treatment). These issues will be analyzed within the shifting legal and medical definitions that permeate the discussion of drug use in modern society.

Start Here:

Read the syllabus and take note of important dates. When you are done proceed to the introductory post which you can find under week one on the left of your course shell.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Describe and analyze the history of drug problems and social theories of drug use.

2. Identify and explain the patterns of legal and illegal drug use.

3. Identify, compare, and analyze policies regulating illegal and legal drugs.

Instructional/Methods/Activities Assessments
Introduction/Discussion Posts: (1 Introduction @ 50 points; 4 discussion posts @ 50 points each = 250 course points)

Student Learning Outcomes #1-#3:   Describe and analyze the history of drug problems and social theories of drug use; Identify and explain the patterns of legal and illegal drug use; Identify, compare, and analyze policies regulating illegal and legal drugs. Course

Requirements

    The **Introduction** is a chance for you to 'meet' your colleagues (although most of you likely know each other by now) in the class and an opportunity to introduce yourself to your professor. You will also be required to answer a course-related question. Specific instructions on what to post are available when you click on

Introduction in Week #1. The Introductory post is due on **Wednesday of Week #1** of the course.

The **Discussions** are directly related to the work you are doing on your capstone project. Each post will require that you present to the other students in the class, your thoughts/concerns/problems/issues on specific topics related to your project. You are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion with your classmates, providing assistance and guidance when possible. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for **quality** and insightful thought/assistance that you provide to your colleagues. Specific discussion post topics are located in eCollege.

These posts should be **a minimum of 250 words**. The specific discussion assignment is located in each unit Week by clicking on the Discussion link. Posts are due by 11:00PM CST on **Fridays.**

Comment Posts: (20 comments @ 10 points each = 200 course points)

Student Learning Outcomes #1-#3:   Describe and analyze the history of drug problems and social theories of drug use; Identify and explain the patterns of legal and illegal drug use; Identify, compare, and analyze policies regulating illegal and legal drugs.

Course Requirements
Comment posts are responses you make to the discussion posts that you and your classmates post each week. You are **required** to make a minimum of **five** comments each week. I would strongly encourage you to engage your colleagues well past the five-comment minimum in order to maximize your opportunity for meaningful discussion and learning.

Comment posts should be meaningful. Merely agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate will not be looked upon favorably and will result in a loss of points. A meaningful post is one that moves the discussion forward in some substantive way through providing one's perspective, additional information through research, or reframing the discussion in some new way. You are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion with your classmates. Your comments will be graded for **quality**, and **relevance** and the degree to which you offer useful and relevant suggestions to your colleagues. Your comments will also be graded based on your ability to engage in critical thinking.

All comment posts are due by 11:00PM CST on **Sundays.**

Assessment Method: Comments will be graded using the Comments Grading Rubric attached to the Discussion Post Grading Rubric. The discussion and Comments for each week will be graded together and posted as one grade (Discussion = 50 + Comments 5@ 10 points each = 100 points/week).

Review of Articles Project (350 points):

Student Learning Outcomes #1-#3:   Describe and analyze the history of drug problems and social theories of drug use; Identify and explain the patterns of legal and illegal drug use; Identify, compare, and analyze policies regulating illegal and legal drugs.

Quizzes (2@100 points):

Student Learning Outcomes #1-#3:   Describe and analyze the history of drug problems and social theories of drug use; Identify and explain the patterns of legal and illegal drug use; Identify, compare, and analyze policies regulating illegal and legal drugs.

You will read four articles [insert link] which are available in doc sharing. These articles are from professional journals and a Newspaper; they span almost one hundred years. While all of the articles address different topics, they do have one common trend. These articles demonstrate the social reality of drug use and the construction of that reality through time. The goal of this project is for you to think critically about the seemingly endless crusade to tackle ever-expanding problems related to drug use and abuse.

Your review should be written as a professional paper and be a minimum of 15 pages in length. You should cite the sources provided to you and at least six other sources that you retrieve on your own. Your review should include:

a. A brief summary of the articles and other literature written as a synthesis of the information presented.

b. A thorough assessment of the information presented that includes what you found accurate and valid as well as what sounds suspect to you.

c. A proposal on how drug problems should be dealt with on the social level. You can choose any strategy you like as long as it is reasonable and backed up by research literature.

d. A conclusion that includes future direction for dealing with drug problems and future directions for research. You may be as creative in this area as you would like.

Assessment Method: Students will be graded on their Review of Articles Project using the Review of Articles Project Rubric

Grading

Assignments for this course will be scored using a points system. Below is an explanation of how each assignment type will be scored.

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Introduction	1	50	50
Discussion Posts	4	50	200
Responses to Discussion Posts	20	10	200
Quizzes	2	100	200
Final Paper Project	1	350	350
		TOTAL	1,000

Total Points possible for this term=1,000.

1,000 - 900 = A
899 - 800 = B
799 - 700 = C
699 - 600 = D
599 and below = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements for eCollege are:

- o Any current Flash-compliant browser (eg. Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 3.0)
- o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
- o Broadband connection required – courses are heavily video intensive
- o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display – 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- o A sound card and speakers or headphones

Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date

Some classes may have specific class requirements for additional software. These requirements will be listed on the course offerings page. Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.

You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

- o Adobe Reader
- o Adobe Flash Player

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2003, XP, 2007 or OpenOffice. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, using email, and discussion boards, will also be required.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to the following link: https://tamuc.edu/login.aspx.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or **helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.

This course like the others in the program is divided up into weekly units. Each unit will have an Overview, Outcomes, and Activities/Assignments. The Activities/Assignments will provide you with a list of everything you need to do to be successful in the course.

You should begin by reading the course syllabus, paying particular attention to the assignments and course calendar, and then complete the Start Here unit.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My primary form of communication with the class will be through Email and Announcements. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students in this way via your official University Email address available to me through MyLeo and in Announcements. It will be your responsibility to check your University Email and Announcements regularly. Students who Email me outside of regular office hours can expect a reply within 24 hours M-F. Students who Email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply by the end of the next regularly scheduled business day.

Virtual Office

Welcome to my office. This space is set aside for students to ask course related questions. Place any questions or concerns about the course here and they will answered within 24 hours on weekdays. (It is possible that I will answer all threads during my office hours as posted on the syllabus.)

Please feel free to answer one another's questions. I will check answers (as well as questions) for correctness, but do not hesitate to respond to a posting if you feel you can answer the question thoroughly and directly.

eCollege Student Technical Support

It is reassuring to know that technical support is available to make your online learning experience convenient. All you have to do is call or email and a knowledgeable representative will help you solve your technical issues.

Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege

Students, who encounter eCollege-based problems with submitting assignments/exams, etc., are required to do one of the following:

- Call 1-866-656-5511 or 720-931-3847 (direct)
- Online Chat by clicking on the "Tech Support" tab within your eCollege course.
- Email helpdesk@online.tamuc.org

Hours: The eCollege helpdesk is open 24/7 to meet your needs.

Your call will be logged and I will check with the Tech Support staff to confirm your call. Once I have confirmed your call, I will contact you regarding the issue.
Only eCollege-based problems will be addressed. Make sure your internet connection is working and viable when taking tests or turning in assignments.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at the following link: https://leo.tamuc.edu.

Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

Learner Support

Go to the following link to access the One Stop Shop- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location.

Go to the following link to access the Academic Success Center- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Academic Honesty

I take plagiarism and other forms of cheating very seriously. *All the work you do in this course is to be your own*. I encourage you to study with friends, but be sure that everything you turn in is your own, original work. Regarding references, anytime you

use someone else's work and do not accompany it with a proper citation to the author, you have committed plagiarism regardless of whether or not you intended to do so. It is also inappropriate to use your own work for multiple classes and any such actions will be treated just like plagiarism. Do not copy anything off the internet, out of books/articles, from friends, or from any other source or person. This includes direct cutting-and-pasting, summarizing or quoting without citing, and changing the original wording just enough so that you think you can pass it off as your own. **If I find that you have engaged in plagiarism, you will receive an F in the entire course and I reserve the right to take further disciplinary action(s) at the university level. Do Not Do It!**

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment, the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In **ALL** instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:
- Copying another's test of assignment
- Communication with another during an exam or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is defined as:
- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source

Collusion is defined as:
- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing an assignment

If you have any questions regarding academic dishonesty, ask. Otherwise, I will assume that you have full knowledge of the academic dishonesty policy and agree to the conditions as set forth in this syllabus.

Attendance Policy

While this is an online course, students are expected to 'attend class' and actively participate. Student participation/activity will be monitored by the professor. Students should plan to dedicate approximately 15-20 hours/week of time to this course, of which approximately 1 hour/week should be spent in the discussion board (reading posts and comments and conversing with others).

APA Citation Format Policy

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below. Go to the following links:

www.apastyle.org
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/
www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa

It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Late Work

In principle, I do not accept late work and do not believe in allowing students to turn in work after the due date. My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments in a timely manner. However, I also do understand that sometimes there are circumstances outside one's control that may impact timely submission of assignments. To that end, I have developed a policy on late work.

Due to the condensed nature of this course, make up opportunities are very limited. Obviously, missed attendance cannot be made up at a later date. Late papers will lose **one letter grade for each day they are late**. Plan accordingly.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to University policy should this become necessary.

University Specific Procedures

ADA Statement -Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

Go to the following email address: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Go to the following link: Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).* Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum, go to the following link: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

COURSE OUTLINE/ CALENDAR

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule as noted below. However, unforeseen circumstances may require changes to the schedule. In that case, changes

will be announced via University Email and in Announcements. The professor reserves the right to change the schedule if necessary and depending on the progress of the class.   I highly recommend that you follow the schedule outlined below **VERY CAREFULLY** so that you are sure to complete readings as assigned and turn your assignments in on time.

Please note that all discussions/comments/assignments are due by 11:00PM CST in eCollege on the day they are due as outlined in the syllabus. Please note that this course runs on a Monday-Sunday schedule.

<u>**WEEK #1—Introduction: (SLO's 1 and 3). This week you will familiarize yourself with the course and complete the introduction and first discussion post. You should also read chapter 1-3 in your text and complete the pre-test.**</u>

Monday	Read the syllabus carefully and make note of important course due dates.
	Readings from the Text
	Chapter 3 Drug Controversies and Demonization
	Chapter 2 Theories of Drug Use
	Chapter 3 The Effects of Drugs Part I
	Complete Review Questions at the end of each chapter (this not a graded assignment and servers as a learning tool for you)
Wednesday	Post a Week #1 Introduction where you introduce yourself, accept the conditions of the syllabus, agree to the Rules of Netiquette, and answer the question I pose. Please note that this post is required for ALL students and will be graded. The link to the Rules of Netiquette may be found under Course and University Procedures/Policies under Student Conduct or here: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

Friday	Complete course pre-test
Saturday	Complete Discussion Assignment #1
Sunday	Complete Comments for Discussion Assignment #1

WEEK #2 (SLO's 2 and 3).This week you will continue reading your text and you should begin reading your articles for your paper assignment. You also have a quiz this week.

Monday	**Readings from the Text** ***Chapter 4 The Effects of Drugs Part II*** ***Chapter 5 Patterns of Illegal Drug Use*** ***Chapter 6 Patterns of Legal Drug Use*** *Complete Review Questions at the end of each chapter (this not a graded assignment and servers as a learning tool for you)*
Thursday	Complete Discussion Assignment #2
Friday	Quiz #1 (covering Chapters 1-6)
Saturday	Comments for Discussion Assignment #2 due

WEEK #3 (SLO's 2 and 3). This week you will continue reading your text and you should have read most of your articles for your paper assignment.

Monday	**Readings from the Text** ***Chapter7 Policies Regulating Illegal Drugs*** ***Chapter 8 Drug Prevention Programs*** ***Chapter 9 Drug Treatment***

	Complete Review Questions at the end of each chapter (this not a graded assignment and servers as a learning tool for you)
Thursday	Complete Discussion Assignment #3
Saturday	Comments for Discussion Assignment #3 due

WEEK #4 (SLO's 1, 2 and 3). This week you will continue reading your text and you should begin writing your paper assignment. You also have a quiz this week.

Monday	**Readings from the Text**
	Chapter 10 Policies Regulating Legal Drugs Part I
	Chapter 11 Policies Regulating Illegal Drugs Part II
	Chapter 12 Drug Policies in Other Countries and United States Influence
	Complete Review Questions at the end of each chapter (this not a graded assignment and servers as a learning tool for you)
Wednesday	Quiz 2 (covering chapters 7-12)
Thursday	Discussion Assignment #4 Due
Saturday	Comments on Discussion Assignment #4 Due

WEEK #5 (SLO's 1, 2 and 3). This week your paper assignment is due. You also have a post-test to complete

Thursday	Course Post-test due
Friday	Paper Assignment Due