



## SOC 350 DRUGS AND SOCIETY COURSE SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Sarah Latham  
**Class Time:** Web-based Course (eCollege)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
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### COURSE INFORMATION

**Textbook:**

*Drugs and Society*, Glen R. Hanson, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012  
ISBN 978-1-4496-1369-3

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the social reality of drug use and drug users. We will study the historical significance and social construction of drug use, users, abuse and addiction. We will explore the relationships between individual and group behavior and their relationship to society. In addition, this course will look at issues surrounding drug use and its relationship to crime, medicalization in our society, and various movements aimed at drugs.

This course will utilize eCollege as an additional tool at throughout the course.

**Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to provide an understanding of drug use and its influence on society. We will explore sociological theories to explain drug use, drug users and the drug culture. This course will create an opportunity for student to learn basic terminology concerning drugs, associated behaviors, dangers, criminal relationships, class stratification, and the impact of drugs. Throughout the semester this course will provide opportunities for the student to expand their ability to think critically through a range of class interactions and writings.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Articulate a variety of social, individual and bio-chemical factors that impact definitions of drugs, as well as how these factors influence a drug's effect.
2. Understand the process of the social construction of drug use as a social problem.
3. Develop a familiarity with the various biological, psychological and sociological theories that seek to explain drug using behavior; including an analysis of their basic assumptions, limitations, and implications for social policy.
4. Display knowledge of the various drugs, both legal and illegal, used in American society, as well as the social reality that surrounds their use.

Students are expected to consider each of these objectives, goals, and expectations when contributing to class discussions and in completing their written work. The understanding and application of the assigned readings and class discussion is a necessary part in earning a top grade in this course.



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Grading:

Weekly Assignments	100
Weekly Discussions	100
Research Paper	100
<u>Exams</u>	<u>300</u>
	600

1. Students are expected to complete weekly assignments on time.
2. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters in the required text and participate in the eCollege weekly discussions.
3. Discussions are posted weekly in eCollege. You may access these discussion posts during that week of class. Discussion posts are worth 100 points total.
4. Students will be required to submit on research paper worth 100 points. Specific instructions for the paper will be provided.
5. There will be three exams worth 100 point each. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions covering material from the assigned readings, class discussions and videos.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is a web-enhanced course, you will need:

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word)

The following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce.

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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).



## SUPPORT

### **eCollege Student Technical Support:**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Help:** Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

Class participation is expected. Failure to interact with fellow students as instructed will result in point deductions.

Cheating will not be tolerated, and the student can expect to be held accountable according to the University policy should they engage in such behavior. Students are expected to produce original work in all assignments and appropriate credit will be given for the use of professional research conducted by others and obtained from journals and other resource material. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and students engaging in the behavior will be treated accordingly.

The student should review and observe all appropriate withdrawal dates. The instructor will be available to assist the student in the event that withdrawal for an unusual or unforeseen circumstance arises. Be sure to review the appropriate university policies regarding withdrawal from class. Please make every effort to avoid requesting an incomplete for the course.

### **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

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**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*).

*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed.*



**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Wk	Dates	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	August 31 – September 6	Chapter 1: Introduction to Drugs & Society	Discussion (10pts)
2	September 7 - 13	Chapter 2: Explaining Drug Use & Abuse & Chapter 3: Drug Use, Regulation & the Law	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
3	September 14 - 20	Chapter 4: Homeostatic Systems & Drugs & Chapter 5: How & Why Drugs Work	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
4	September 21 - 27	Exam #1	Exam #1
5	September 28 – October 4	Chapter 6: CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
6	October 5 - 11	Chapter 7: Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects & Chapter 8: Alcohol: Behavioral Effects	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
7	October 12 - 18	Chapter 9: Narcotics (Opioids)	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
8	October 19 - 25	Chapter 10: Stimulants	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
9	October 26 – November 1	Exam #2	Exam #2
10	November 2 – 8	Chapter 11: Tobacco	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
11	November 9 – 15	Chapter 12: Hallucinogens (Psychedelics)	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
12	November 16 – 22	Chapter 13: Marijuana	Discussion (10 pts.) Quiz (10 pts.)
13	November 23 – 29	Chapter 14: Inhalants & Chapter 15: Over-the-Counter, Prescription, & Herbal	Research Paper Due
14	November 30 – December 6	Chapter 16: Drug Use in Subcultures & Special Pop.	Quiz (10 pts.)
15	December 7 – 13		
16	December 14 - 18	Exam #3	Exam #3

*Dates and assignments are subject to change.*