



## Sociology 350.01W – Drugs and Society COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I, 2016

**Instructor:** Dr. Willie Edwards, Assoc., Prof.  
**Office Location:** Ferguson Hall, SS 217  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:00pm – 4:00pm\*  
**Office Phone:** 903.886.5331 or 5332  
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**University Email Address:** [willie.edwards@tamuc.edu](mailto:willie.edwards@tamuc.edu)

\*Since this is a completely online course, if a student needs to contact or visit with me it will be best that the student communicate first with me through email or telephone. After which if necessary, we can set up an appointment to meet face-to-face.

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

##### **Textbook(s) Required:**

Hanson, Glen R., Peter J. Venturelli, Annette E. Fleckenstein. (2015). *Drugs & Society*. 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 978-1-284-03637-4.

##### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce the student to all of the major drug categories, alcohol, sedatives, stimulants, hallucinogen, and marijuana. The course will introduce the student to drug terminology and theoretical explanations of usage. As a class we will investigate the ramification of drug use, discuss intervention, review current events (news items) and become familiar with recent research within the drug field, and gain an overall impression of how drugs are impacting our American society.

##### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Sociology 350, Drugs and Society, is designed with the following objectives in mind. Therefore in a broad sense these are items that students ought to be able to accomplish, perform, or know after successfully completing this course.

1. The student should know or be familiar with basic terminology concerning drugs and drug-taking behavior
2. The student should know and understand the reason why people take drugs or are involved in the drug scene
3. The student will become familiar with treatment, prevention, and generally achieve a level of education about drug involvement
4. The student will be encouraged to develop a degree of critical thinking skills as he/she relates to the topic – drugs and behavior
5. The student will obtain some experience in communicating ideas about drugs through the forms of writing and speaking

##### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will be able to 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. The student will demonstrate an understanding (through written or verbal form) of the process of the social construction of drug use as a social problem.
3. Students will display a familiarity (through the passing of exams or being successful in written assignments) 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. Students will display (through written forms) knowledge of the various drugs, both legal and illegal, used in American society, as well as the social reality that surrounds their use.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

**(1) Initial Presentation (10 pts., extra credit)**

**Every student must introduce him- or herself by the second day (no later than 11:59pm, June 7, 2016) of class during Week One.** This information will be entered as a threaded discussion. Each student should follow the example provided in ecollege at the site of the assignment in Week One. Each student's presentation should cover the following information:

- Name
- Major
- Explain why you are enrolled in this class.

**(2) Discussion (14 @ 10 pts. each, 140 pts.)**

Each student is expected to participate in the Chapter discussion by responding to idea(s) presented by the professor. One discussion, per chapter is required. The professor will post at least one statement or idea reflecting some aspect of the chapter(s) being studied for that week. **Discussions must be posted by Saturday of each week by 11:59pm.** Students may post earlier than the absolute due date if desired, but no later than the Saturday of that identified week. Each Discussion will have its own dropbox, and the dropbox will close on Saturday, at 11:59pm for that respective week.

**(3) Weekly Chapter Quiz (5 @ 15 pts. each, 75 pts.)**

In order to facilitate students learning the chapters (class information) there will be a weekly quiz (most likely multiple choice). The quiz will focus on the information covered in each chapter assigned during that week. Each quiz will be composed of 15 questions. Each quiz will be worth 15 points. Each quiz must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm of each ending week. For example, Week one begins June 6, 2016 and ends June 12, 2016, so the quiz has to be completed by that Sunday, June 12, 2016 by 11:59pm. **Quizzes may be completed early but cannot be done late or after that Sunday of that specific week.**

**(4) Student Research Article (25 pts.)**

Each student will be responsible for turning in one typed summary of a research article pertaining to some aspect of this course (drugs). The article's summary will be worth twenty-five (25) points. The summary will be due by designated date, check the course schedule for that due date. Instructions on the format to be used in developing the summary of the research article are attached to this class syllabus. The summary will be submitted in ecollege. This summary may be placed in the proper dropbox at any time, but no later than the date identified below. Late

submissions will not be read or graded. There will be a dropbox titled **Research Article Summary** (listed as such) during the designated week. The week and due date for this assignment are as follow:

Week 3 Research Article Summary must be placed in the proper dropbox by June 23, 2016 by 11:59pm.

**(5) Course Exams (2 exams @ 100 pts., each)**

There will be two multiple choice exams given during this class session. Each exam will be composed of fifty (50) multiple choice questions.

**Test # 1 will cover chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Test # 1 will be available June 24, 2016 and must be completed by June 26, 2016 at 11:59pm.**

**Test # 2 will cover chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16. Test # 2 will be available July 6, 2016 and must be completed by July 10, 2016 at 11:59pm.**

Each test will be the final coverage of the chapters identified in that section. There will be no comprehensive final. The final exam will be a regular test to cover only the chapters identified in that section. The chapters that students are assigned to read are listed in the Course Schedule section of this syllabus.

This may be an ideal time to remind the student that since this course is internet based, and since the student will have limited contact with the professor that I encourage each of you to take your time and class work seriously.

No individual extra credit assignments will be permitted. Students should not depend on extra credit assignments being made just to help bring up a student's grade.

**Students must take each test.** There will be no dropping of any tests or grades. Each test will be worth 100 points. Please remain conscious of the test dates, no permission will be granted to take the test any other time. **Each test will be timed by the computer. Students will have two hours in which to take each test.** Once the test is started, the student must complete the test.

If a student encounters an Ecollege-based problem while taking a test he/she must contact the Helpdesk and seek assistance. If the problem cannot be resolved the student should make sure he/she receives a Helpdesk ticket number. The student should contact me by email and I will get back with him/her within a reasonable time.

**Only Ecollege-based problems will be legitimate enough for me to reschedule a test. Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for authorization to re-take a test.**

All students must take each test at the scheduled time. Any student missing a test must take a comprehensive test at the end of the class session. A student missing the final test will receive a zero for that grade.

### Grading Information

Course Possible Points:

Initial Presentation (10 pts. extra credit)	10 pts.
Chapter Discussion (14 @ 10 pts. each)	140 pts.
Weekly Chapter Quiz (5 @ 15 pts. each)	75 pts.
Student Research Article (25 pts.)	25 pts.
Course Objective Exams ( 2 @ 100 pts. each)	<u>200</u> pts.
	450 pts.

**Grading Scale:**

A = 440 – 390

B = 389 – 339

C = 338 – 288

D = 287 – 237

F = 236 and below

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

1. You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - Any current Flash-compliant browser (eg. Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 3.0)
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required – courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display – 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
  - A sound card and speakers or headphonesCurrent anti-virus software ought 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.

2. 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. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

**ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System. To log in to eCollege/the course start out with the home page (university web site – [www.tamuc.edu](http://www.tamuc.edu)) or with <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.

First time users of eCollege students are encouraged to go through the tutorial program identified as eCollege on the myLeo main page.

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). Once you log in to eCollege, click on My Courses and select Soc 310 Psychology & Sociology of Diverse Populations.

Please note that this is an online course and as such, **all** aspects of the course (including assignments/discussions/comments/exams) will be turned in or completed through eCollege. Your grades will also be available in eCollege.

This class will run on a 7-day, Monday-Sunday schedule. After logging in to the course, students will notice that the weekly/unit content area is located on the left navigation bar. These weekly/unit content areas are identified as Week 1, Week 2, etc. (this corresponds to the course schedule located in the syllabus.)

Student should access course materials by clicking on the proper weekly/unit content area. Students should read the weekly overview that contains information about what is to be covered in class, along with a series of weekly tasks (these tasks correspond to the links available in each weekly unit and to what appears in the syllabus).

Students will complete and submit assignments by clicking on the **Assignments** link that will be visible if an assignment is scheduled for that week. Students should be sure to submit all assignments as attachments (do not cut and paste your assignment) and submit the assignment into the properly named/numbered dropbox.

Students will complete assigned exams by clicking on the **Exam** link that will be visible if an exam is scheduled for that week.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

#### **Contact of Professor:**

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

#### **Research Assistance:**

For research assistance, students should contact: Ms. Emily Witsell Reference Librarian at James G. Gee Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 [emily.witsell@tamuc.edu](mailto:emily.witsell@tamuc.edu) or <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>

#### **Tips on How to be successful in this Class:**

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Students should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

#### **Class Policy:**

Class attendance and participation are expected. Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavorably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class

period.

Telephone and pagers must be placed on vibrate but should not be answered unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.) or you know it to be an emergency call.

A scantron answer sheet (blue) and a number two pencil should be brought to class for each exam, unless instructed differently by the professor.

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### **ADA Statement:**

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 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

[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*).

A&M 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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**Week One – June 6, 2016 – June 12, 2016****Initial Presentation:**

Threaded Discussion must be posted by second day of classes, Tuesday, June 7, 2016 by 11:59pm  
See ecollege or class syllabus for description of assignment.

**Chapters in Textbook (Reading):**

- # 1 –
- # 2 –

**Chapter Discussion:****Weekly Quiz (Chapters 1 & 2)**

Must be completed by Sunday, June 12, 2016 by 11:59pm

**Week Two – June 13, 2016 – June 19, 2016****Chapters in Textbook (Reading):**

- # 4 –
- # 5 –
- # 6 –

**Chapter Discussion:****Weekly Quiz (Chapters 4, 5, 6)**

Must be completed by Sunday, June 19, 2016 by 11:59pm

**Week Three – June 20, 2016 – June 26, 2016****Chapter in Textbook (Reading):**

- # 7 –
- # 8 –
- # 9 –

**Chapter Discussion:****Student Research Article :**

Summary must follow approved format and placed in the proper dropbox by Thursday,  
June 23, 2016 by 11:59pm

**Weekly Quiz (Chapters 7, 8, 9)**

Must be completed by Sunday, June 26, 2016 by 11:59pm

**Test # 1 covering chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 will be available June 24, 2016 and must be Completed by June 26, 2016 at 11:59pm**

## **Week Four – June 27, 2016 – July 3, 2016**

### **Chapter in Textbook (Reading):**

- # 10 –
- # 11 –
- # 12 –

### **Chapter Discussion:**

### **Weekly Quiz (Chapters 10, 11, 12)**

Must be completed by Sunday, July 3, 2016 by 11:59pm

## **Week Five – July 4, 2016 – July 7, 2016**

### **Chapter in Textbook (Reading):**

- # 13 –
- # 14 –
- # 16 –

### **Chapter Discussion:**

### **Weekly Quiz (Chapter 13, 14, 15)**

**Note change of due date, this Weekly Quiz must be completed by Friday, July 8, 2016 by 11:59pm**

**Final Exam, Test # 2 covering chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 will be available July 6, 2016  
And must be completed by July 10, 2016 at 11:59pm**