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<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

HHPH, 1364 – 03W: Substance Use and Abuse
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Kim Rahebi, PhD, MPH, CPH
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Office Hours: Fridays, 2pm-3pm via Zoom
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Preferred Form of Communication: EMAIL
Communication Response Time: 24 – 48 business hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Drugs & Society – will be available as an eBook within D2L!

By Glen R. Hanson, Peter J. Venturelli, Annette E. Fleckenstein

ISBN:9781284197853, 1284197859

Published: December 8, 2020

Publisher: Jones & Bartlett Learning

Author: Glen R. Hanson, Peter J. Venturelli, Annette E. Fleckenstein

Course Description

This course is designed to examine the physiological and sociological effects of drugs and other harmful substances. Legal and ethical implications will also be considered.

Student Learning Outcomes

Examine current scientific information concerning the relationship between drugs and mental and physical health as well as risk-taking behavior.

Identify reasons to initiate drug use and why individuals choose to continue using drugs.

Explore how dependence occurs, the treatment necessary to break dependence, and how dependence might have been prevented.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Survey the historical influence on the drug-oriented society and its bearing on personal drug behavior to include laws that arise related to substance use, misuse, and abuse.

Identify alternative highs to drug use highs and how they relate to healthy attitudes and behaviors.

Identify factors and examine issues in making responsible choices about drugs (e.g. decision making, refusal skills).

Make a distinction between over-the-counter (OTC) medications, prescription medications, alcohol, tobacco, and a number of illegal drugs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should have a basic knowledge of computer and Internet skills in order to be successful in an online course. Here are some highlights:

Knowledge of terminology, such as browser, application, URL, etc.

Understanding of basic computer hardware and software; ability to perform computer operations, such as: managing files and folders: save, name, copy, move, backup, rename, delete, check properties

Ability to use the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, accessing and navigating sites like YouTube

Knowledge of copying and pasting, spell-checking, saving files in different formats and sending and downloading attachments

Internet skills (connecting, accessing, using browsers) and ability to perform online research using various search engines and library databases.

Ability to use online communication tools, such as email (create, send, receive, reply, print, send/receive attachments), discussion boards (read, search, post, reply, follow threads), chats, etc.

Instructional Methods

We will review many legal and illegal substances commonly used and abused. Activities include application of knowledge through quizzes and projects, and an assignment on how a substance use and abuse impacts us.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Strong reading and writing skills:

Most of the material in the online environment will come from your textbooks, discussions, lectures, and videos; therefore, strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills are very important for success in an online course.

Success in this class will come from independent reading of textbook chapters as well as other assigned material.

Self-motivated and independent learner:

While online courses can offer more flexibility in scheduling, they require more self-discipline and independence than on-campus courses.

In the online environment, you have to be able to start and to work on tasks on your own, without someone keeping you focused, and you have to be self-disciplined in order to follow the class schedule and meet deadlines.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Time commitment:

Online classes take as much time as regular on-campus classes. You need to set aside sufficient time for study. Plan to spend at least as much time working on the assignments and studying as you would with a traditional course.

Even though you may not have to "be" in class on some specific day and time, you still have to follow the **course schedule** provided. Remember that online classes are not independent study courses; you are still required to "show up" and participate actively (e.g. regularly logging into the course website, actively participating and turning in assignments on time).

Active Learner:

Online students must be active learners, self-starters who are not shy or afraid to ask questions when they do not understand. Remember that you are in control of your learning process.

Since I cannot see you, you need to "speak up" right away if you have problems and be as explicit as possible; otherwise, there is no way I will know that something is wrong.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following percentages	Total points corresponding to the final letter grades
A = 90%-100%	A = 900 - 1000 Points
B = 80%-89%	B = 800 - 899 Points
C = 70%-79%	C = 700 - 799 Points
D = 60%-69%	D = 600 - 699 Points
F = 59% or Below	F = 0 - 599 Points

Points of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade

Weekly Syllabus Quiz	12
18 quizzes @ 36 points each	648
Midterm and Final @ 85 points each	170
Impact Paper	85
Job Talk	85
TOTAL	1000

Assessments

We will review many legal and illegal substances commonly used and abused. Activities include learning timely topics, application of knowledge through quizzes and projects, and a presentation or paper on the impact of substance use and abuse.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due ONLINE by **11:30pm** on the **Sunday** of that module week.

Late work will lose 10 points per day.

If you turn in your assignment on Sunday at 11:31pm, it will be graded out of 90 points, rather than 100 points.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course *material*, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

If you encounter a technical issue during a quiz, exam, or submission of an assignment on D2L, contact the Help Desk, file a ticket, then email the ticket information to the professor.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Interaction with Instructor

Please email your questions or concerns to me.

A reasonable response time to emailed questions is 24 - 48 hours.

Questions emailed on weekends may not receive a response until Monday.

I may answer emailed questions regarding assignments, tests, discussion boards, etc., in a direct email/announcement to everyone for the benefit of all students.

Please be courteous and professional in all of your interactions with everyone.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

How is the Course Organized?

The course is organized by weekly modules. Each module will be formatted similarly including chapter learning objectives, lecture and debate discussion boards.

What Should Students Do First?

Thoroughly review the syllabus

Familiarizing oneself with the course layout

Take the syllabus quiz

Introduce yourself on Google Slides

How Should Students Proceed Each Week for Class Activities?

The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly module content areas. The weekly module content area of our course is found on the left navigation bar.

The student will read chapters and read/listen to all online lectures provided.

The student will complete all assignments: respond to online course discussion questions and exams.

Attendance, Late or Missing Course and Extra Credit

Participation in class is required. If you are unable to participate in class (actively logged in and completing requirements), please notify me through email.

Make-up of coursework will only be given in very rare circumstances: serious illness with a note from your clinician, a death in your family or if you have an officially excused absence while representing the university. If any of these situations occur, you **MUST** email me prior to the module end date.

Make-ups will only be given if I have been notified prior to the end of the course module in order to verify your reason for missing coursework. All missed coursework not meeting the criteria for a make-up will be given a grade of 0.

Extra credit is **NOT** guaranteed.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- 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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

TAMUC 2023 Academic Calendar Drop and Withdraw Dates here:

https://calendar.tamuc.edu/academic?_ga=2.189646957.712223727.1691619568-315936384.1679623386

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week #	Activity / Chapters	Assignments Due 11:3pm on Sunday
1	Introduce yourself & take Syllabus quiz Ch 1, 2, 3 Start working on Impact Paper	Google Slides: introduce yourself! Syllabus Quiz Chapter Quizzes
2	Ch 4, 5, 6 Work on Impact Paper	Chapter Quizzes
3	Ch 7, 8, 9 Work on Impact Paper	Chapter Quizzes
4	MIDTERM EXAM: Ch 1 – 9 Submit Impact Paper	Midterm Exam Submit Impact Paper
5	Ch 10, 11, 12 Interview ONE person for Job Talk	Chapter Quizzes
6	Ch 13, 14, 15 Start working on Job Talk Slides	Chapter Quizzes
7	Ch 16, 17, 18 Work on Job Talk Slides	Chapter Quizzes
8	FINAL EXAM: Ch 9 - 18 Submit Job Talk Slides	Final Exam Submit Job Talk Slides

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