



SOC 350.001E – DRUGS AND SOCIETY
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013

Instructor: Sarah Latham-White
Office Location: SAS 118
Office Hours: 12:00 – 2:00 pm TR
Office Phone: (903) 468-3024
Office Fax: (903) 468-8708
Email Address: sarah.white@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook:

Drugs and Society, Glen R. Hanson, 11th 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 various times 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:

Class Participation	50
Quizzes	50
Writing Assignment #1	50
Writing Assignment #2	50
<u>Exams</u>	<u>300</u>
	500

The grading scale will be as follows:

A	450 – 500
B	400 – 449
C	350 – 399
D	300 – 349
F	299 or below

Students are expected to read the assigned chapters in the required text and participate in the class discussion. There will be random quizzes throughout the semester to ensure students are actively reading the assigned chapters. Class participation and quizzes together will make up 20% of the final course grade and provide an excellent opportunity to bring your grade up.

Class attendance is extremely important; students are expected to attend class. The fifth absence will result in a 50 point deduction in the final course grade.

Students will be required to submit two writing assignments. Each writing assignment will be worth 50 points; together the papers will make up 20% of the final grade. Specific instructions for each paper will be provided.

There will be three exams worth 100 point each or 60% of the final grade. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions covering material from the assigned readings and class discussions.

Online discussions are posted weekly on eCollege. You may access these discussion posts during that week of class. Discussion posts will be enhance your understanding of this course and provide an opportunity for extra credit.

Late assignments will only be accepted for excused absences. I would like each student to succeed in this course and I am willing to work you in reasonable situations.

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. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.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.

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 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 and attendance are expected. At the beginning of each class, the student will sign the role indicating attendance for the class. Failure to sign the roll will result in deduction of points for attendance. A timely arrival is expected. Entering the classroom late is unacceptable and the student can expect to be held accountable.

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 profession a 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

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

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

Date	Topic/Discussion	<i>Assignment Due</i>
January 15	Introduction/Syllabus Review	
January 17	Chapter 1: Introduction to Drugs & Society	
January 22	Chapter 2: Explaining Drug Use & Abuse	
January 24	Chapter 3: Drug Use, Regulation & the Law	
January 29	Chapter 4: Homeostatic Systems & Drugs	
January 31	Chapter 5: How & Why Drugs Work	
February 5	Exam 1 Review	
February 7	<i>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</i>	<i>Exam 1</i>
February 12	Section 2 Introduction	
February 14	Chapter 6: CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics	
February 19	Chapter 7: Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects	
February 21	Chapter 8: Alcohol: Behavioral Effects	
February 26	Chapter 9: Narcotics (Opioids)	
February 28	Chapter 10: Stimulants	<i>Film Review Paper</i>
March 5	Exam 2 Review	
March 7	<i>Exam 2: Chapters 6-11</i>	<i>Exam 2</i>
March 12	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
March 14	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
March 19	Chapter 11: Tobacco	
March 21	Chapter 11: Tobacco	
March 26	Chapter 12: Hallucinogens (Psychedelics)	
March 28	Chapter 13: Marijuana	
April 2	Chapter 13: Marijuana	
April 4	Chapter 14: Inhalants	
April 9	Chapter 15: Over-the-Counter, Prescription, & Herbal	
April 11	Chapter 16: Drug Use in Subcultures & Special Pop.	
April 16	Topic Paper Discussion	
April 18	Topic Paper Due	<i>Topic Paper</i>
April 23	Chapter 17: Drug Abuse Prevention	
April 25	Chapter 18: Treating Drug Dependency	
April 30	Exam 3: Review	
May 2	Exam 3: Review	
May 7	<i>Exam 3: Chapters 12-18</i>	<i>Exam 3</i>

Dates and assignments are subject to change.