

SOCY 2034-002: Drugs in U.S. Society
MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m. Eaton Humanities (HUMN) 1B80
Fall 2016 Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to the sociology of drugs in our society. This course is not a “just say no” course, but neither is it a “how to” course. We will be discussing the social constructionist perspective as it pertains to legal and illegal drugs in the United States. We will explore the social, cultural, political, and economic processes that shape our understanding of and policies toward drugs. We will also consider how taken-for-granted “truths” and realities about drugs are often socially created, how social order and the control of drugs has been constructed and maintained, how culture and history influence perceptions of drugs, and how societal norms, values, and ideas concerning drugs are created and perpetuated.

1930s: “...marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others.” –**Harry Anslinger, First Chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics**

1971: “America's public enemy number one in the United States is drug abuse. In order to fight and defeat this enemy, it is necessary to wage a new, all-out offensive.” –**President Richard Nixon**

1986: “Say yes to your life. And when it comes to drugs and alcohol just say no.” –**First Lady Nancy Reagan**

2004: “The War on Drugs has been an utter failure.” **Future President Barack Obama**

Required Texts/Materials:

- 1) Adler, Patricia A., Peter Adler, and Patrick K. O'Brien. 2012. *Drugs and the American Dream: An Anthology*. West Sussex, UK: John Wiley & Son, Inc.
- 2) Additional readings will be posted on D2L. You are responsible for obtaining them.

Desire2Learn (D2L):

We will be using D2L for nearly all aspects of this class. I will use D2L on a frequent basis to post announcements, documents, and important information, thus all students will be expected to check our course site on a daily basis to remain informed and aware of this content. For access, go to <https://learn.colorado.edu/>. You should automatically be granted access to the D2L component of the class if you are officially enrolled in the course. If you have problems with D2L, please see: <http://oit.colorado.edu/d2l> and/or contact Information Technology Services (ITS) at (303) 735-HELP or help@colorado.edu.

You can find news posts, announcements, readings and an electronic copy of the syllabus on D2L. I will also use D2L to post all assignment grades and feedback. Unless otherwise indicated, you will need to turn in all class assignments via D2L's Dropbox.

****All assignment files (essays, etc.) uploaded to D2L MUST be in a compatible .doc or .pdf file extension. Please be aware that other file types (e.g., .pages files created on Macs) tend to be incompatible with D2L and I will not accept late work based on submitting an incompatible file type.***

Readings:

Many of the class readings will come from our required textbook. Any reading listed in the schedule that is not from the textbook can be found in the D2L content browser in .pdf format or via an internet link. It is recommended that you take notes on all of the readings and pay special attention to the linkages among concepts or ideas across the readings. **Each week's readings must be completed prior to class on the Monday of a given week.**

Videos:

We will be watching several films and documentaries *outside of class* as supplements to our reading assignments. All films are ***to be determined*** in the week prior to when they will be viewed. I will communicate to you which films to watch and will post links to them in the appropriate D2L content module. Thus, you should have ample time to access them and you will be able to watch them when it is convenient for you. We will discuss the films in class you will be expected to offer your thoughts on the content of each film. You will also be quizzed/tested on the content of the films. In other words, treat the videos as you would the readings.

Twitter:

In order to engage with social media technologies to aid in our learning, we will be using Twitter on a regular basis. Twitter will serve as a general tool to facilitate the sharing of ideas and information pertaining to our course and will be used frequently both in and out of class. Although I will ask that each student have an active Twitter account to use for the purpose of the class, it is not obligatory and your participation with Twitter is therefore voluntary.

If you are unfamiliar with Twitter and need help setting up an account, please communicate with me directly and I will be happy to assist you. If you already have a personal Twitter account, it may be useful to set up a separate account to use specifically for the purpose of our class if you would not like to associate your personal account and its tweets with our class.

By the end of the second week, I will ask that all students provide me with the Twitter account name they will use for the class, which can be done by tweeting me your first and last name from your account. In addition, by the beginning of week two you will be required to follow the Twitter account **@LePreeSOCY**. We will employ the general hashtag **#SOCY2034** in all of our posts for our class discussions and content, which identifies the tweeted content as pertaining in general to our

class. In addition, a second and more specific tag may be added to identify the topic/reading/assignment to which the specific tweet refers.

Grading and Assessment:

Final course letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
94% to 100%	A	74% to 76%	C
90% to 93%	A-	70% to 73%	C-
87% to 89%	B+	67% to 69%	D+
84% to 86%	B	64% to 66%	D
80% to 83%	B-	60% to 63%	D-
77% to 79%	C+	Below 60%	F

“Rounding up” to the next highest letter grade will be done based on my discretion. If you have a final average of 89.2% but have come to office hours and attended and participated in class on a regular basis, I am likely to award you a final grade of A-. If your final average is 79.4% but often miss class and have been observed several times using your cell phone when present, you will likely be awarded a C+ and not receive a “round up”.

Your overall grade will be based on participation, weekly D2L reading quizzes, two exams, and an individual project (see below for more detail):

Participation/Attendance:	20% of final grade
Weekly Reading Quizzes:	30% of final grade
Two In-Class Exams:	30% of final grade
Individual Project:	20% of final grade

Participation: 20%

Twenty percent of your overall grade will be determined by your level of participation in our class, both in and out of the classroom. Of this, 10% will be composed of the participation that you engage in through group and class-wide discussions, as well as impromptu group projects that will take place during class. Additionally, 10% will come from your daily attendance record. I feel very strongly that consistent attendance by students will be integral to the learning environment that is constructed in our classroom. **Thus, attendance is mandatory for our class and each student will be allowed a total of two (2) excused absences during the semester without penalty.** Otherwise, an excused absence must relate to one of the following circumstances: A) major health emergencies with official documentation; B) jury duty, court appearances, or other documented legal proceedings; or C) university-sanctioned events for which students are excused at the institutional level (such as student-athlete competitions). Any absences in excess of those which are excused will incur a five percent deduction from your participation grade, or just under one percent of your overall course grade.

Weekly D2L Reading Quizzes: 30%

Each week prior to Monday’s class, you will be required to take a short reading quiz on D2L that will cover general reading comprehension for the upcoming week’s readings, with approximately 8-12 true/false or multiple choice questions. **These quizzes will begin Sunday, August 28** (covering week 2 readings). All reading quizzes must be completed prior to 11:59 p.m. on the day they are due (typically on the Sunday night prior to class), with NO EXCEPTIONS other than those listed below in the section regarding extreme circumstances. **The quizzes will be made available**

on D2L by 5:00 p.m. the Friday prior to their due date, in other words you will have approximately 55 hours to complete the quiz and submit it once it becomes available. YOU ONLY HAVE TO COMPLETE 8 OF THE 11 QUIZZES FOR FULL CREDIT, i.e. YOUR THREE LOWEST QUIZ GRADES WILL BE DROPPED.

Two In-Class Exams: 30% (15% Exam 1, 15% Exam 2)

Your two in-class exams will comprise thirty percent of your grade. Exam 1 will be given on Friday of week seven (October 7) and will cover the materials from weeks 1-7. Exam 2 will be given on the final day of class (December 9) and will cover the materials from weeks 8-15. Both of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and (possibly) short answer questions.

Individual Project: 20%

This project will comprise twenty percent of your final grade. By the end of the semester, each student will complete **one of the following**:

- 1) Write a 5-7 page essay (12 point font, double spaced, normal 1" margins) in which you explore the social and cultural history of a specific drug of your choosing.
- 2) Create a multimedia/alternate media project that explores the social and cultural history of a specific drug of your choosing.

More detailed information about this project will be made available in class and on D2L throughout the semester.

Policy on late assignments and make-up work

Late assignments or make-up exams are only acceptable in the following situations which must be supported by the following documentation (guidelines adapted from Professor Sanyu Mojola):

Athletic engagement: Letter from coach on letter head paper (letter with missed date(s) required by Wednesday September 2nd in class). You are responsible for determining and agreeing to alternative due dates for assignments at this time.

Religious observance: Letter from student noting religious affiliation, the date and name of the observance (letter with missed date(s) required by Wednesday September 2nd in class). You are responsible for determining and agreeing to alternative due dates for assignments at this time.

Court appearance: Letter of jury duty or court appointment letter with specific dates that you will be absent from class.

Incapacitating illness: Doctor's note on letter head paper with specific dates that student will be/was absent from class or recitation and will be unable to complete/turn in the assignment (note should be attached to late assignment).

Family death: Letter from family member with specific dates that student is absent and will be unable to complete/turn in the assignment as well as funeral information (note should be attached to late assignment).

Excused late assignments for the last three emergency situations require:

- I. An email sent to me immediately, but no later than five days after the event/occurrence.
- II. The completed assignment as soon as the student is able.
- III. Documentation of the absence (with specific dates) attached to the assignment.

Classroom Expectations/ Learning Environment

- ***Laptops and tablets will often be utilized in the classroom***, and it is highly recommended that you have your device with you in class on a DAILY basis. **HOWEVER, YOU WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO HAVE YOUR COMPUTER OUT AND USING IT WHEN IT IS PART OF A**

DESIGNATED LESSON OR ACTIVITY, unless you have an academic accommodation that necessitates your constant access to a laptop.

- **No cellphone use.** I know this is difficult to accept these days, but I take it personally if you are texting or checking your phone during our class. I may ask you to leave the classroom if I observe you repeatedly violating this norm. *Cellphones will only be permitted for use during class time for the purpose of a designated class function, such as tweeting discussion questions. Bottom Line: Texting in class is DISRESPECTFUL to me, you, and your fellow classmates. I take it as a personal affront if you consistently text in class, and rather than call you out for this in the middle of class it will simply be reflected in your unsatisfactory participation grade.*
- **You are expected to bring your copy of the required texts to class each and every day.** If this is a D2L reading from outside of the textbooks, you need to have a hard copy or a copy saved on your computer that you have with you in class.
- We will begin class on time each day and use the entire class period to discuss material. Arriving late or leaving early without prior approval affects the learning environment of the class as a whole and doing so will be reflected in your participation grade.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated on any level. *Please know that a plagiarism detection tool will be used to review all of your written assignments for originality.* For definitions and University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, familiarize yourself with—and adhere to—the University Honor Code: www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode and the University's Policy on Classroom Behavior: www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment within the university setting based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or other protected status should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>

The CU-Boulder Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) offers free confidential information, support, advocacy, and short-term counseling to students at CU, including their significant others. OVA is a separate office, not connected to the police department. The OVA primarily focuses on situations involving traumatic events, including, but not limited to physical assault and hazing, bias motivated incidents, death, discrimination and harassment including sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, serious accidents, sexual assault, and stalking. If you are experiencing trauma or psychological/emotional difficulty of any type, I highly recommend reaching out to the OVA at 303-492-8855, or visit them in person at C4C S440 on the fourth floor. Their website can be found at <http://cuvictimassistance.com>

Disabilities/Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodations due to disability, please let me know during the first two weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to contact Disability Services and obtain documentation. The Disability Services Office is in Willard 322 and can be contacted at (303) 492-8671 or through <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Weekly Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

All readings marked with an asterisk* can be found in the content browser on D2L.

Class Dates	Topic and Readings	Assignments (Due Sundays at Midnight unless otherwise noted)
Week 1: Aug 22, 24, 26	Drug Basics & Sociological Perspectives on Drug Use 1) * <i>Taking a New Look at a Familiar World</i> 2) * <i>Sullum Introduction</i> 3) * <i>Goode Ch. 1</i>	
Week 2: Aug 29, 31, Sep 2	Drug Basics & Sociological Perspectives on Drug Use Continued... 1) * <i>Goode Ch. 2</i> 2) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 1-4</i>	1. Week 2 Reading Quiz due Aug 28 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 3: Sep 7, 9 Sep 5 NO CLASS!!	Legal Drugs: Alcohol & Pharmaceutical Drugs 1) * <i>Goode Ch. 7</i> 2) * <i>Schwarz: Selling ADD</i> 3) * <i>Brill: America's Most Admired Lawbreaker (tentative)</i>	1. Week 3 Reading Quiz due TUESDAY Sep 6 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 4: Sep 12, 14, 16	Marijuana 1) * <i>Goode Ch. 8</i> 2) * <i>Campbell Ch. 3</i> Hallucinogens and Club Drugs 3) * <i>Weil Ch. 8</i>	1. Week 4 Reading Quiz due Sep 11 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 5: Sep 19, 21, 23	Amphetamines, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, & Crack 1) * <i>Goode Ch. 9</i> Heroin and Other Opiates 2) * <i>Goode Ch. 10</i>	1. Week 5 Reading Quiz due Sep 18 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6: Sep 26, 28, 30	Social Explanations of Intoxicated Behavior 1) * <i>MacAndrew & Edgerton: Drunken Comportment</i> 2) * <i>Becker: The Social Bases of Drug-Induced Experiences</i> Socialization 3) * <i>Becker: Becoming a Marijuana User</i>	1. Week 6 Reading Quiz due Sep 25 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7: Oct 3, 5, 7	Guest Speaker Series and Review Week	EXAM 1: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7 IN-CLASS

Week 8: Oct 10, 12, 14	Addiction Basics: Sociopharmacology 1) <i>*Friedman: Sociopharmacology of Drug Use: Initial Thoughts</i> Social Correlates of Drug Use 2) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 9-17</i>	1. Week 8 Reading Quiz due Oct 9 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 9: Oct 17, 19, 21	Social Correlates of Drug Use continued... 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 18-24</i>	1. Week 9 Reading Quiz due Oct 16 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 10: Oct 24, 26, 28	Drug Scares and Moral Panics 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 5-8</i> 2) <i>*Anslinger and Cooper: Marijuana: Assassin of Youth</i>	1. Week 10 Reading Quiz due Oct 23 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 11: Oct 31, Nov 2, 4	Drug Lifestyles 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 25-31</i>	1. Week 11 Reading Quiz due Oct 30 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 12: Nov 7, 9, 11	Drug Lifestyles continued... 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 32-35</i> 2) <i>*Inciardi and McElrath Ch. 32</i>	1. Week 12 Reading Quiz due Nov 6 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13: Nov 14, 16, 18	Societal Response to Drug Use 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 36-41</i>	1. Week 13 Reading Quiz due Nov 13 at 11:59 p.m.
NOV 21-25	NO CLASSES FALL BREAK!!	Chill out. Think about all that you have already learned in this class. Work on your final project.
Week 14: Nov 28, 30, Dec 2	Societal Response to Drug Use continued... 1) <i>Adler et al. Ch. 42-45</i> 2) <i>*Alexander: Ch. 5</i> 3) <i>*Sullum: Conclusion</i>	
Week 15: Dec 5, 7, 9	Course Wrap-Up/Review 1) TBD	EXAM 2: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 IN-CLASS

***I reserve the right to modify the above syllabus and schedule during the semester, and so it is each student's responsibility to remain aware of any announcements in class, on Twitter, and/or posted on D2L regarding changes.**

CLASSMATES' CONTACT INFO:

NAME

EMAIL/PHONE

I OWE A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO FORMER SOCIOLOGY GPTI **ALEX THOMPSON, UPON WHOSE MATERIALS THE MAJORITY OF THIS COURSE IS BASED. HE IS THE O.G. "GURU" OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF DRUGS AND HAS BEEN VERY GENEROUS IN HIS ASSISTANCE!