

**DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SOCIETY
SOCIOLOGY 4357
SPRING 2015**

INSTRUCTOR: Carol Cirulli Lanham, PhD

EMAIL: cclanham@utdallas.edu

OFFICE: 3.120 Green Hall

PHONE: 972-883-2867

OFFICE HOURS:

Thursdays - 2:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment

CLASS TIME AND LOCATION:

T TH 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

GR 2.530

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND/OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

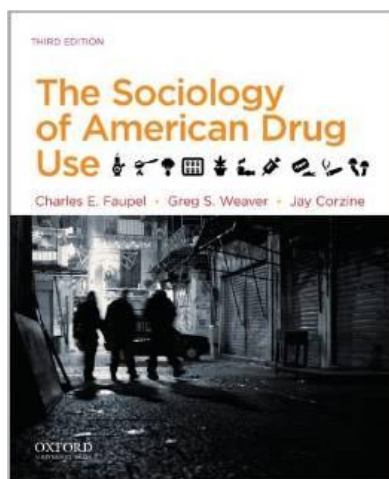
The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a growing social problem throughout the world. It is prevalent in nearly all cultures and cuts across race, class, and gender. In this course, we will use a sociological perspective to examine drug use and its social consequences. We not only will be focusing on illegal drug use, including the illicit use of prescription drugs, but the use of legal drugs such as alcohol. We will start by examining the history of drug consumption and theories of drug use. We also will learn how sociologists use both quantitative and qualitative methods to study the issue. We then will shift our focus to the effects of drugs on the mind and body, as well as current trends. Other topics in the course include the connection between drugs and crime and societal responses to drug use, including drug policies, drug prevention and drug abuse treatment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the sociological perspective and methods of sociological inquiry.
- Identify essential theories, concepts, and research methods used in sociology to study drug use.
- Explain why history is important when attempting to understand current trends in drug use.
- Discuss the connection between drugs and crime.
- Compare U.S. drug policies to those of other countries around the world.
- Analyze other societal responses to drug use including prevention and treatment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:



The Sociology of American Drug Use, 3rd edition
Charles E. Faupel, Greg S. Weaver and Jay Corzine
Oxford University Press
978-0-19-993590-1

Also available as an [eTextbook](#) through CourseSmart.

This book is also available for [rent](#).

Additional readings will be available on library reserve or eLearning.

CLASS FORMAT AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

This course will consist of lectures, discussions, and a series of guest speakers. We also will be watching documentaries that vividly illustrate the topics covered in this course. Completion of assigned readings is a critical requirement for success. It is important to read and become familiar with the material before coming to class so that we can discuss key ideas. Other class requirements include exams, quizzes, a group presentation and a weekly current events assignment.

GRADING

Participation	5%
Group Presentation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Current Events Assignments	20%
Two exams (worth 25% each)	<u>50%</u>
	100%

Letter Grade Percentage Points

A+	97-100	B	84-86	C-	70-73	F	59 and below
A	94-96	B-	80-83	D+	67-69		
A-	90-93	C+	77-79	D	64-66		
B+	87-89	C	74-76	D-	60-63		

CLASS PARTICIPATION, GROUP PRESENTATION AND QUIZZES

This class will include extensive in-class discussions of the readings, and active participation is encouraged and will be graded. To facilitate interaction, please complete your assigned readings before coming to class. You will receive participation credit for completing in-class exercises and contributing to discussions. In addition, you will have a series of quizzes throughout the semester. No make ups quizzes will be given but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. More details on the group presentation will be provided in class.

CURRENT EVENTS ASSIGNMENT

Read the supplementary chapter, Drugs in the News Media, posted in eLearning. Then look for one article per week related to psychoactive drug use and society and post to the class blog on eLearning no later than 1 p.m. Thursday of each week.

Guidelines

- Please use a national newspaper, wire service or well-known online media source (no blogs) that covers international and national news. e.g. *New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *Reuters*, *Huffington Post*, *Daily Beast*. If you are unsure whether your source meets these criteria, ask me.
- The news story must be current, and have been posted online during the preceding 7 days before the due date (Thursday through Wednesday of the previous week).
- After reading the article, write a 200-300 word blog post using the following guidelines.
 - a) Post the URL where the original article can be found.
 - b) Briefly summarize the news story.
 - c) Write an analysis that connects the news story to a topic or perspective covered in this class. Include a tag line in the subject line that indicates which course topic the news story illustrates.
- If you want to blog on an article already posted by another classmate, choose one of the following methods of analysis and write 200-300 words in the comments section of the blog (Please note: comments are limited to THREE per news story).
 - a) Describe any evidence of media bias or sensationalism as described by Goode. Does the article appear to be factually correct? Does it show evidence of selection bias (presenting a particular angle or point of view?) Does it include details intended to amaze thrill or elicit intense reactions?
 - b) Discuss how this article illustrates the social construction of drug use as a social problem. According to Goode, drug use, like any social condition, has a subjective dimension that reflects the public's feelings, attitudes and beliefs about the behavior.
- To receive full credit for this portion of your grade, you must blog 10 times over the course of the 16-week semester.
- In lieu of a current event, you may opt to attend ONE open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous or Alanon and blog on the experience.

EXAMS

You will have a midterm and final exam consisting of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The final will be non-comprehensive and only cover the material since the last exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The exam dates are listed on the class schedule. Make-ups for exams will be given for legitimate reasons (for example, illness) and with proper written documentation. If you fail to take an exam without a reasonable excuse, you will receive a “0” for that portion of the course. There will be no make ups for quizzes. You also will not receive credit for any blog posted after the weekly due date.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from students. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university’s policy on plagiarism. Your research papers will be checked on **TURN IT IN**.

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly.

The university provides students with free email accounts in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student’s UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/>

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The University of Texas at Dallas has developed a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. For UT Dallas policy related to the following go to: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Field Trip Policies
Student Conduct & Discipline
Email Use

Withdrawal from Class
Student Grievance Procedures
Disability Services

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading assignments listed below are from the required textbook or articles or book chapters posted on eLearning or library reserve. Required readings for in-class quizzes will be announced in advance. *(R) indicates readings that are on library reserve.

Week 1 1/13-1/15	The Sociological Study of Drug Use Faupel, Weaver & Corzine - Ch. 1
Week 2 1/20-1/22	Understanding Drug Use: Research Methods Faupel, Weaver & Corzine - Ch. 4 Carlson et al., "Reflections on 40 Years of Ethnographic Drug Abuse Research"
Week 3 1/27-1/29	Historical Trends in Drug Consumption Faupel, Weaver & Corzine - Ch. 2 Levinthal, pp. 9-14 (R) Hanson, "History of Alcohol and Drinking Around the World"
Week 4 2/3-2/5	Historical Trends in Drug Consumption (continued) Theories of Drug Use Faupel, Weaver & Corzine - Ch. 5 Becker, "Becoming a Marijuana User" Lloyd, "The Stigmatization of Problem Drug Users."
Week 5 2/10-2/12	Theories of Drug Use (continued) Legally Restricted Drugs in Our Society (Group Presentations)
Week 6 2/17-2/19	Legally Restricted Drugs in Our Society (Group Presentations)
Week 7 2/24-2/26	How Drugs Work on the Mind and Body Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – pp. 234-250 Levinthal, Chapter 3 (R) Scheff, "Addicts are Not Weak, Selfish or Amoral – They're Ill" (R)
Week 8 3/3-3/5	Current Trends in Drug Use Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – Ch. 6, 7 Hanson et al, Ch. 16 (R) Hanson, "A Pill Problem" Sharman, "The Problem with Drinking"
Week 9 3/10-3/12	Current Trends in Drug Use (continued) Midterm Exam – Wednesday March 12
Week 10 3/17-3/19	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 11 3/24-3/26	Drugs and Crime: What's the Connection? Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – Ch. 11 Mignon et al., “Alcohol, Drugs & Crime” (R)
Week 12 3/31-4/2	The Illicit Drug Industry Goode, Chapter 14 Llana & Shahriari, “How Latin America is Reinventing the War on Drugs” Nordland, “Afghan Opium Cultivation Rises to Record Levels.” Fuller, “Myanmar Returns to What Sells: Heroin”
Week 13 4/7-4/9	Societal Responses to Drug Use: Drug Policies Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – Ch. 14 Hanson et al., pp. 102-114 (R) Reuter, “Do No Harm: Sensible Goals for International Drug Policy”
Week 14 4/14-4/16	Societal Responses to Drug Use: Treatment Hanson et al. Ch. 18 (R) Mignon et al, “Treatment and Recovery” (R)
Week 15 4/21-4/23	Societal Responses to Drug Use: Treatment (continued) Societal Responses to Drug Use: Prevention Hanson, Ch. 17 (R) Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – pp. 381-394
Week 16 4/28-4/30	Looking Ahead: Drug Use and Societal Responses in the 21st Century Faupel, Weaver & Corzine – Ch. 15 Final Exam, Wednesday, April 30

NOTE: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.