COURSE OUTLINE

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>SOC 214</td>
<td>Sociology of Drug Use and Behavior</td>
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Lecture/Lab/Other: 3/0/0

Co- or Pre-requisite: SOC 101 or SOC 107

Implementation: Fall 2022

Catalog description:

Analyzes the political, economic, and cultural ramifications of drugs in society. Specific topics include: constructing drug use and the user as a social problem and the implications for social policy and control (legislation, prevention and treatment). Primary source texts, films, and other resources are used to understand these issues.

General Education Category: Not GenEd

Course coordinator: Edward Avery-Natale
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Required texts & Other materials:


Other materials may be added at the professors or coordinators discretion. This textbook may be replaced with OER resources with the coordinators approval.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical, sociological, psychological, and legal perspectives on drug use and addiction including the psychopharmacological drug classification schema. (Supports ILG #1, 5, 6)

2. Show understanding and critically engage with the intersectional dynamics of drug use and drug policy including issues such as race, class, gender, sexuality, and subculture. (Supports ILG #1, 5, 6, 8, 9)

3. Critically analyze the economic, social, criminal, and political implications of drug use and drug policy, including alternative policy options, in America and globally. (Supports ILG #1, 5, 7, 8, 9)

4. Describe, contextualize, and critically analyze the history and contemporary reality of American drug laws and social movements associated with them. (Supports ILG #1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11)
Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

**Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English.** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

**Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science.** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

**Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities.** Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

**Institutional Learning Goal 7. History.** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

**Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective:** Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

**Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action.** Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

**Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking:** Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

**Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes**

Note: Additional units may be added to the syllabus at the professor’s discretion.

**Unit I: Background Information (Supports SLO #1, 2)**

**Learning Objectives**

*The student will be able to:*

- Understand and explain the purposes of and differences between social scientific approaches such as sociology, psychology, and political science.
- Explain different theories in the social sciences and apply these theories to drug related issues.

**Unit II: Demographics and Correlates (Supports SLO #1, 2, 3)**

**Learning Objectives**

*The student will be able to:*

- Explain the relationship between demographic categories, drug use, and the enforcement of drug laws.
- Understand and critically analyze the impact of institutions, structures, and systems on the individual.
- Explain and critically analyze the inequities associated with drug policy and its consequences, such as policing, imprisonment, violence, racism, and poverty.

**Unit III: Prevention and Control (Supports SLO #1, 3, 4)**

**Learning Objectives**

*The student will be able to:*

- Discuss and critically analyze contemporary approaches to legal, political, and therapeutic reforms to drug use, abuse, and addiction.
- Understand and explain the preventative approach as well as the criminalistic approach to drug use.
Understand and explain harm reduction models of drug use and criminality.

**Evaluation of student learning:** No single assignment should be worth more than 20% of a student’s final grade.

**Reading Assignments:** Textbooks and/or other provided materials should be assigned to students on a regular basis.

**Engagement:** Students’ engagement should be evaluated based on a combination of attendance, participation, and other forms of communication as the professor sees fit.

**Quizzes and/or Exams:** Students should show proficiency in the above SLOs using written/essay exams and/or quizzes to be designed by the professor. Multiple choice assignments may be implemented at the professor’s discretion but should not make up a majority of the assignments.

**Writing Assignments:** All students should be required to complete a research or term paper that will make use of appropriate peer-reviewed/academic sources. At least some of the students’ quizzes or exams should also be in an essay format. Length and details of writing assignments will be determined by individual professors.