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Dept: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/scj/>  
Course Syllabus**

**Alcohol, Drugs & Society**

**Online Course Number: SOCI 4200/01**

**Kennesaw State University**

**Fall 2012**

**Required Text:**

The course uses one major textbook: Drugs in American Society, 8th Edition, Erich Goode New York: McGraw-Hill, 2012, which is available at the campus bookstore. Everyone in the course is required to purchase a copy of this text.

**Course Content Description:**

This course is designed to explore relevant issues of alcohol and drug use and abuse in American society. It will serve as a synthesis of the use and abuse of alcohol, prescription and street drugs, and their personal and societal consequences on the young adult, the family, and society. Historical perspectives, legal issues, and decision-making skills regarding drug use will also be addressed.

**Prerequisites:**

Undergraduate Semester level SOCI 2201- Minimum Grade of D

**What You Need to Succeed in this Class:**

- Microsoft Word (For all papers and contracts.)
- Log into class on a daily basis to check email updates and respond accordingly, if required.
- Strong time-management skills to submit assignments and contracts in on time.

**Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine, describe, and identify the history of drug use in the United States.

2. Analyze and debate the extent of use of licit and illicit drugs within various populations in the United States.
3. Inspect and differentiate an array of cultural influences, including family, peers, and media, on the use of selected drugs.
4. Identify and explain the nature and characteristics of dependence and addiction.
5. Recognize and illustrate the major drug classifications and their physiological effects.
6. Describe and analyze the social, economic, political, psychological, and pharmacological consequences of drug misuse on the American society.
7. Evaluate and identify the current efforts to control drug use and suggest alternative approaches.
8. Describe and analyze the physiological, social, and treatment aspects of alcohol and tobacco use in the U.S.
9. Compare and contrast the major illicit drugs, their prevalence, physiological effects, and treatment strategies.
10. Differentiate between the major types of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and analyze their use and misuse and their effects on medical advertising and regulation.

### **Minimum Technology Requirements, Course Strategies and Methods**

This is an entirely online course and will be conducted entirely through GeorgiaVIEW Vista. Students are expected to have the necessary computer background to work in this format, and are advised to seek additional technical assistance from computer services if needed [See online resource links in Welcome Module]. Students will also need the MS PowerPoint viewer. If you need to download a viewer please click [HERE](#).

Students will be expected to read each assigned chapter carefully, and then to use the linked Lecture Outlines and PowerPoint presentations as review material. Then, for each chapter, students will be expected to make at least 3 substantive dialogue contributions to ongoing discussions that will occur online. (Please see rubric for strict requirements for discussion posts) Discussion will be graded every week and your grade will be posted on the online grade book by the following Monday evening.

The assigned chapters will be grouped together into quarterly modules of several chapters each, and after each module there will be an online quiz.

There is a total of four quizzes for the course. Each quiz consists of multiple choice questions and counts towards 25 points. Quizzes will cover the reading materials

assigned and will not be cumulative. All quizzes will come from material in the Goode text and class discussions on the Goode text.

In addition to the quizzes, there are two papers for the course. Please see below for descriptions of the mini-Peer Reviewed Journal paper due in the middle of the semester and Behavior Change Paper/PowerPoint presentation which will be due at the semester.

Email will be our other form of communication. I will email everyone with important updates and general comments, and students can always contact me in this way. Expect responses within 24 hours, except in rare cases when I might be traveling or otherwise away from my computer.

### **Quiz Schedule and Format**

Please make a note of the exam schedule and plan accordingly. After each quiz is completed, the next Module [or quarter section] of the course will be opened in GeorgiaVIEW Vista. Quizzes are essentially open book; students can take them wherever they can log on to a high-speed computer. But study and preparation are necessary because the quizzes are timed and the clock starts as soon as you begin, so there will not be time to look up answers.

You must be prepared in advance to do well on the quizzes. Quizzes will contain 25 questions. Quizzes will be allotted 30 minutes. The questions asked in the quizzes will primarily cover the major issues and concepts covered in the text. The first and the second quiz will provide feedback for students as the course gets underway. **(Please do not ask to open quizzes early.)** If you are not doing well, please email to discuss the situation. If I think you are doing poorly, I will email you to discuss.

**Quiz 1:** September 14

**Quiz 2:** October 5

**Quiz 3:** October 26

**Quiz 4:** December 3

### **On-line Discussion/Participation Requirement- (50 points)**

1. The first participation will be Student Introductions, the Discussion Thread for which will be found in Start Here/Welcome Module. Instructions will be found at the top of the Discussion Thread, and this will take the place of the typical in-class go-around introductions for week 1.
2. Students are required to participate in the discussion threads for each chapter as we proceed through the syllabus, with a minimum of THREE substantive posts for each

chapter, and more encouraged. Posts must be made on different days of the week. This is the best way for you to ask questions, make comments, clarify things, and especially to demonstrate that you have read and understood the chapters. It is important to note that you must create an original post and reply to at least one other thread in order to get credit for your three substantial posts. This must be completed first, otherwise you will not receive credit for your three substantial post requirement. The instructor will post a discussion question(s) each chapter/week. The discussions will be multi-directional: student-student, student-content, student-instructor, and instructor-student from past experience, more than 1000 postings will likely be made by students during our term, and the instructor will reply to about 5% of the total postings, often engaging a whole thread at one time. **Discussion is due by every Friday by 12 Midnight (EST)**

3. Students are asked to read available newspapers, local or national/international, and/or credible web sites to connect with sociological themes being covered at that time in our textbook. A minimum of one time per week, students need to cite a news story or credible website in their discussion posts, explaining the story they saw, how it relates, and also providing the citation for the news story: name of publication, date, page number [or web site address]. Please read discussion rubric for specific details.

A total of 50 points of your grade will be determined by this online course participation as a partial measure of individual work on the readings. The instructor is more interested in the content and substance of comments. The instructor will get statistics of how many postings each student reads, how many posts are made, and how many hours are spent on the site. Basic grammar should be taken into account; use of white space, spell checking and proof reading are always a good idea.

Consult the Writing Center [see: Links Page in Welcome Module] for assistance with writing. But content will remain foremost for assessment purposes. Opinions expressed are open to you and your personal creativity and perspective. These discussions are, by definition, subjective, so rather than grading based on right-or-wrong, the instructor will evaluate your discussion postings for **consistency of engagement, depth of analysis, engagement with chapter concepts, and engagement with other students in the discussions. (Please see grading rubric for specific details.)**

### **So what exactly is a substantive posting?**

**Please see the Discussion Rubric for specifics on points for weekly participation. (In the “Start Here” module)** However, just a few quick reminders for discussion: questions are encouraged, and polite disagreements are fine. However, respect is a basic necessity in all online interactions. According to KSU Computer Usage Policy and Guidelines [www.kennesaw.edu/infosec]: You may not employ lewd or threatening language in any electronic communication. This would violate the bounds of good taste as well as laws and regulations. Please see the Etiquette Statement in the Welcome Module for a more detailed discussion.

### **Mini Paper- Peer Reviewed Article (20 points)**

A two-page summary of a peer reviewed, sociology journal article that supports or refutes what you have learned in the text. These articles should be current (since 2001). The instructor must approve the peer reviewed journal article. There will be an announcement and a **mandatory contract** to be electronically signed, sent out to the class about further approval details. The format should include the name of the journal, title of the article, author, and summary of the research. A scanned or saved copy of the article must be attached to the final email submission to receive credit. We will go over more specifics during the course please see rubric for details. (In Grading Rubrics Section)

### **Behavior Change Paper & Power Point Presentation (30 points)**

Select a **measurable** activity that you find very difficult to control or that you would like to change. (This activity must be pre-approved by the instructor and a **mandatory contract** must be signed.) You must agree to stop or start this activity for at least two weeks, but preferably for a month. Some examples of activities you might select to stop are excessive use of sugar in your diet; eating fast food; drinking alcohol; smoking or using tobacco; sleeping late; watching television; drinking Coke, coffee, or other caffeinated beverages; or any other behavior that you know is harmful to your health. Some examples of activities you might start are exercising, cooking healthy meals, drinking water regularly, increasing the number of fresh vegetables/fruit you eat each day, eating a low-fat diet, etc. Keep a log of your behavior and write a four-page paper about your success or failure to change your behavior. Please see grading rubric for grading details.

In addition to the paper, create a 5-7 slide PowerPoint presentation highlighting your paper. Additional details will be covered in class and the contract, see rubric for further details.

### **DisAbled Student Services Statement**

Kennesaw State University welcomes all students, recognizing that variations of abilities contribute to a richly diverse campus life. A number of services are available to help students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students should visit the disAbled Student Support Services office and/or make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. For more information, visit the office website at:

[http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/dsss.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html), or navigate to the Links Page in my Welcome Documents on the course homepage. Please also feel free to contact the instructor directly with any questions or concerns you may have, using either the GeorgiaVIEW Vista email platform within the course, or the instructors direct email address listed at the top of this syllabus.

### **Website Links**

Item 6 in the Welcome Documents Folder on the courses Homepage is a list of useful links you may refer to throughout the semester. These include links to: disAbled Student Services, the Department of Sociology, KSU Financial Aid, the Counseling Center [CAPS], computer Tech Support, the Writing Center, KSUs Student Code of Conduct, and the Student Development Center.

**Grading Formula:**

4 Quizzes (25 Each)	100
Online Discussion	50
Mini Paper	20
Final Paper & PowerPoint Presentation	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

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**Final Grading Scale:**

**A=180-200; B=160-179; C=140-159; D= 120-139; F=119 and below.**

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**Student Responsibility**

I am here to teach, to motivate, and to assist you in learning the basics of sociology and this course; Drugs, Alcohol & Society. As students, you also have a crucial role in your learning and success. An online course covers a fair amount of material. If you have questions or difficulty regarding the material, you should see me as soon as possible- early in the semester. Please do not wait until a few days before the final exam to discuss your progress- it will then be too late!

I suggest you use resources on campus for improving your reading and note-taking skills. The KSU Writing Center in Humanities/Room 242 will assist you with written assignments.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY (CHEATING)/PLAGIARISM POLICY-** Cheating/Plagiarism Policy: Cheating and plagiarism are both against Kennesaw State University policy. Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead a professor in arriving at an honest grade assessment. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that occurs when you present the work of others as your own ideas. When materials from sources outside your own brain are used to create documents, you must cite your sources of information using appropriate in-text and end-of-the-text references in the MLA format.

Incidents of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in a grade of “F” for the assignment, and may result in your being assigned a grade of “F” for the entire course. A failing grade assigned to you because of an alleged cheating policy violation may be appealed through the appeals process of the college. See the Student Conduct Code for details. I recommend that you become familiar with this code.

**Flexibility Statement:**

All assignments and calendars may change in response to institutional, instructional, or weather needs. Changes in assignments may affect the number of total points available in the course.

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**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT**

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Center for Disability Services. A CDS Counselor will coordinate those services.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT**

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by KSU.

**STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Kennesaw State University supports the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order #11246, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the college. Any individual with a grievance related to the enforcement of any of the above provisions should contact the Assistant Director of Human Resources, Ombuds person.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATEMENT**

Kennesaw State University adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

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# WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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**On or before Thursday, August 17:** Welcome E-mail from Course Professor within GeorgiaVIEW. With sufficient time allotted to read all course information, you are expected to be familiar with course policies and format.

**Week 1-** Read all Welcome Documents and post discussion requirements in the Student Introduction forum and start Module One. Chapter 1 must be read before the 27th.

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## MODULE ONE

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### Chapter 1: **Drugs: A Sociological Perspective**

August 27, Pgs. 3-27

### Chapter 2: **Drugs: A Pharmacological Perspective**

September 3, Pgs. 29-55

### Chapter 3: **Drugs in the Media**

September 10, Pgs. 56-80

**QUIZ 1: September 14**

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## MODULE TWO

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### Chapter 4: **How Do We Know It's True? Methods of Research**

September 17, Pgs. 83-110

### Chapter 5: **Historical Trends in Drug Consumption: From Past to Current Use**

September 24, Pgs. 111-141

### Chapter 6: **Theories of Drug Use**

October 1, Pgs. 142-174

**QUIZ 2- October 5**

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## MODULE THREE

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## **Chapter 7: Legal Drugs: Alcohol and Tobacco**

October 8, Pgs. 175-205

### **Mini Paper---Due October. 9th**

## **Chapter 8: Marijuana, LSD, and Club Drugs**

October 15, Pgs. 206-239

## **Chapter 9: Stimulants: Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and Crack**

October 22, Pgs. 240-264

### **QUIZ 3 - October 26**

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## **MODULE FOUR**

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## **Chapter 10: Heroin and Narcotics**

October 29, Pgs. 265-294

## **Chapter 15: Drug Control: Law Enforcement, Drug Courts, Drug Treatment**

November 5, Pgs. 407-433

## **Chapter 16: Legalization, Decriminalization, and Harm Reduction**

November 12, Pgs. 434-457

**The week of November 19** is designed to work on and polish final papers and power point presentations. Only thorough and professionally polished projects will only be accepted.

**November 19 (Log into the course on a regular basis to check for updates this week before break!!!)**

(Fall Break: November 21-25: Discussion Forum will remain open.)

**Final Paper and Power Point Presentation-- Due November 28**

**QUIZ 4- Due by December 3**

