

# SOCI 4200: Alcohol, Drugs and Society

SOC 4200 Section 1  
Alcohol, Drugs and Society  
Social Sciences Bldg 2021 (TR 3:30-4:45PM)  
Fall (First Semester) 2015

Instructor: Dr. Brian Starks  
Pilcher Bldg. 136  
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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course presents a review and analysis of sociological approaches to the study of alcohol and drug problems. The course objectives are (1) to provide you with a solid foundation in major theoretical perspectives on social factors in deviant drinking and drug use, (2) to introduce you to important empirical methods in the study of alcohol and drug problems, (3) to familiarize you with significant lines of research on alcohol- and drug-related issues, and (4) to strengthen your critical awareness and sociological understanding of contemporary debates over alcohol and drug policy in the U.S. and other societies.

## **Readings for the Course:**

The following required books have been ordered through the University and area bookstores:

Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society* (9th edition), McGraw-Hill.

James D. Orcutt and David R. Rudy, *Drugs, Alcohol, and Social Problems*, Rowman and Littlefield.

Additional Supplemental Readings will be available online

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

My office is in the Pilcher Public Services Building in room 136 (the College of Human and Social Sciences Wing). My office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. If the listed hours are inconvenient, we can set up another time to meet. I am most easily reached by e-mail at [bstarks3@kennesaw.edu](mailto:bstarks3@kennesaw.edu).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs, Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. **The full policy is published at the following link:** (<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>)

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be taken for class. Every student is expected to participate in class. This means contributing to class discussions as well as active participation in class exercises, which will be held at announced and unannounced times throughout the course. Examples of in-class exercises include short writing assignments, small group discussions, and in-class projects. **You cannot get credit for class participation unless you are in class and are contributing.**

### **ENROLLMENT STATUS:**

**Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. Please refer to the official KSU policy for potential reimbursement if you withdraw from classes.**

### **CLASS CONDUCT:**

As a sign of respect to me and to your fellow classmates, please get to class on time. Do your best to avoid walking in late, stepping out, or leaving early. Put away laptops and cell-phones when class begins – neither is allowed during class time. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about kids or other family members, keep it on vibrate. Please don't read newspapers, talk to your friends, sleep, or pass notes during class. Not only are those things disrespectful and disruptive to me and your classmates, but they also limit your ability to participate in class and understand the material. If you must enter late or leave early, please inform me before class begins and take the seat nearest an exit and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Repeated disruption of class may lead to penalties that reduce your final grade (see below). Class discussions of the issues we study can stimulate strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussions must be scholarly. **Failure to abide by these principles can result in academic penalties ranging from a lowered grade, to dismissal, to failing the course.**

#### **Scholarly comments are:**

Respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement; related to the class and course material; advance the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs; are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

#### **Unacceptable behaviors are:**

(a) Personal attacks. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or religious and political beliefs. (b) Interrupting your instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be called on by the discussion leader or myself to prevent this problem. (c) Using the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed as scholarly endeavors (see above). (d) Using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students, and being physically aggressive. (e) Ignoring your instructor's authority to protect the integrity of the classroom. Anyone who violates these guidelines will be asked to cease and desist and may be asked to leave the classroom and/or drop the course.

### **GRADES:**

Grades will be based upon your percentage of the total number of points on exams, written work, and attendance. A= 90-100%; B= 89.99-80%; C= 79.99-70%; D= 69.99-60%; F= Below 60%.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Because each person in a class contributes to its ultimate success or failure, I expect everyone to attend our class meetings, read and think about the day's readings beforehand, work on in-class projects, and participate in the give and take of class discussion. Not meeting this expectation is grounds for a lowered grade.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**1) Attendance and Class Participation (including online Discussion Boards which will be assigned in class)-20%**

**2) Reading Quizzes-10%**

There will be short quizzes covering particular readings often given at the beginning of class, to provide an incentive to complete readings fully and on time and to prepare you for the exams. Altogether, the quizzes are worth 10% of the final grade. Do not fall behind, but keep up with the assigned readings!

**3) “Debated Topic” Paper -10%**

Students must select a debated topic in the area of drug and alcohol research, write a 2-4 page paper in which they highlight information that supports each side of the debate (but must conclude by choosing a side in the debate and arguing for their position), and produce a powerpoint document of 5-7 slides. More information will be provided later in the semester.

**4) Four Exams - 60%**

Each exam is worth 15% of your final grade. There are four examinations: one during class on **Thursday Sep 10<sup>th</sup>**, another during class on Tuesday **Oct 6<sup>th</sup>**, a third during class on Thursday **Oct 29<sup>th</sup>**, and a final exam on Tuesday **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30–5:30 pm. Please schedule any travel plans accordingly. Failure to be present for an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam and this grade will be included in determining final grades. If you are unable to take an exam, you must call me with a valid excuse prior to the time of the exam.

## COURSE OUTLINE:

This outline will give you an idea of how the course will unfold. Please complete the readings by class time on the day that they are listed in the syllabus. This will make information presented in class clearer and will give us as a class the chance to talk about and react to the readings in a more thoughtful way. (This is only a tentative outline and is subject to revision at any time during the semester)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Readings</u> (Readings are to be completed by the class date)
Tuesday Aug 18	<i>Introduction to the Course</i> Who am I? Who are you? What is this course? What is sociology? Should YOU be taking this sociology course?
Thursday Aug 20	<i>Perspectives on Alcohol and Drug Problems</i> Sociologists study drugs? Why and How?  Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 4

- Tuesday Aug 25 *Psychopharmacology and Drug Effects*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 3
- Thursday Aug 27 *Psychopharmacology and Drug Effects (cont'd)*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 3
- Tuesday Sep 1 *Theories of Drug-Related Deviance*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 7
- Thursday Sep 3 *Theories of Drug-Related Deviance (cont'd)*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 7
- Tuesday Sep 8 *Theories of Drug-Related Deviance (cont'd)*  
Readings: **Orcutt**, "Deviance as a Situated Phenomenon: Variations in the Social Interpretation of Marijuana and Alcohol Use"
- Thursday Sep 10 ***Exam 1***
- Tuesday Sep 15 *Epidemiology of Alcohol and Drug Use- Data and Methods*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 6
- Thursday Sep 17 *Epidemiology of Alcohol and Drug Use- Historical Analysis*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 1
- Tuesday Sep 22 *Epidemiology of Alcohol and Drug Use- Race, Gender, Class, and Religion*  
Readings: **Orcutt and Rudy** (O&R): Ch. 7 (Wallace and Bachman) and Ch. 9 (Barr et al.); **Rote and Starks**, "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Religiosity and Drug Use"
- Thursday Sep 24 *Social Construction of Alcohol and Drug Problems- A History*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 2; **O&R**: Ch. 1 (Gusfield)
- Tuesday Sep 29 *Social Construction of Alcohol and Drug Problems- The Media*  
Readings: **Goode**, Ch. 5
- Thursday Oct 1 *Social Construction of Alcohol and Drug Problems- Critical Perspectives*  
Readings: **O&R**: Ch. 3 (Orcutt and Turner) and Ch. 5 (Beckett)

Tuesday Oct 6	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Oct 7</b>	Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
Thursday Oct 8	<i>Legal Drugs: Alcohol and Tobacco Use</i> Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 8
Tuesday Oct 13	<i>Deviant Drinking and Smoking</i> Readings: <b>O&amp;R</b> , Ch. 2 (Schneider) and Ch. 12 (Kantor and Straus)
Thursday Oct 15	<i>Psychotherapeutic Drugs</i> Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 9
Tuesday Oct 20	<i>Psychotherapeutic Drugs</i> Readings: <b>Conrad and Potter</b> , “From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults”
Thursday Oct 22	<i>Marijuana, LSD, and Club Drugs</i> Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 10; <b>O&amp;R</b> , Ch. 10 (Zimmerman and Weider)
Tuesday Oct 27	<i>Heroin and other Narcotics</i> Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 12
Thursday Oct 29	<b>Exam 3</b>
Tuesday Nov 3	<i>Drugs, Alcohol, and Crime</i> Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 13
Thursday Nov 5	<i>Drugs, Alcohol, and Crime (cont’d)</i> Readings: <b>O&amp;R</b> , Ch. 13 (Faupel and Klockars)
Tuesday Nov 10	<i>Drug Industries, Legal and Illegal</i> Readings: None <b>Assignment: Debated Topics Paper Due</b>
Thursday Nov 12	<i>Drug Industries, Legal and Illegal (cont’d)</i> Readings: <b>O&amp;R</b> , Ch. 11 (Adler and Adler); <b>Murphy, Waldorf, and Reinerman</b> , “Drifting into Dealing

Tuesday Nov 17	Treatment and Prevention Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 15
Thursday Nov 19	Treatment and Prevention Readings: <b>O&amp;R</b> , Ch. 6 (Wysong et al.) and Ch. 14 (Bourgois et al.)
Nov 23-29	Fall Break (Happy Thanksgiving!)
Tuesday Dec 1	Social Control of Deviant Drinking and Drug Use Readings: <b>Goode</b> , Ch. 16
Thursday Dec 3	<i>LAST CLASS! Video and Course Wrap-up</i>
<b>Tuesday Dec 8</b>	<b><i>FINAL EXAM, 3:30 –5:30 pm</i></b>

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**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to notify the instructor as early in the semester as possible. Verification from KSU Student Disability Services is required. All discussions will remain confidential. ([http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/welcome.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html))

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students will be allowed to miss class due to observance of religious holidays but they are still responsible for all materials assigned outside and covered in class on the day(s) missed. Note: You must talk with your instructor in advance of missing a class for religious holiday observance reasons.

**INCOMPLETE GRADES**

*Missing work is insufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (I).* An **I** will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Note that College of Humanities and Social Sciences guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:** This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.