

## **Alcohol Drugs and Society: SOC 3349**

**Spring 2013**

**Chandra Ward**

Meeting time and place: English Building 166: MW 2:00 – 3:15pm

Office hours: MW 3:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

Phone: 245-3287: e-mail: [cward61@kennesaw.edu](mailto:cward61@kennesaw.edu)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course offers a sociological examination of drugs and society. While we will explore cultural and historical variations in attitudes toward drugs, drug use, and drug policy the emphasis will be on contemporary issues in drug use in American society. We will examine trends in drug use, types of drugs and their effects, who uses drugs and why, addiction, recovery, and drug policy. Students will be expected to learn important facts about these issues, to integrate and think critically about the information provided, and to be able to offer an informed and articulate perspective on controversial issues involving addiction, drug use, and drug policies.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Required reading** (reading should be done before the class day for which it is assigned):
  - a. Levinthal, Charles F. 2010. *Drugs, Behavior, and Modern Society*. 7th Edition. Allyn and Bacon.
  - b. D2L readings: A number of articles are on Desire to Learn
2. **Participation:** Participation will be assessed by quizzes and group discussions. On three occasions you will have a quiz over select D2L readings. These quizzes will be multiple choice questions over the content of the readings. Each set of readings addresses a controversial issue in drugs and society (e.g. is addiction a disease?). Once you have completed the quizzes demonstrating that you have read and understood the readings you will be put into groups to discuss the broader controversy that the readings address. You must participate in this group discussion to receive credit for the quiz. I will ask a representative of your group to share your group's perspective with the class. This individual/group exercise will be used to determine not only that you have read the assigned material, but that you have integrated the ideas and thought critically about them. In general the assignment is for you to use the readings, your critical thinking skills, and your classmates to help you develop

informed opinions on controversial drug issues. These quizzes/group discussions will comprise the majority of your participation grade (90%). The remainder of the participation points will be derived from random class attendance checks/pop quizzes over the D2L readings.

3. **Exams:** Three in-class exams will be given (two during the semester and one during finals week). The exams will be multiple choice questions. The exams will require the students to address issues using the assigned readings and lecture notes. The final exam is not comprehensive.

### **CLASS POLICIES**

1. No incompletes

2. I do not like making arrangements for late assignments. Do not ask to make up any analysis/quiz/group work unless you have a doctor's note or an extreme extenuating circumstance such as a family emergency. Printer problems, oversleeping, car problems, arguments with a roommate or significant other, etc. are not extreme extenuating circumstances. If you do have an illness or extreme extenuating circumstance, you must bring it to my attention the day of the assignment or if that isn't possible, the following day. If you know you are going to miss an assignment ahead of time, you can arrange to turn it in early. You must meet with me to clear this.

3. Please be courteous. If you regularly talk to people in class or use mobile devices for unauthorized purposes during class, I will ask you to leave.

### **4. Academic Honesty**

According to KSU's academic policy in the student handbook "No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior [that] a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student

may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s)".

([http://www.kennesaw.edu/student\\_life/forms/shb/ksushp14.pdf](http://www.kennesaw.edu/student_life/forms/shb/ksushp14.pdf))

\*\*Plagiarism is only one example of academic dishonesty. Familiarize yourself with the above website concerning all aspects of academic dishonesty. Violation of the Academic Honesty policy will result in an F in the course and possible disciplinary action. All violations will be formally reported. Do not cheat, plagiarize, or violate any of the rules concerning this policy! Again, do not cheat, plagiarize, or violate any of these rules!

5. Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services, of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. The Office of Disabilities Services can be contacted at 770-423-6443.

## **GRADING**

Assignment Weighting / Assignment Points

Participation (three quizzes/discussions@ 30 pts=90 pts, 10 pts for attendance/short quizzes)

100

Exam I 100

Exam II 100

Exam III 100

Total 400

Take your final points and divide by four:

### **Final grades**

A - 90% or higher

B - 80-89%

C - 70-79%

D - 60-69%

F - 59% or less

### **Extra Credit**

You may watch a popular movie about drugs (e.g. American Gangster, Drug Store Cowboy,

Traffic, Blow, etc.) and write a three page analysis of the movie and how it relates to what you have learned in class. This paper must be double spaced and typed. It is due at the final exam and is worth one extra point on your final average. This opportunity will allow you to address concerns with borderline grades. Otherwise, no scaling of grades will be done, no matter what the particular needs/situation of the student (e.g. a 79% is a C).

## **Reading Schedule**

This outline is tentative and subject to change at the professor's discretion

**January 8** Introduction to the course

**January 10** History of Drug Use and Regulation

1. Levinthal Chapters 1 & 2

**January 13** Drug Use Patterns and Trends

1. D2L readings:

- a. Women on a Binge
- b. Women and Tobacco

**January 15** Who Uses Drugs and Why

1. D2L Readings:

- b. Hungry for the Next Fix
- c. Finding the Future Alcoholic
- d. How it all Starts Inside Your Brain
- e. Predicting Addiction

**Quiz 1: Is addiction a disease?**

**January 20** – MLK Holiday (No Classes)

**January 22** Who Uses Drugs and Why

1. D2L readings

- a. The Devil Gives it to You for Free

January 27 Who Uses Drugs and Why

**January 29 Exam I**

**February 3** TBA

**February 5** No class

**February 10** Illegal Drugs: Stimulants

1. Levinthal Chapters 3 & 4

2. D2L readings:

**a. New Coke**

**February 12** Illegal Drugs: Narcotics

**1. Levinthal Chapter 5**

**February 17** Illegal Drugs: Hallucinogens and club drugs

1. Levinthal Chapters 6

2. D2L readings:

a. Bitter Pill

b. Date Rape Drugs

c. The Party's over: Teens Drawn to Club Drugs like GHB, Ecstasy, and

**Ketamine.**

**February 24** Illegal Drugs: Marijuana

1. Levinthal Chapter 7

2. D2L readings:

a. Stronger pot, bigger worries

**February 26** Legal Drugs: Alcohol

1. Levinthal Chapters 8 & 9

2. D2L readings:

a. Campus Boozing Toll

**b. As young adults drink to win Marketers Join In**

**March 3** Legal Drugs: Cigarettes, caffeine, over-the-counter drugs

1. Levinthal Chapters 10, 11 & 12

2. D2L readings:

a. Dangerous Supplements Still at Large

b. Toxic Strength

c. A Jolt of Caffeine by the Can

**March 5** Legal Drugs: Prescription Medications

1. Levinthal Chapters 13, 14 & 15

2. D2L readings:

a. The Other Performance Enhancing Drugs

b. Young Assured and Playing Pharmacist to Friends

**March 10** Legal Drugs: Medicalization

1. D2L readings:

a. Medicalized Menopause, U.S. Style

- b. American Preschoolers on Ritalin
- c. The Role of MHC in Mate Selection
- d. Cupid's Broken Arrow
- e. Record sales of sleeping pills are causing worries

**Quiz 2: What is medicalization and is it a social problem?**

**March 12 The Effects of Drugs: Personal**

**March 17 Exam II**

**March 19 The Effects of Drugs: Personal**

1. D2L readings:

- a. Drug Endangered Children
- b. Fetal Exposure to Drugs

**March 24 The Effects of Drugs: Social**

**March 26 Drugs and Crime**

**March 31 Spring Break**

**April 4 Spring Break**

**April 7 The Drug War**

1. D2L readings:

- a. The War on Drugs and the Incarceration of Mothers

**April 9 Drug Policy (speaker)**

**April 14 The Politics of Addiction**

**April 16 Treatment (speaker)**

**1. Levinthal Chapter**

**April 21 Treatment**

**April 23 Prevention**

1. Levinthal Chapter 16

April 28 Legalization

1. D2L readings:

- a. Cannabis control: costs outweigh the benefits
- b. The case for legalization
- c. Illegal drug use and public policy
- d. The war against the war on drugs

**Quiz 3: Should drugs be legalized?**

April 30 Legalization

**Final exam: Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm**