

**Alcohol, Drugs, and Society (SOC1 4200)**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Kennesaw State University**  
**Mon/Wed 5 pm-6:15 pm**  
**Social Science Building 2021**  
**#10029**

Instructor: Kirstin Ralston-Coley, M.A.

Instructor Office: SSB 4005 or 2002A

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 or by appt.

E-mail (**best method**): [kralsto4@kennesaw.edu](mailto:kralsto4@kennesaw.edu) - If you have not heard a response from me in 24 hours, assume I have not received your e-mail and resend it!

Official KSU Course Description:

SOCI 4200 - Drugs, Alcohol and Society

3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: SOCI 1101.

This course examines drug use and abuse, including alcohol. Specifically, it examines how different drugs affect the body, theories of drug use, the sociological context of drug use, the impact of drug use and abuse on society, drug treatment, drug use policies, drugs and the law, and the extent of drug use in our society and globally.

Course Description:

Our focus in this course will be the social reality of drug use, and drug users, within contemporary society and the role they play in our social relationships. This focus includes a historical analysis of the social construction of drug use, drug users, abuse, and addiction/treatment. We will explore the complex relationships between individual and group behavior, and our social structure. Some concepts that we will explore include social learning, labeling, power, and inequality. We will also explore the role the media plays in our constructions of “good” and “bad” drugs. Special attention will be given to the complex social history surrounding drug use, the role of racism in drug control, the link between drugs and crime, the impact of the medicalization of human behavior, and varying perspectives on what we “should do about drugs.”

Course Objectives

The basic overall objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive survey of the development of sociological theories surrounding drug use in our society. For the most part, we will approach drug use from the perspective that drug use and drug users are social constructs, but we will discuss alternate viewpoints.

1. Articulate the variety of social, individual, and bio-chemical factors that impact definitions of drugs, as well as how these factors influence a drug's effect.
2. Understand the process of the social construction of drug use as a social problem.
3. Develop a familiarity with the various biological, psychological, and sociological theories that seek to explain drug using behavior, including an analysis of their basic assumptions, limitations, and implications for social policy.
4. Be familiar with trends, patterns, and types of drug use in society.
5. Display knowledge of the various drugs, both legal and illegal, used in American society, as well as the social reality that surrounds their use.
6. Develop an analysis of the relationship between drugs, crime, and socio-cultural definitions of drug using behavior.
7. We will explore the role the media (and even celebrity lifestyles) may play in shaping our social constructs of drugs and drug users.
8. Develop an analysis of the various social responses to drug use, displaying an understanding of the emergence of these responses being linked to cultural and social structural shifts.

**Enrollment Status Statement: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.**

Readings:

Goode, Erich. Drugs in American Society. 9<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw Hill. ISBN 978-0-07-802659-1

Additionally readings will be uploaded to D2L

D2L and KSU Email:

Students should check their official KSU and Brightspace (D2L) email daily. This is the electronic way that I will contact the students. I will occasionally send classroom announcements, assignments, and class updates to your KSU or D2L email accounts.

I will also use D2L to periodically post interesting articles for you to read and use for your writing assignments and/or any extra credit assignments.

**D2L is where I will post grades.**

**Students can expect grades to be posted within 10 days or less of receipt of assignments.**

Components of Evaluation:

Exams (5 total and lowest exam grade is dropped): 20% each for 80% of overall grade

Class Project: 10%

Participation: 5%

In Class Writing Assignments: (2): (5% each, lowest grade dropped) 5% total

*Exams:* There will be 5 total exams (4 chapter exams and a cumulative final) in the course but only 4 of them will count. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped if you take all 5 exams. If you have taken the first 4 exams and are content with your exam grade at that point, you may opt out of the final exam. However, if you miss any of the first 4 exams, then you must take the final to replace that grade. Additionally, if you have taken the first four exams, you may opt to take the final, too, as it can't hurt your grade. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. **20% each and 80% of total grade.** Make-up exam policy can be found below.

*Class Project: "The Social Construction of Drugs in History"* In this course, you will be required to complete one class project. You will write a 4-5 page paper (not including references or any pictures) detailing the social construction of a drug of your choosing by society, lawmakers, claimsmakers, and the media throughout the last 150 years. The details for this paper will be posted on D2L the third week of class. The paper will be due on April 10th, no exceptions. **10% total.**

*Participation:* Participation is an essential aspect of developing communication skills. I know there are some people who are shy when it comes to speaking in public. However, it is an important skill to learn. We will have small group discussions and in-class writing assignments, sometimes, to help individuals who are less confident about speaking in front of the class as a whole. Any attempt at participation will be considered. Let it be said, too, that just because someone talks all the time, this does not mean they are contributing meaningful discussion to the topic at hand. Let's also remember the importance of respect and tolerance when we are participating in class discussions. A perfect participation grade will be given to those individuals who contribute meaningful and relevant discussion on a weekly basis, who have completed all in-class writing assignments, who have attended all classes, and who actively listen when others are talking. **5 % total.**

*In Class Writing Assignments:* There will be a total of **two** in class writing assignments. **Only one will count** towards your writing assignment grade. These will be writing assignments in which you will be required to answer specific questions about a documentary or film we will watch in class. These must be turned in the day they are assigned. If you miss class, you may still complete the assignment, but 15% will be deducted for any assignment turned in after class is over. **5% of your overall grade.**

*Attendance:* Attendance is **NOT** required. Studies show that students who attend class receive higher grades, but this course will not require you to attend class. That being said, the in-class writing assignments cannot be made up without a 15% deduction and your participation grade will be severely impacted if you do not attend class. I will take attendance everyday as a way to give potential extra points at the end of the semester. \*\*\*\*\*If you miss 2 classes or less during the course of the semester, 2% will be added to your overall test grade.\*\*\*\*\*

Legal, religious, or school required absences will not count as a missed class.

#### Grading Scale:

A= 90-100    B=80-89    C=70-79    D=60-69    F=59 and below

#### Make-up Policy:

Unless you have a significant reason (or one of the excused absences) for missing an exam, I will **not allow any** make-ups. Trying to juggle make-ups for exams while continuing future material is too difficult and not fair to those students who are present. In the event that you have an absence for an exam, you must notify me as soon as possible. A make-up for a significant personal reason is entirely at my discretion and will only be offered in the most extreme circumstances. The dates for the exams are posted at the beginning of the semester. If you foresee a conflict, you must take the exam prior to the day the rest of the class takes it.

#### Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:

A true learning environment requires attention and participation from everyone. Please do not text, Facebook, or be otherwise distracted by the electronic devices in your life. Photography and videotaping are not allowed. I understand that there are times when an emergency might require a cell phone to be turned on. Discuss this with me before class to seek special permission. But, for every other situation, please keep your outside conversations outside the classroom.

#### Accommodations Statement:

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.

#### Academic Honesty

Please be advised of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the KSU Undergraduate Catalog. Section III addresses issues on academic honesty, including cheating and plagiarism, among other violations. If you are unsure of how plagiarism is defined or if you are not clear on

what “academic honesty” means, go to the catalog and familiarize yourself. Ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable excuse! Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be investigated and if confirmed, will receive a zero on the assignment and potentially fail the course.

#### Disruption of Campus Life Statement

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/ or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations.

Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

#### Additional KSU Campus Information

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA)

<http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>

University – Student Rights Statement

<http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>

Ethics Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Sexual Harassment Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement)

<http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php>

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## Course Outline

**\*\*\*Material is subject to change\*\*\* Students are responsible for material covered on all lectures, reading assignments, videos, presentations, and guest lectures. Please read material before the day we cover it in class.**

January 9<sup>th</sup>: First Day of Class, Introductions and Syllabus

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 1

January 16<sup>th</sup>: **No Class** MLK Holiday

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Finish Chapter 1 and Video on Ancient Drugs

January 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 2 and Videos on Anesthetics

January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>: Chapter 3 and Article: Marijuana: Assassin of Youth (D2L), Begin Video on the History of Drug Control and the War on Drugs

February 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>: Finish Video, Chapter 4 and Article: "The Evolution of Drug Taking and Drug Seeking in America"

February 13<sup>th</sup>: **Exam 1**

February 15<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 5, Media Clips on Drugs

February 20<sup>th</sup>: **No Class** (Professor Ralston-Coley out of town): Outside of Class: Read Articles: "The Social Construction of Drug Scares" and "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: The Making of a Moral Panic (D2L)

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Discuss Articles and Chapter 6

February 27<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>: Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 (BBC video on alcohol)

March 1<sup>st</sup>: **Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty**

March 6<sup>th</sup>: **Exam 2**

March 8<sup>th</sup>: Big Bucks, Big Pharma Video

March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 9 and Chapter 10, Media Clips on Club Drugs

March 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>: Short Video on "Crack Babies", Article: "The Origins of Crack" (D2L), Chapter 11

March 27<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 12, Review if time.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>: Exam 3**

**April 1-April 7<sup>th</sup>: No Classes, Spring Break.**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>: Papers Due**, Movie "The House I Live In"

April 12<sup>th</sup>: Finish Movie, Chapter 13

April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: Criminal Justice System and Drugs, Chapter 14

April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 15 and Chapter 16; Article: "Rethinking U.S. Drug Policy" (D2L)

**May 1<sup>st</sup>: Exam 4**

**Cumulative Final: Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>: 6-8pm**