

DRUGS & SOCIETY

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

The tools of social science can help us understand debates and puzzles posed by contemporary drug policies. The social contexts drug policies create provide many telling examples about social dynamics and public health trends.

This course will help you become a more socially literate consumer or participate in an important public policy and public health issue. You will better appreciate the nature of the problem of drug use in modern society, the consequences for health, and the role of public policy in these debates.

COURSE DESIGN

Although the course has many students, it is designed to engage you. We will use a student response system in lecture, and many small opportunities to earn credit rather than a few big ones.

Grades for this course are not based on percentages. Instead, the grade you earn will be based on the total number of points that you earn, and you can choose which ways of earning points

best suit how you wish to approach the course. This course is not intended to be difficult, but will require you to stay on top of things, in the same way that an addict must manage their drug use.

COURSE MEETINGS

Lectures are held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:30-3:20, at Hamilton Hall 110. Please be prompt and do not leave early.

Mondays and Wednesdays will focus on textbook readings and Fridays will be used for supplemental readings and formal assessments at the testing center, located in 127 Burnett Hall, City Campus.

CONTACTING ME

Email is the most reliable way of interacting with me about the course and common questions will be posted to Blackboard.

I can be contacted at jcheadle2@unl.edu and my office hours are 1:30-2:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

SOCIOLOGY 309 – TOPICS/READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS CALENDAR

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 - (8/24 – 8/28) Overview	NO CLASS	Syllabus	Asimov
Week 2 – (8/31 – 9/4) Sociology of Drug Use	Ch 1	Ch 1	Jenkins ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 3 – (9/7 – 9/11) Data Sources	NO CLASS Labor day	Ch 4	Musto ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 4 - (9/14 – 9/18) History	Ch 2	Ch 2	Musto ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 5 - (9/21 – 9/25) Classification	Ch 3	Ch 3	McKay Writing Assignment 1: 5pm, BB Upload
Week 6 - (9/28 – 10/2) Theory	Ch 5	Ch 5	Exam #1, no class
Week 7 - (10/5 – 10/9) Demographics	Ch 6	Ch 6	ACLU (pg1-23) ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 8 - (10/12 – 10/16) Institutions	Ch 7	Ch 7	SAMHSA ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 9 - (10/19 – 10/23) Health	NO CLASS Fall Break	Ch 8	Ch 8 ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 10 - (10/26-10/30) Economics	Ch 9	Ch 9	Becker Writing Assignment 2: 5pm, BB upload
Week 11 - (11/2 – 11/6) Culture	Ch 10	Ch 10	Exam #2, no class
Week 12 - (11/9 – 11/13) Violence & Crime	Ch 11	Ch 11	Norton ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 13 -(11/16 – 11/20) Prevention	Ch 12	Ch 12	Tierney ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 14 - (11/23 – 11/27) Treatment	Ch 13	NO CLASS Thanksgiving	NO CLASS Thanksgiving
Week 15 - (11/30 – 12/4) Policy	Ch 14	Ch 14	Nadelmann ** BB Quiz (5pm)
Week 16 - (12/7 – 12/11) Going Forward	Ch 15	Ch 15	Writing Assignment 3, 5pm, BB upload
Week 17 - FINALS	Exam #3, by 3pm 12/16		

SOCIOLOGY 309 – BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monday & Wednesday: Weeks 2-16

Faupel, Charles E., Greg S. Weaver, and Jay Corzine. 2014. *The Sociology of American Drug Use: 3rd Edition*. Oxford University Press.

Friday: Week 1

Asimov, Isaac. 1989. "The Relativity of Wrong." 1989. *The Skeptical Inquirer*, 14(1): 35-44.

Friday: Week 2

Jenkins, Philip. 1994. "'The Ice Age' The social construction of a drug panic." *Justice Quarterly*, 11(1): 7-31.

Friday: Week 3

Musto, David. 1991. "Opium, Cocaine, and Marijuana in American History." *Scientific American*, 265(1): 40-47.

Friday: Week 4

Musto, David. 1996. "Alcohol in American History." *Scientific American*, 274(4): 77-83.

Friday: Week 5

McKay, Tom. April 21, 2014. "What Happens to Your Brain on Sugar, Explained by Science".
<http://mic.com/articles/88015/what-happens-to-your-brain-on-sugar-explained-by-science>

Friday: Week 7

ACLU. June 2013. "The War on Marijuana in Black and White."

Friday: Week 8

SAMHSA. April 7, 2009. "Nonmedical Use of Adderall® among Full-Time College Students." NSDUH_117.

Friday: Week 10

Becker, Howard S. 1953. "Becoming a Marijuana User." *The American Journal of Sociology*, 59(3): 235-242.

Friday: Week 12

Norton, Elizabeth. 26 June 2014. "Is Prison Contagious?" *Science News*:
<http://news.sciencemag.org/biology/2014/06/prison-contagious>

Friday: Week 13

Tierney, John. Sept. 16, 2013. "The Rational Choices of Crack Addicts." *New York Times*.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/17/science/the-rational-choices-of-crack-addicts.html>

Friday: Week 15

Nadelmann, Ethan. 2007. "Think Again." *Foreign Policy*, 162: 24-26, 28, 30.

SOCIOLOGY 309 – ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Your grade is based on the number of points you earn over the semester

375 A	360 A-	345 B+	330 B	315 B-	300 C+	285 C	270 C-	255 D
Course Medals: 400 (Bronze), 415 (Silver), 430 (Gold), 450 (Hall of Fame)								

Lecture Attendance

5 points standard credit for attending lecture and responding using i>clicker (2 points check-in, 1-point class question, 2 points check-out).

Standard credit for everyone contingent on orderly classroom environment

Writing Assignments

15 points total per short writing assignment. They will be due the week before Exams.

Uploaded to Blackboard.

Due before 5pm. Upload is set on a timer and late uploads will not be permitted or accepted.

Exercise Grading

Grade	Means	Score on x-point exercise	Points
++	Unusually Good	1.5x	15
+	Good	x	10
-	Below	.5x	3
0	Inadequate	0	0

Blackboard (BB) Quizzes

Short quizzes to demonstrate mastery of social science concepts.

10 points per quiz.

Each BB quiz is cumulative of concepts covered until that point, with emphasis on material covered since the last checkpoint.

Material will be drawn from both lectures and readings.

BB quizzes will be administered online on Blackboard outside of class hours.

Exams

50 points per exam.

Exams will not be cumulative.

Exams will be administered at the Testing Center and will need to be completed by 3pm on the test date.

Test time availability will be announced in class.

We will not meet as a class on Exam days.

Example Path to an A-Grade (total points = 376)

Lecture attendance 160	Papers 30	BB 63	Exams 123
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Note 1: Lecture (32*5=160), Papers (3*10=30), BB Quizzes (9*7), Exams (3*41=123).

SOCIOLOGY 309 – Blackboard, Clicker, Policies

Blackboard & Clicker

We will be using Blackboard (BB; my.unl.edu) for online quizzes, paper assignment uploads, and testing (at the test center). These activities will all take place outside of class hours. Lecture Attendance will be recorded using Clicker responses to questions posed at the beginning, middle, and end of our class sessions. Other questions using Clicker may be asked during class as well. When this happens, the first and last and any of the middle of the class period responses will be used for point accumulation.

You are responsible for:

1. registering your Clicker on the class BB page
2. remembering to bring your Clicker device to each class
3. ensuring that your device is adequately charged so that it can be used
4. knowing how to use the device (for help see “Appendix: Clicker” in Course Documents in BB)

Policies

- **Technology/Media in the Classroom:** I do not allow technology other than the Clicker to be used in the classroom. Additional information is available on the Blackboard website about why I have made this decision in the Course Documents section. You are responsible for taking your own notes.
- **Attendance:** I do not have a mandatory attendance policy, but remind you that attendance is directly tied to the number of points you receive this semester. The maximum point total is fixed and will not be adjusted. I encourage you to make friends, come to class, discuss the class, and share notes with one another.
- **Personal Emergencies:** Life happens. In the event of a personal emergency, it is your responsibility to contact me so that we can discuss arrangements. Please study the calendar closely because many assessments will be set on automatic timers, which will not be adjusted. The course allows multiple pathways to success and you are ultimately responsible for the points that you acquire over the semester.
- **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities are encouraged to come me for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Resources:

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD): 132 Canfield Administration	(402) 472-3787
Writing Assistance Center: 129 Andrews Hall	(402) 472-8803
Sociology Department: 711 Oldfather Hall	(402) 472-3631

SOCIOLOGY 309 – ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As your professor, I consider it my sacred responsibility to protect the integrity of the course and its fairness to all students. I will adhere strictly to UNL's standards and policies regarding academic integrity ([the graduate school provides excellent information on academic integrity](#)).

Among other things, this means that I will notify the Sociology Department Chair and UNL's Judicial Affairs Office without hesitation in all cases of suspected misconduct. You are expected to be familiar with university policies regarding what constitutes academic misconduct, and so if you are unfamiliar with them or could use a refresher, you should re-read their materials online.

Below, I make explicit some matters regarding academic misconduct for this course.

ATTENDANCE

1. You may not "check-in," "check-out," or otherwise participate in the lectures if you are not physically present in the class at the time these opportunities are provided.
2. You are committing academic misconduct if you help any of your classmates attempt to receive credit without being physically present.
3. I reserve the right to use whatever means of auditing attendance to ensure that this is not being done.

EXERCISES

1. You must do the reading in order to receive credit for the exercise associated with that reading. I recognize that you are mostly on the "honor system" in this respect, and hope very much that you do the honorable thing, but I do wish to be explicit that completing exercises without having done the reading is considered academic misconduct in this course.
2. You may discuss exercises with classmates in the course, but answers must be "in your own words" as described below.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

1. On exercises and elsewhere, unless a multiple choice or very short factual answer is being asked (1-3 words), you are expected to put all answers in your own words.
2. Sometimes I will emphasize "in your own words," but it applies even if I do not say so explicitly. I reserve the right to use software to detect both plagiarism and similarity among student responses.
3. In the same that that you are expected to write "in your own words", you are also expected to provide your own answers on multiple choice and other question types.