



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2222A-001

DRUGS AND SOCIETY

Fall 2023

In-person

Instructor: Alyssa Holden

Department of Sociology

Email: aholden5@uwo.ca

Course Description: This course considers the sociological significance of drugs and drug use in society. The historical, political and cultural underpinnings of drug policies and drug use are examined, while highlighting the social implications of policies that approach drugs and drug use from moral rather than empirical positions.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s): The former Sociology 3313F/G

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, students should:

1. Understand the sociological importance of drugs and drug use
2. Understand the connection to drugs and drug use throughout the development human history
3. Be able to critically examine the models of addiction
4. Understand the methodology behind the sociological study of drugs and drug use
5. Critically evaluate the public perception and paradoxes of drug use based on connections to race and class
6. Be able to critically examine what makes policies and public education effective or ineffective
7. Apply evidence-based knowledge about drugs and drug use in written reflections

Course Material:

The following text is required and is available in both print and e-book versions from the publisher. A copy of this book in e-book format is also available at UWO Libraries:

Bruno, Tara L. and Rick Csiernik. (2018). *The Drug Paradox: An Introduction to the Sociology of Psychoactive Substances in Canada*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars.

In addition, academic articles will be provided on OWL, or the library course reserves.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

Please allow 24 hours for e-mail responses. Please communicate with your professor in a professional and considerate manner.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course:

Written Reflections (30%): 3 reflections throughout the semester, worth 10% each

Midterm Exam (30%): In class, October 18th

Final Exam (40%): TBA, during the December exam period

Examinations (70%):

All exams will be multiple choice. The midterm exam is weighted at 30% and will take place during class time on **Wednesday, October 18th**. You will have 2 hours to complete the mid-term exam. The final exam will be announced during the December exam period and will be weighted at 40%. No notes, devices, or aides will be permitted during the exams unless a student has an accommodation. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Written Reflections (30%):

Students will write a total of THREE written reflections throughout the semester, worth 10% each. Students are to complete the written reflections independently and are not to use AI when writing the reflections. Students should not consult any online materials to write their reflections and should only use the resources from class and/or any resources listed in the written reflection. The reflections can be turned into OWL and will be submitted through Turnitin to check for similarity. Be sure to cite class materials when writing your reflections. Written reflections should not exceed 500 words. Late submissions will receive a 1% per day penalty. After 5 days, late submissions will not be accepted. Assignments submitted to OWL are date and time stamped. *Turnitin.com* is integrated into the new OWL software and your essay will be scanned upon submission.

Lecture attendance:

It is expected that you attend every single lecture. Lecture material will be an essential part of both examinations and written reflections. While slides are posted online on OWL after class, lecture slides will be redacted and contain only minimal information to guide student notetaking.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Make-up exams or an extension to the assignment will be given after receiving confirmation from Academic Counselling.

Absences from Final Examinations:

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](#)” document https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health