



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2222B-001

Drugs and Society
Winter 2024

Delivery Method - In-person

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

TA: TBD

Department of Sociology

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Email (TA): TBD

This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.

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. Be able to critically examine the models of addiction that dominate public discourse
3. Appreciate the value of a biopsychosocial model of addiction
4. Learn to examine various forms of evidence-based knowledge and critically assess the sources
5. Be able to critically examine what makes policies and public education effective or ineffective
6. Apply evidence-based knowledge to educate the public about drugs and drug use

Course Material:

The following material is **required** and is available in e-versions on OWL:

WEEK 2 January 15 – Defining Substance Use

Alexander, B. (2010). *The globalization of addiction: A study in poverty of the spirit*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 2: “Addiction₁, Addiction₂, Addiction₃, Addiction₄...” (pp.27-56)

WEEK 3 January 22 – History of Canada’s Drug Laws

Bruno, T. L., & Csiernik, R. (2018). *The Drug paradox: An Introduction to the sociology of psychoactive substances in Canada*. Canadian Scholars. Chapter 2. “The History and Politics of Canada’s Drug Laws” (pp. 15-30).

Hall, W. (2018). The future of the international drug control system and national drug prohibitions. *Addiction*, 113(7), 1210-1223.

WEEK 4 January 29 – Substance Use Theories

Bruno, T. L., & Csiernik, R. (2018). *The Drug paradox: An Introduction to the sociology of psychoactive substances in Canada*. Canadian Scholars. Chapter 3-4: “Explaining Substance Use I and Explaining Substance Use II” (pp. 31-75)

WEEK 6 February 12 – Classifying Drugs

Bruno, T. L., & Csiernik, R. (2018). *The Drug paradox: An Introduction to the sociology of psychoactive substances in Canada*. Canadian Scholars. Chapter 5: “Classifying Drugs: Psychopharmacological Properties and Legal Classifications” (pp. 76-114)

WEEK 8 February 26 – “Classical” Sociological Drug Use Theory

Merton, R. K. (1938). Social structure and anomie. *American sociological review*, 3(5), 672-682.

Lindesmith, A. R. (1938). A sociological theory of drug addiction. *American Journal of Sociology*, 43(4), 593-613.

WEEK 9 March 4 – Addiction is a brain disease?

Leshner, A. I. (1997). Addiction is a brain disease, and it matters. *Science*, 278(5335), 45-47.

Hart, C. L. (2017). Viewing addiction as a brain disease promotes social injustice. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1(3), 0055.

Lewis, M. (2015). *The biology of desire: Why addiction is not a disease*. PublicAffairs. Chapter 2: “A brain designed for addiction” (pp. 32-38).

WEEK 11 March 18 — Racial and ethnic dimensions of substance use

Marshall, S. G. (2015). Canadian drug policy and the reproduction of Indigenous inequities. *The International Indigenous Policy Journal*, 6(1).

Alexander, M. (2020). *The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. The New Press. Chapter 2: “The Lockdown” (pp. 75-120).

WEEK 12 March 25 – Poverty and drugs

Preble, E., & Casey, J. J. (1969). Taking care of business—the heroin user's life on the street. *International journal of the addictions*, 4(1), 1-24.

Bourgois, P. I., & Schonberg, J. (2009). *Righteous dopefiend* (Vol. 21). Univ of California Press. Chapter 5: “Making Money” (pp. 147-182)

WEEK 13 April 1 – Final Class-- Drug use-related social movements

Haenfler, R. (2004). Rethinking subcultural resistance: Core values of the straight edge movement. *Journal of contemporary ethnography*, 33(4), 406-436.

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.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Assessment	% of the Final Grade	Notes	Due
Quizzes	8	Each week is worth 4%	There will be 2 quizzes on weeks before the midterm
In-class activities	8		In class
Midterm Exam 1	25		WEEK 5 February 5
Midterm Exam 2	25		WEEK 10 March 11
Final Exam	34		Final Exam: TBA

For the closed-book midterm exams, you will have 2 hours in class to complete 60 multiple-choice questions. Electronic devices will not be permitted. This is a paper and pen exam. Please remember to bring your own pencils to the exam.

For the closed-book final exam, you will have 3 hours in-person to complete 90 multiple-choice questions. Electronic devices will not be permitted. This is a paper and pen exam. Please remember to bring your own pencils to the exam.

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 less than 10% of the overall course grade:

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, the TA may provide an extension (of no longer than 3 days) for quiz or in-class activity submission if the student provides a valid reason (by emailing the TA). Students must create a 5-minute YouTube video to present their commentary on that week's readings.

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.

If a student misses the midterm exam, they will take a makeup exam, which will be a multiple-choice exam.

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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

WEEK 1 January 8 - Introduction

Course Syllabus. No additional readings.

WEEK 2 January 15 – Defining Substance Use

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WEEK 3 January 22 – History of Canada’s Drug Laws

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WEEK 5 February 5 – MIDTERM 1

WEEK 6 February 12 – Classifying Drugs

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WEEK 7 February 19 (NO CLASSES) Reading week

WEEK 8 February 26 – “Classical” Sociological Drug Use Theory

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WEEK 10 March 11 - MIDTERM 2

WEEK 11 March 18 — Racial and ethnic dimensions of substance use

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Alexander, M. (2020). *The new Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*. The New Press. Chapter 2: “The Lockdown” (pp. 75-120).

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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