



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2222B-650
Drugs and Society
Summer 2024

Delivery Method - Online

Instructor: Dr. Mila Kolpashnikova

Office Hours: by appointment

Department of Sociology

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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 Brightspace:

WEEK 1– 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 2– 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 3 – 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 4 – 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 5 – “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 6 – 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).

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course Brightspace site 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
Discussion board post	24	4% per each week	Sunday 11:59pm of each week
Midterm	30	30 multiple-choice questions	Week 3, due July 6 th , 11:59PM
Final Exam	46	20 multiple-choice questions and 1 essay question	Final Exam: TBA

For the open-book midterm exam, you will have 30 minutes to complete 30 multiple-choice questions. The exam will be on Brightspace.

For the open-book final exam, you will have 50 minutes to complete 20 multiple-choice questions and 1 essay question.

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 weekly reading reflections, no late submissions will be accepted under any circumstances.

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 final exam with Academic Counselling Office's approval, they will take a makeup 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.

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

2024