

SOCIOLOGY OF DRUG USE

01:920:361:01

Fall 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.

B117 Lucy Stone Hall

Professor Jeanette Covington

Web Page URL: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Livingston Student Center

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Charles Faupel, Alan M. Horowitz and Greg S. Weaver, The Sociology of American Drug Use (3rd edition) Oxford University Press, 2014

A. Rafik Mohamed and Erik D. Fritsvold, Dorm Room Dealers: Drugs and the Privileges of Race and Class. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010, 2012.

Both textbooks are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore (Barnes & Noble).

RESERVE READINGS:

All additional readings—not included in the textbooks—have been placed online at Alexander Library Reserve.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Illegal drugs like heroin, cocaine, marijuana and many others are the source of a good deal of controversy and debate. Too often, however, these discussions are plagued by distortions about illegal drugs and illegal drug users. In this course, then, we will attempt to identify and correct some of these distortions by looking at what the social scientific research says about illegal drugs and their effects and about the extent of illegal drug use and abuse in the United States. We will also consider how the illegal status of drugs contributes to many distortions by looking at how illegal drugs were regarded before they were criminalized as compared to how they came to be regarded after their criminalization. Then, because the illegal status of drugs causes many to see their use as escapist, we will examine and critique some of the theories that have been developed to explain the reasons why people use illegal drugs. We will close by assessing the effectiveness of various policies meant to address the illegal drug problem including those that seek to control and reduce the size of illegal drug markets, those that focus on treatment of illegal drug users and those that promote drug decriminalization and state regulation of drug markets as a solution.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING

Your grade will be based on your performance on the midterm and the final. **The midterm will be given in class on Thursday November 2nd** and will consist of definitions and short answers. It will count for 50% of your grade. **The final exam will likewise consist of definitions and short answers and count for the remaining 50% of your grade. It will be given in class on**

Friday December 15th from 8:00 am to 11:00 a.m. during the scheduled exam period. The exams are not cumulative.

Both the midterm and the final are meant to test your knowledge of material covered in both the readings and the lectures. The lectures are no substitute for the readings and the readings do not substitute for the lectures as some material that is included in the lectures is not included in the readings and vice versa. Because both the readings and the lectures will be covered on the exam, you should complete all of the readings and if you miss a class, make sure you get the missed notes from classmates. Please, do not ask me to provide you with a copy of the notes if you miss a class.

Rules for taking Exams

Since exam questions will be answered in blue books provided by me, you will only need to bring pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, a watch and a Rutgers ID to the exams. Only these items can be placed on your desk while you are taking the exam. No cell phones, calculators, rulers, laptops, lecture notes, reserve readings, books or other aids are allowed while you are taking the exam and perhaps should not even be brought to class on exam days as they will only get in your way. If you do bring these items, they should be placed in a bag under the desk while you are taking the exam.

I will return your midterm in class when I have finished grading it. For your semester grade, please make use of official channels to find out your grade. I will not give out grades over the phone or via email.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will make weekly announcements on sakai at the beginning of each week primarily to tell you what readings were covered in the previous week's lectures and what readings will be covered in the coming week; I will also answer any class-related questions that individual students might ask. Please check the class sakai site and your Rutgers e-mail on a regular basis.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Much like every other class in Sociology, this class is all about the free exchange of ideas. Among other things, that means that students are allowed to disagree with each other or with the instructor—but only as long as they do so in a courteous and lawful way. In order to facilitate the free exchange of ideas, it is important that we all make an effort to treat each other with common courtesy and mutual respect. For that reason, conduct that distracts the instructor and other students during class is not acceptable and includes behaviors such as cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, sleeping, putting your head on the desk, leaving and returning to class, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks and similar behaviors that demonstrate a lack of consideration for faculty and fellow students. In particular, texting during class is disruptive and disrespectful of classroom education. In light of that, if you do have an emergency that requires you to text, please go out in the hall to do so.

It has been my experience that the vast majority of students are courteous and respectful of others in class without being asked. However, for the tiny handful of students who cannot make

the effort to be considerate to me or to other students, it might be wise to consider taking another class. Also, keep in mind that if a student does engage in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period. Moreover, serious verbal assaults, harassment or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings.

READINGS:

I. Drug Classification and Effects

- Faupel et al., chapter 1, pages 58-60, chapter 8
- L. Grinspoon & J. Bakalar, "Medical Uses of Illicit Drugs."
- J. Morgan and L. Zimmer, The Social Pharmacology of Smokeable Cocaine: Not All It's Cracked Up to Be"

II. Defining Drug Use and Misuse

- Review:** Faupel et al., pp.19-29
- “DSM-5 Criteria for Substance Use Disorders”
- I. Urbina, “Addiction Diagnoses May Rise Under Guideline Changes”
- K. Levin et al., “Cannabis Withdrawal Symptoms in Non-Treatment Seeking Adult Cannabis Smokers”
- C. Winick, "Social Behavior, Public Policy and Nonharmful Drug Use."
- N. Zinberg, “Research Findings: Drug Use Rituals, Sanctions and Controls”

III. Criminalization of Drugs

- Faupel et al., chapter 2
- H. Becker, "Moral Entrepreneurs."
- D. Musto, "The History of Legislative Control over Opium, Cocaine and Their Derivatives”

IV. The Postwar Drug “Epidemics”

Review: Faupel et al., chapter 2

a. The Fifties Epidemic:

- E. Currie, *Reckoning*, Introduction, ch. 2
- E. Preble and J. Casey, "Taking Care of Business."

b. The Sixties Epidemic

- J. Mandel and H. Feldman, “The Social History of Teenage Drug Use”
- J. Himmelstein, "The Embourgeoisement of Marihuana."

c. Drug “Epidemics” vs. Drug Scares

- C. Reinerman & H. Levine, “Crack in Context: Politics and Media in the Making of a Drug Scare”
- C. Reinerman, "The Social Construction of Drug Scares."
- Faupel et al., chapter 8
- Review:** J. Morgan and L. Zimmer, The Social Pharmacology of Smokeable Cocaine:

Not All It's Cracked Up to Be"

V. Extent of Drug Use

- Faupel et al, chapter 4
- L. Johnston et al., "Monitoring the Future: National Results on Drug Use"
- Review:** Zinberg, Winick

VI. Causes of Drug Use

- Faupel et al., chapter 5
- Review:** Faupel et al., chapters 2, 4, 8

a. Classic Explanations

- A. Lindesmith and J. Gagnon, "Anomie and Drug Addiction"
- J. Covington, "The Social Construction of the Minority Drug Problem"
- G. Peterson and A. Harrell, "Introduction: Inner-City Isolation and Opportunity"
- J. Klein and D. Phillips, "From Hard to Soft Drugs."
- T Williams, "Cocaine Kids: The Underground American Dream"
- B. Johnson et al., "The Rise and Decline of Hard Drugs, Drug Markets and Violence in Inner City New York"
- A. Golub & B. Johnson, "Crack's Decline: Some Surprises Across US Cities"
- Review:** Preble and Casey, Currie

b. Contemporary Explanations

- Review:** Faupel et al., chapter 5
- F. Davis & L. Munoz, "Heads and Freaks."
- E. Lemert, "Primary and Secondary Deviance"
- Mohamed and Fritsvold, chapters 1,3,7
- R. Akers, "The Problem of Alcohol and Drugs in Society"
- J. Covington, "Drugs and Racial Constructions"
- J. Sloan, "It's All the Rave."
- D. Waldorf, *Cocaine Changes*, Ch.4, "Cocaine at Work: A Case Study of the Company"
- P. Jenkins, "The Ice Age"
- J. Beck and M. Rosenbaum, "Emergence of Adam and Ecstasy"
- C. Winick, "The Use of Drugs by Jazz Musicians."
- Review:** Zinberg, Winick
- K. Tunnell, "The Oxycontin Epidemic and Crime Panic in Rural Kentucky"
- C. Kalb, "Playing with Painkillers"
- Mohamed and Fritsvold, chapter 4
- Review:** B. Johnson et al., Williams, Preble & Casey

VII. The War on Drugs: Effectiveness and Social Costs

a. Drug Distribution and Drug Control

- Faupel et al., chapters 9, 11, 14:435-449
- Abt Associates, Research on Illegal Prescription Drug Market Interventions"

- D. Sontag, "Addiction Treatment with a Dark Side"

-Review: Tunnell, Kalb

b. Selective Enforcement

-ACLU, "The War on Marijuana in Black and White"

-Mohamed and Fritsvold, chapters 2,6

-D. Barstow, "Antidrug Tactics Exact Price on a Neighborhood, Many Say"

-J. Covington, "Round Up the Usual Suspects: Racial Profiling and the War on Drugs."

-J.Dwyer, "Whites Smoke Pot, but Blacks are Arrested"

-“Trouble With Marijuana Arrests: Questionable Police Practices on Minor Possession Charges Merit Deeper Scrutiny”

-“Smoking Marijuana While Black”

-Review: Mohamed & Fritsvold, chs. 1,3,4, B. Johnson et al.

VIII. Drug Treatment

-Faupel et al., chapter 13, chapter 12:365-381

-V. Dole and M. Nyswander, "Methadone Maintenance: A Theoretical Perspective"

-National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Advances in Therapeutic Communities."

-J. Turkewitz, "An Effort to Expand Access to a Drug That Could Save Victims of Overdoses"

-Review: D. Sontag, "Addiction Treatment with a Dark Side"

-R. Apsler, "Is Drug Abuse Treatment Effective?"

-J. Covington, "Linking Treatment to Punishment."

-Drug Policy Alliance, "Drug Courts are not the Answer"

IX. Alternatives to Prohibition: Reducing the Harms of Drug Policy

-Faupel et al., ch.14

-Drug Policy Alliance, "So Far, So Good: What We Know About Marijuana Legalization in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington, D.C."

-J. Covington, "Encouraging Moderation in Drug Use: The Controlled Drug Treatment Option."

-Drug Policy Alliance, "A Public Health and Safety Approach to Problematic Opioid Use and Overdose"