

Rutgers University Spring 2014
Dr. Howard Wineberg
Office Hours: 5:30 – 6:00 pm and 8:45 – 9:15 pm on Wednesday at the Freehold
Campus

Sociology of Alcohol Problems 920:410
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Course Syllabus

Learning Goals

- To enable the student to become more aware of how alcohol is intertwined in everyday life;
- To better understand the causes and consequences of alcohol abuse;
- To enable the student to evaluate research reports;
- To better know the sources of data for alcohol research;
- To be better at public speaking;
- To be better able to write a research paper;
- To better understand the value of a program like A.A.;
- To better appreciate how many Americans are directly/indirectly affected by alcohol consumption

Course Schedule and Weekly Assignments

Week of

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| January 22 | No Class – January 22
Do NIAAA reading – See Announcement on Sakai |
| January 29 | Overview of course
NIAAA Discussion |
| February 5 | Kinney, Loosening the Grip, Chapter 1, Alcohol
Chapter 2, Alcohol and its Costs |
| February 12 | Chapter 2 Continued;
Chapter 3, Alcohol and the Body |
| February 19 | Chapter 4, Alcohol Dependence |
| February 26 | A.A. Discussion
Chapter 6, Medical Complications, pages 140-142, 155-159, 173-188
Short Paper Due – February 26 |
| March 5 | Chapter 7, The Behavior of Dependence |
| March 12 | Chapter 8, Effects of Alcohol Problems on the Family
First Exam – March 12 |

March 19	No Class - Spring Break
March 26	Student Presentations
April 2	Student Presentations
April 9	Student Presentations
April 16	Student Presentations Chapter 14, Odds 'n' Ends
April 23	Chapter 10, Treatment Techniques and Approaches, pages 293, 304-332 Chapter 11, Special Populations, pages 391-409, 441-450 Final Paper Due
April 30	Chapter 5, Etiology of Alcohol Dependence Final Quiz – To Be Determined

Required Text

Jean Kinney. Loosening the Grip: A Handbook of Alcohol Information, 9th edition. 2009. McGraw Hill.

Other readings as assigned.

Course Information

The grading for the course is based on: participation – 5%; class attendance – 5%, short paper – 5%, presentation – 20%, term paper – 25%, first exam – 30%, final quiz – 10%. The exams will include material covered in the lectures and assigned readings. Late assignments will not be accepted. Student participation through informed opinions and facts is essential to a vibrant and intellectually worthwhile course. Students are expected to complete the readings before class, critically think about the material, and participate in class discussions.

If you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence; an email is automatically sent to me. Any emails sent to me should contain “sociology student” in the subject line. Emails with a blank subject line will not be opened. I will attempt to respond to all emails within 24 - 48 hours. All exams/assignments are to be completed on time.

Course Description

This seminar course provides a broad overview of alcohol use and alcohol problems. It is

intended to raise students' awareness of alcohol and the impact that it has on society. The basic factors associated with alcohol will be discussed, such as what it is, how it affects the body, and its impact on families. We will also discuss alcohol consumption among adolescents and college students and examine some self-help treatment approaches to alcohol problems.

Demeanor

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Two points will be deducted from the student's overall point total for each time s/he uses a cell phone (including text messaging) in class.

If a student engages 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; other remedies may also be used. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students may lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/judaff/ucsc.shtml>.

Academic Integrity Policy:

Do not cheat or plagiarize. When writing a paper, all information and ideas that you derive from other sources, whether written, spoken, or electronic, must be attributed to their original source. For more detailed information, visit the university's policy on Academic Integrity at:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

The above schedule and grading criteria are subject to change.