

COURSE SYLLABUS

SOCIOLOGY OF DRUG USE

Spring 2022

01:920:361:01

Murray 114—College Avenue Campus (starting on February 1)

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:50 pm - 5:10 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Jeanette Covington

Email: covingto@sociology.rutgers.edu

Communication: Throughout this semester, I will communicate with you via either Canvas Announcements or your Rutgers email account. I will make weekly announcements and post them on the homepage of the class website (Canvas). The weekly announcements are mainly meant to notify you when new online readings have been added to Modules on Canvas or to remind you of due dates for your Midterm and Final Exam.

When you communicate with me via email, please use your Rutgers email account and put “Soc 361” somewhere in the subject line of your email so that I can recognize your email quickly. Please review the following link for accessing Rutgers email:
<https://canvas.rutgers.edu/documentation/general/accessing-rutgers-email/>

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.

COURSE FORMATS

Course lectures

During the first 2 weeks of the semester, this class will be asynchronous and remote which means that **prerecorded lectures and readings will be available online**. They will be posted in your modules.

Beginning in the third week, Rutgers is scheduled to open up to in-person teaching. In this course, that means that **I will likely begin in-person lectures in 114 Murray Hall on Tuesday**

February 1st from 2:50 pm to 5:10 pm. At that point, online lectures will no longer be available in your modules, although the readings will continue to be posted in your modules throughout the semester.

Required Readings

All readings in this class are online and free. They will be available on the companion Canvas course site in Modules. To learn about Canvas course sites, please visit Rutgers Canvas at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/> and log in using your NetID. For more information about course access and support, contact Canvas Help at <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/canvas-help/> or email them at help@canvas.rutgers.edu or call 833-OIT-HELP (833-648-4357). You can also review Rutgers' Tech Guides at <https://it.rutgers.edu/students/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade will be based on your performance on two exams, namely the Midterm and the Final Exam. You will be able to earn a maximum of 200 points over the course of the semester with the Midterm and Final Exam scored as follows:

Midterm	100 points (50%)
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points (50%)</u>
	200 points

Both the Midterm and the Final Exam are online open book and open note exams and both exams will require you to write short essays in response to several questions. Both exams will cover material found in the lectures and readings. The lectures are meant to explain and complement the readings; however, you will be tested on reading material even if it is not covered in the lectures.

You will be able to **access the Midterm on Friday March 25th. Your completed Midterm should be returned to me no later than Sunday March 27th.**

You will be able to **access Final Exam questions on Friday May 6th. Your completed Final Exams should be returned to me no later than Sunday May 8th.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The work we do in this classroom requires trust and honesty between instructor and student. If we are not honest about what we know and do not know, our learning will always be impaired. Because teaching and learning depends on this honest communication, we expect all students to understand what plagiarism is and why it is unacceptable. Students uncertain about what plagiarism is should read Rutgers University's policy on academic integrity. You can read about the policy at this website: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>. For information on using sources in writing, see the Identifying and Avoiding Academic Dishonesty section of this website.

Over and above plagiarism, cheating will also not be tolerated. In this class, cheating refers to working with others on the Midterm or the Final Exam. This means that you may not take the Midterm or the Final Exam with someone else. You also may not copy someone else's answers or talk to anyone about the exams after you have taken them in order to help them.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Students are required to adhere to the University Student Code of Conduct delineated in the Rutgers Student Affairs website Student Conduct Page. Please consult the following link: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/student-conduct-processes/>

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Rutgers University Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region, country of origin and political orientation. We also support diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to any grievances.

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

In order to protect the health and well-being of all members of the University community, masks must be worn by all persons on campus when in the presence of others (within 6 feet) and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings. That means that masks must be worn during our Tuesday & Thursday in-class meetings. Masks should conform to CDC guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth. Also, each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, please remember to complete the brief survey on My Campus Pass Symptom Checker. For more information on Rutgers policy on face coverings/masks, go to: <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/health-and-safety/community-safety-practices/>

ACCOMODATIONS

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodation. Please share this letter and discuss the accommodations with me as early in this course as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration Form. (<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.)

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Services:

- For academic support, visit Rutgers Academics Student Support at: <https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support>
- Any student can obtain tutoring and other help at the Learning Centers on each campus. Check the website at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>

- For coaching help with writing skills and assignments, visit the Writing Coaching webpage at <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/student-services/writing-coaching>
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email and chat. For information, check the Rutgers Libraries website at <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu>

Rutgers Student Health Services

Rutgers Student Health Services is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff. Services are available at several locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information, visit <http://health.rutgers.edu/>

Veteran Services:

Rutgers is proud to support veterans. If you are a veteran of the armed forces, please visit the Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services website for more information: <https://veterans.rutgers.edu/>

LIST OF READINGS (NOTE: Prerecorded lectures will be available

online during the first 2 weeks of the semester only and then we will likely switch to an in-person format. However, readings will be available online in your modules throughout the semester. While no dates have been assigned to the following list of readings, I will use weekly announcements to inform you when I have finished lecturing on one topic and moved on to the next one. Hence, you should consult the weekly announcements to find out when a new module with a new set of readings has been added.)

DRUG CLASSIFICATION & EFFECTS

Module 1: Drug Classification

Readings:

- Drug Enforcement Administration, “Drugs of Abuse” (pages 6-17, 44-59, 63-64, 88-93,100-101)
- Drug Policy Alliance, “Marijuana Facts”
- Drug Policy Alliance, “10 Facts About Cocaine”
- Drug Policy Alliance, “10 Facts About Heroin”
- Drug Policy Alliance, “Fact Sheet: Fentanyl & Synthetic Opioids”

Module 2: Drug Effects

Readings:

- Review readings in Module 1
- J. Morgan and L. Zimmer, The Social Pharmacology of Smokeable Cocaine: Not All It’s Cracked Up to Be”

Module 3: Negative Effects of Drugs

Readings:

- Review readings from Module 1 and Module 2

DEFINING DRUG USE & MISUSE

Module 4: Diagnostic & Statistical Manual (DSM-5) Definitions of Drug Misuse

Readings:

- NIH, "The Science of Drug Abuse and Addiction: The Basics"
- NIH, "Alcohol Use Disorder: A Comparison Between DSM-IV and DSM-5"
- 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"

CRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS

Module 5: Criminalization of Drugs

Readings:

- Carl Hart & Charles Ksir, "Drug Policy", pages 49-69
- H. Becker, "Moral Entrepreneurs."
- D. Musto, "The History of Legislative Control over Opium, Cocaine and Their Derivatives"

Module 6: The Postwar Drug Epidemics

Readings:

- Review: Hart & Ksir
- E. Preble and J. Casey, "Taking Care of Business."
- J. Mandel and H. Feldman, "The Social History of Teenage Drug Use"
- J. Himmelstein, "The Embourgeoisement of Marijuana."
- 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."
- Review: J. Morgan and L. Zimmer, "The Social Pharmacology of Smokeable Cocaine: Not All It's Cracked Up to Be"

EXTENT OF DRUG USE

Module 7: Monitoring the Future & The National Survey on Drug Use & Health

Readings:

- E. Goode, "Studying Drug Use"
- Monitoring the Future: National Survey Results on Drug Use
- Results for the National Survey on Drug Use & Health"
- Review:** Zinberg, Winick

CAUSES OF DRUG USE

Module 8: Classic Explanations of Drug Use

Readings:

- 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

Module 9: Contemporary Explanations of Drug Use

Readings:

- F. Davis & L. Munoz, "Heads and Freaks."
- E. Lemert, "Primary and Secondary Deviance"
- Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, chapters 1,3,4
- 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"
- 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"
- Review: B. Johnson et al., Williams, Preble & Casey, Covington - "Social Construction of the Minority Drug Problem"

THE WAR ON DRUGS: EFFECTIVENESS & SOCIAL COSTS

Module 10: Drug Distribution and Drug Control

Readings:

- E. Goode, "Trafficking Illicit Drugs", pages 389-409

Module 11: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

Readings:

- Abt Associates, Research on Illegal Prescription Drug Market Interventions"
- D. Sontag, "Addiction Treatment with a Dark Side"
- Review: Tunnell

Module 12: Selective Enforcement

Readings:

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

- 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.”
- A. Cohen, ” How White Users Made Heroin a Public Health Problem”
- 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”

DRUG TREATMENT

Module 13: Drug Treatment Modalities

Readings:

- E. Goode, “Law Enforcement, Drug Courts & Drug Treatment” pp. 434-442
- V. Dole and M. Nyswander, "Methadone Maintenance: A Theoretical Perspective"
- National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Advances in Therapeutic Communities."
- Review: D. Sontag, “Addiction Treatment with a Dark Side”

Module 14: Mandatory Drug Treatment

Readings:

- R. Apsler, “Is Drug Abuse Treatment Effective?”
- J. Covington, "Linking Treatment to Punishment."
- Drug Policy Alliance, “Drug Courts are not the Answer”

ALTERNATIVES TO PROHIBITION: LEGALIZATION, DECRIMINALIZATION & HARM REDUCTION

Module 15: Alternatives to Prohibition

Readings:

- E. Goode, “Legalization, Decriminalization and Harm Reduction”, pages 446-456
- Drug Policy Alliance, “So Far, So Good: What We Know About Marijuana Legalization in Colorado, Washington, Alaska, Oregon and Washington, D.C.”
- E. Goode, “Legalization, Decriminalization and Harm Reduction”, pages 456-472
- 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”