Justice Studies 122
Fall Semester 2004

Narcotics and Drug Abuse

Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: Mon., Wed. 9:15-10:30 AM
Wed. 3:00-5:30 PM
Or by appointment

Department Website: http://www2.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/

Class Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday 10:30-11:45 AM
MacQuarrie Hall 523

This course examines a variety of issues related to legal and illegal drug use in the United States. Specific topics include the physiological effects of drugs, the process of addiction, drug-crime and drug-violence links, the use and abuse of legal drugs, the drug trade, drug treatment, and the drug court movement. Throughout the semester, one recurrent question will be the effectiveness of existing criminal laws prohibiting the sale, possession, and use of certain drugs, as well as the unintended consequences of such laws. Alternatives to criminalization will also be considered.

Required Text:

Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society,* 6th edition (Boston: McGraw-Hill 2005). Be sure you buy the 6th edition, available at Spartan bookstore or Robert's bookstore.

You will also need three of the narrow **scantron forms** during the semester, which can be purchased at any textbook store.

Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned reading and being prepared to discuss it in class. (Class participation helps your learning and your grade.)

During class, please make sure your cell phones and pagers are silent.

Your grade will be based on 3 exams (2 midterms and a final), 3 quizzes/in-class writing assignments, and class participation. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams: 100 points each, total of	300 points
Quizzes/in-class writing: 30 points each, total of	100 points
Class Participation:	25 points
	425 points

Your scores for each item will be added together, and your total points at the end of the semester will determine your grade. Final grades will be curved (you are measured against the performance of the rest of the class).

All **exams** are closed-book, closed-note. Exams will include multiple choice and short-answer questions. The exam format will be reviewed before each test. Exams will cover lectures, class discussions, videos and reading assignments. Some material discussed in class will not be in the readings; similarly, not everything discussed in the readings will be covered in class. Thus it is very important that you both keep up with the reading and attend class regularly. At the end of the semester, if you have taken both midterms and are unhappy with your score on one of them, you will be allowed to retake that exam on the make-up day (see below). Exams will be handed out only for the first 10 minutes of the class period in which the exam is being given. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam. This policy also applies to the final. The final begins at 9:45 AM, not at our regular class time.

The **quizzes and in-class writing assignments** will be related to the course material discussed in class on the day before or day of the quiz/assignment. Quizzes will be closed-book, closed-note, and in-class writing will be open-book and open-note. There will be no review for quizzes and in-class writing. The question or questions asked in quizzes will be straightforward and are designed to help you keep up with the reading and what is covered in class. The in-class writing will ask for your opinion about an issue or topic discussed in class, but will also expect you to link your opinion to the course material.

Exams and quizzes are designed to assess your mastery of the material and your critical thinking abilities; they do not intentionally include "trick" questions. If an exam or quiz question is unclear to you, please raise your hand and I will reword the question for you to try to make it clearer (obviously, I cannot define words or concepts if doing so would give away the answer).

You must take the **final exam** to pass the course. Students who do not take the final will receive an "F" or an "I" for the course, at the instructor's discretion, regardless of their class average prior to the final.

In accordance with University policy, students caught **cheating or plagiarizing** will also receive an "F" grade for the course. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will also be reported to the university for student conduct violations.

Note on extra credit assignments: Several extra credit (optional) assignments will be handed out during the semester. They will be in the form of 1-3 short questions asking for feedback or reactions to the topic in class that day. They will each be worth 5 points, for about 25 points

possible extra credit for the semester. They will not be announced ahead of time, and cannot be made up if missed.

Missed exams, quizzes and in-class writing:

Only one exam, quiz or writing assignment can be made up, and only if you have a good reason for missing it, such as a serious illness with physician's note. Make-up exams, quizzes and writing assignments are longer and involve more writing than the originals, but will cover the same material as the original. The make-up exam/quiz/writing day is the last day of class, and it is your responsibility to notify the professor that you intend to take a make-up, and which item you will be making up. Extra credit assignments **cannot** be made up.

If you have completed all the exams, quizzes and in-class writing, you will be allowed to retake **one** of them, if you choose, to try to improve your score. You may not retake an exam, quiz, or writing exercise if you missed any of these during the semester. If you do not need to make-up/retake any item, you do not need to come to class on the make-up day. There will be **no exceptions** to the missed exam policies.

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

I. An Overview of Drug Use

Week 1. Wednesday August 25: Introduction to course
No reading assignment

Week 2. Monday August 30, Wednesday September 1: Perspectives on Drugs and Society
Read for class: Chapters 1, 2

Week 3. [Monday September 6: Labor Day holiday – no class]
Wednesday September 8: Perspectives continued; History of U.S. Drug Use
Read for class: Chapter 4

Week 4. Monday September 13, Wednesday September 15: Theories of Drug Use
Read for class: Chapter 3
Quiz #1

Week 5. Monday September 20, Wednesday September 22: Drug Research and Reporting
Read for class: Chapters 5, 6

Week 6. Monday September 27: Review for Midterm
Wednesday September 29: Midterm Examination I - bring scantron, pencil and pen to class - exam covers readings & lectures for weeks 1-5

II. Specific Drugs and their Use

Week 7. Monday October 4, Wednesday October 6: Overall Drug Use Trends
Read for class: Chapter 7

Week 8. Monday October 11, Wednesday October 13: Legal Drugs
Read for class: Chapter 8

Week 9. Monday October 18, Wednesday October 20: Marijuana, Hallucinogens, Club Drugs
Read for class: Chapter 9
Quiz/in-class writing #2

Week 10. Monday October 25, Wednesday October 27: Stimulants; Narcotics
Read for class: Chapters 10, 11

Week 11. Monday November 1: Review for Midterm
Wednesday November 3: Midterm Examination II - bring scantron, pencil and pen to class - Exam covers readings and lectures for weeks 7-10

III. Drugs and Crime

Week 12. Monday November 8, Wednesday November 10: The Drugs-Crime Connection
Read for class: Chapter 12

Week 13. Monday November 15, Wednesday November 17: The Illegal Drug Trade
Read for class: Chapter 13

IV. Responses to Drug-related Social Problems

Week 14. Monday November 22: The War on Drugs, Drug Treatment, Drug Courts
[Wednesday November 24: No class]
Read for class: Chapter 14
Quiz/in-class writing #3

Week 15. Monday November 29, Wednesday December 1: Alternate Approaches: Legalization, Decriminalization, and Harm Reduction
Read for class: Chapter 15

Week 16. Monday December 6: Course Conclusion and Review for Final Exam
Wednesday December 8: Last Day of Class - **Makeup Exams Given. No lecture.**

FINAL EXAM: Wed., December 15, 9:45-noon, MH 523. Bring scantron, pencil and pen.

Note: If you want to know your **course grade** before it is posted by the university, bring a self-addressed, stamped postcard or envelope to the final and I will mail your course grade when I finish grading. To protect student privacy, grades cannot be given out by telephone or email.