

# Narcotics and Drug Abuse

## Course Syllabus

**Professor:** Ann Lucas, J.D., Ph.D.

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*Note: E-mail is the best way to reach me outside of class*

**Office Hours:** Mon., Wed. 9:15-10:30 AM

Wed. 3:00-5:30 PM

**Department Website:** <http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies> (this syllabus will be posted there)

**Class Meeting Times and Location:** Monday, Wednesday 1:30-2:45 PM, MacQuarrie Hall (MH) 523

**Course Description:** 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, and policy responses to drug abuse. 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.

**Prerequisite:** Upper division standing (junior or senior).

**Required Text:** Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (Boston: McGraw-Hill 2005). Be sure you buy the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, available at Spartan bookstore or Robert's bookstore. You will also need three of the narrow **scantron forms** (#882-E) during the semester, available at the same locations.

**Student Learning Objectives:** Successful completion of this course will enable students to appreciate and describe competing viewpoints about what is a "drug" and the difference between drug use and drug abuse; theories, causes and correlates of drug use, abuse and addiction; the history of drug use in America and current data on rates of use; key concepts used to analyze drug use in the United States; factors influencing media reporting about drugs and drug policy decisions; common misconceptions about drug use/abuse; empirical evidence about such topics as the "gateway theory," the drugs-crime connection, drug use and race; the major legal and illegal drugs used recreationally in the U.S., and their psychoactive properties; and the "War on Drugs" and alternative legal and social approaches to the drug problem.

### **Class Participation, Requirements, and Grading:**

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

**Participation:** 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. At the end of the semester, up to 15 points will be awarded for class participation. Points for class participation are given for your contribution to class discussions (questions, comments, criticisms, etc.), and *not* simply for attendance.

**Grading.** 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	90 points
Class Participation:	<u>15 points</u>
Total Points Possible:	405 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). Specifically, the person with the most points (excluding extra credit) will set the standard for the highest “A” grade. From there, grades will be calculated as follows:

Grades as % of highest total score:	93-100% A	83-86% B	70-74% C	0-54% F
	90-92% A-	80-82% B-	65-69% C-	
	87-89% B+	75-79% C+	55-64% D	

**Exams.** 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.

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.

**Quizzes/in-class writing.** The quizzes and in-class writing assignments will be related to the course material discussed in class the week of the quiz/assignment. Quizzes will be closed-book, closed-note, and in-class writing will be open-book, 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 class discussions. 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).

**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 up to 5 points. 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.

**Academic Integrity.** Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. In accordance with University policy, students caught cheating or plagiarizing will both *fail the entire course* and *be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer*. If you are considering a career in the criminal justice field, be aware that reports of cheating will go on your academic record and thus will be discovered by employers' background investigations of job candidates.

For more information on what constitutes cheating and plagiarism, take the SJSU Library tutorial at <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/index.htm>

See the university's policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.sjsu.edu/leap/plagiar.htm>

**Instructor assistance:** If you are having problems understanding the material or performing well on exams and assignments, please see me during my office hours. If my office hours are inconvenient for you, please see me after class and we can make an appointment to meet or agree to discuss your concerns by phone or email. You are also welcome to see me in office hours if you simply want to discuss the material, need JS major advising, or seek pre-law or pre-graduate advising. As noted above, the best way to reach me outside of class is by email; on weekdays you should receive a response within 24 hours. Because I am not on campus every day, there is often a longer delay in responding to phone messages.

**Students with disabilities:** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible. University policy (Presidential Directive 97-03) requires that students with disabilities must register with SJSU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to establish a record of their disability. The DRC will work with you to determine the disability, document it, and determine the services and accommodations necessary for your success. The DRC may also contact me to determine the types of consideration necessary. Students must register with the Center during the first three weeks of the semester. The DRC Web site: <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/>

**Classroom Behavior:** In addition to regular attendance, students are expected to behave appropriately in the classroom, to maintain an environment conducive to learning. This includes arriving on time, keeping cell phones off or silent, avoiding disruptive behavior such as chatting during lectures, and avoiding cheating and plagiarism. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express their own opinions during class, but are expected to show respect for one another even when they disagree.

## Course Outline, Reading Assignments, and Exams

### **I. An Overview of American Drug Use - Myths and Realities, Theory and History**

- Week 1. Wednesday August 24: Introduction to course  
*No reading assignment*
- Week 2. Monday August 29-Wednesday August 31: Perspectives on Drugs and Society  
*Read for class: Chapters 1, 2*
- Week 3. [Monday September 5: Labor Day holiday – no class]  
Wednesday September 7: Perspectives continued  
*No new reading assignment*  
Quiz #1 Wednesday
- Week 4. Monday September 12-Wednesday September 14: History of U.S. Drug Use  
*Read for class: Chapter 4*
- Week 5. Monday September 19-Wednesday September 21: Theories of Drug Use  
*Read for class: Chapter 3*
- Week 6. Monday September 26-Wednesday September 28: Media Accounts Relating to Drugs  
*Read for class: Chapter 5*
- Week 7. Monday October 3-Wednesday October 5: Exam Review and First Midterm

<p><b>First Midterm Exam: Wednesday October 5</b></p>
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<p>bring scantron, pencil and pen to class - exam covers readings &amp; lectures for weeks 1-6</p>
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### **II. Specific Drugs and their Use**

- Week 8. Monday October 10-Wednesday October 12: Overall Drug Use Trends  
*Read for class: Chapter 7*
- Week 9. Monday October 17-Wednesday October 19: Legal Drugs  
*Read for class: Chapter 8*
- Week 10. Monday October 24-Wednesday October 26: Marijuana, Hallucinogens, Club Drugs  
*Read for class: Chapter 9*  
Quiz/in-class writing #2 Monday
- Week 11. Monday October 31-Wednesday November 2: Stimulants; Narcotics  
*Read for class: Chapters 10, 11*

Week 12. Monday November 7-Wednesday November 9: Exam Review and Second Midterm

**Second Midterm Exam: Wednesday November 9**  
bring scantron, pencil and pen to class - Exam covers readings and lectures for weeks 7-10

### III. Drug-related Social Problems and Policy Responses

Week 13. Monday November 14-Wednesday November 16: The Drugs-Crime Connection  
*Read for class:* Chapter 12

Week 14. Monday November 21: The War on Drugs, Drug Treatment, Drug Courts  
[Wednesday November 23: No class]  
*Read for class:* Chapter 14  
Quiz/in-class writing #3

Week 15. Monday November 28-Wednesday November 30: Alternate Approaches:  
Legalization, Decriminalization, and Harm Reduction  
*Read for class:* Chapter 15

Week 16. Monday December 5: The Illegal Drug Trade; Course Conclusion and Final Exam Review  
*Read for class:* Chapter 13

Wednesday December 7: Last Day of Class - **Makeup Exams Given. No lecture.**

**FINAL EXAMINATION: Wednesday, December 14, 12:15-2:30 PM, MH 523.**  
Bring scantron, pencil and pen. (Envelope/postcard optional - see below.)

**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.