

San José State University
Department of Justice Studies
Fall 2016
JS 122, “Drugs and Society”, Section 01

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	William Armaline, Ph.D.
Office Location:	MH 513
Telephone:	(408) 924-2935
Email:	william.armaline@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Classroom:	MH 523

Course Description

From Catalog: “Examines the physiological effects of psychoactive drugs; history of legal and illegal drug use; causes and rates of use and addiction; drugs in the media; drug-related crime and violence; criminalization, decriminalization, legalization, harm reduction; drug courts; drug treatment.”

This is not a course on pharmacology. Though we will discuss the physical properties and physiological/psychological “effects” of various substances throughout the course, this is not of central concern. As noted in the title, we will examine the historical and contemporary relationship between human societies and mind/body altering substances (“drugs”). In modern societies, this relationship is largely shaped through the social construction of deviant and normal “drug use,” including the (il)legality and (il)legitimacy of particular substances and their use. We will *critically* investigate the national (U.S.) and global “War on Drugs,” its effects, and alternative approaches to defining and addressing social problems that arise from the use and/or trade of mind/body altering substances.

Students will be encouraged to grapple with questions such as:

- What makes particular drugs (il)legal? Who decides?
- Who are the consistent winners and losers in the “war on drugs”?
- What interests and social forces drive policy concerning legal and illegal mind/body altering substances?
- How could we describe our historical connection to various mind/body altering substances (for example: cannabis, the poppy plant, etc.)?
- How do large corporations and private interests shape the relationship between “drugs and society”?
- How has the criminalization of particular substances in the U.S. been inextricably linked to the construction of race and racism?
- What are the connections between the global drug trade and the business of warfare?

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (CLO1) Demonstrate a theoretical understanding of the social construction of deviance, normalcy, and crime. They should be able to define and apply these concepts in the interpretation of current events and social phenomena.
- (CLO2) Demonstrate a reasonable (empirical) understanding of the development of the US and global “war on drugs.” Specifically, students should be able to discuss and recognize the key “moral entrepreneurs,” private interests, and public stakeholders involved in the creation and perpetuation of the drug war.
- (CLO3) Explain the historical and contemporary connections between the criminalization of illicit substances and the exploitive (by definition) systems of racism and capitalism.
- (CLO4) Recognize and discuss various connections between the trade of illicit substances and the business of warfare.
- (CLO5) Recognize and discuss the historical and contemporary power of pharmaceutical corporations in constructing the relationship between “drugs and society.”

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

None. All readings and materials will be provided by the instructor as emailed PDF files. Should you have any problems obtaining reading materials throughout the course, please email the instructor for assistance.

Other Readings and Materials

All readings will be distributed by the instructor as emailed PDF files. Assigned films will be distributed as files and links via email.

Library Liaison

For help with library resources and library research (including the use of databases and online research materials—such as journal search engines), students are strongly encouraged to contact the Justice Studies Library Liaison: Silke Higgins, silke.higgins@sjsu.edu, (408)808-2118.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Readings and Quizzes

Since this is a course requiring significant class discussion of course readings, films, and materials, it is expected that students complete these assignments on time. To ensure this is the case, students will be required to complete occasional in-class quizzes based on major reading and film assignments. Quizzes will be relatively short and simple, requiring students to answer 1-3 short answer questions. Quizzes will be graded based on the depth and accuracy of student responses. They will count for **20%** of the final course grade.

CLOs 1-5 will be assessed through class discussion and these course quizzes.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Mid Term and Final Exams

There will be two exams in this course (midterm and final). Both exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions covering all course materials. Both the mid-term and final exams will count for 40% of the final course grade each (**2 exams x 40% = 80% of total grade**). There will be a review session and review guide for each exam, and we will be sure to discuss exams more throughout the semester at appropriate times. DRC students, and others

with special needs should contact the instructor in the first two weeks of class to make any necessary arrangements for exams or note-takers.

CLO's 1-5 will be assessed at length through the midterm and final exams.

Please note: Mid-Term and Final Exams will not be rescheduled for anything short of an absolute emergency (documentation needed). An unannounced and/or unexcused absence (even if ill, one should email the instructor *before* exam time) will result in a zero on that particular exam.

Grading Information

All grades are up to the subjective judgment of the instructor. Grades will be calculated from a weighted point system. There are no "curves" applied to grades in this course.

Important Note: Students in Justice Studies must achieve a "C" or better in this course to fulfill Justice Studies Major Requirements.

Students may complete as much **extra credit** as they like in this course. In addition to attending select events (will be announced by the instructor), students interested in completing extra credit assignments should see the instructor to "pitch" their ideas and completion date.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
In-Class Quizzes	20%
Mid-Term Exam	40%
Final Exam (not cumulative)	40%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

Exams and final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "10 point scale":

98-100%	A+
94-97	A
90-93	A-
88-89	B+
84-87	B
80-83	B-
78-79	C+
74-77	C
70-73	C-
68-69	D+
64-67	D
60-63	D-
<60	F

Classroom Protocol

1. This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
2. All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages participation, rather than silencing others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).

3. Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
4. Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.
5. Cell phone, PDA, and Laptop/Internet use will not be tolerated during class time unless they are part of class activities or necessary to field an emergency.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

JS 122: “Drugs and Society,” Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change with fair notice by the instructor via email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1		
1	8/24	Course introduction, explanation of syllabus
2	8/29	Drugs from a Sociological vs. Pharmacological perspective; <i>Read Goode chaps 1 and 2</i> [email chaps, review questions, and Becker readings]
2	8/31	The social construction of crime and deviance; <i>Read Becker</i>
3	9/5	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY
3	9/7	The Moral Entrepreneur [email all Gray review questions]
4	9/12	Considering prohibition and the modern illicit drug market(s); <i>Read chaps 1-3 in Gray</i>
4	9/14	In-Class Film/Materials: Prohibition
5	9/19	A theoretical primer on race and racism in the U.S. pt. I
5	9/21	Race and Racism pt. II
6	9/26	Racism and the courts—a closer look; <i>Read excerpts from Van Cleve (Crook County)</i>
6	9/28	Power, Bureaucracy, and the State
7	10/3	Discussion of Gray text; <i>Read Gray chaps 4-end</i>
7	10/5	Midterm Exam Review
8	10/10	Midterm Exam [email link to <i>American Drug War</i> , Iran Contra guide]
8	10/12	Iran Contra 101; <i>Watch American Drug War (as an assignment)</i>
9	10/17	Discuss <i>American Drug War</i>
9	10/19	What is a Narco state?
10	10/24	The Drug War in North America (Mexico) and the “missing 43”; <i>Watch documentary and read distributed materials TBA</i>
10	10/26	The Drug War in North America (Central America); <i>Materials TBA</i>
11	10/31	Afghanistan, the opium trade, and the “War on Terror”; <i>Materials TBA</i>
11	11/2	Big Pharma; <i>Watch “Big Bucks, Big Pharma”</i>
12	11/7	Big pharma and the “new” opiate epidemics
12	11/9	The Medical Marijuana / Legalization of Cannabis movement in the U.S.
13	11/14	Policy Solutions: Looking at the 2011 Global Commission report and 2016

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		meetings of the U.N.; <i>Read Global Commission Report Exec. Summary</i>
13	11/16	International Policy Solutions continued: Case examples
14	11/21	NO CLASS—LIBRARY DAY for HR report back assignments
14	11/23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
15	11/28	Policy Solutions: Criminal justice reform
15	11/30	TBA
16	12/5, 12/7, 12/12	12/5: TBA 12/07: TBA 12/12: FINAL EXAM REVIEW
Final Exam	Wed. 12/14	Final Exam on Wednesday 12/14 9:45-12:00 in MH 523