

DRUGS IN SOCIETAL CONTEXT (SO-435, 535)

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OBJECTIVES

This course has three specific goals:

1. *Empowerment*: to teach you how to think social scientifically and critically about how drugs function in human social life.
2. *Enlightenment*: to increase understanding of the 'drug problem' by reducing ethnocentricity, ignorance and paranoia about drugs and drug users.
3. *Policy*: to increase your increase your awareness of political debates in the area of drug policy.

By the end of this course, you should have a much better knowledge of the concepts sociologists have developed to interpret drug use and its social effects as well as current research in the field. You should also know a great deal more about specific drugs such as alcohol and tobacco, antidepressants, psychedelics, cocaine, speed, and the narcotics. And finally you should know more about current drug policy.

REQUIREMENTS

You should complete all assigned readings, take good lecture notes, and take the deadlines as scheduled below. Course grades depend on how you perform on the two midterms and the final examination, each worth 25% of your course grade. Each examination includes multiple-choice and essay questions covering lectures and required readings. In addition, each student should select one of the bundled sets of Optional Readings listed below under and write a critical review that identifies the authors' perspectives on drugs.

REQUIRED READINGS

Goode, Erich, *Drugs in American Society, Sixth Edition* (McGraw-Hill, 2005)

Ksir, Charles, Carl Hart, and Oakley Ray, *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior, Eleventh Edition* (McGraw-Hill, 2006)

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

DATES (for week of)	TOPICS	READINGS

	CONCEPTS	
Jan. 10	'Drugs'	G 1,2
Jan. 17-31	Power / Knowledge	G 4,5
Feb. 7	Midterm #1	
	RESISTANCE	
Feb. 14	Theory	G 3
Feb. 21	Surveillance	G 6,7
Feb. 28	Drugs-Crime	G 12
Mar. 7	Drugs-Business	G 13
Mar. 14	Midterm #2	
Mar. 21	<i>Spring Vacation</i>	
.	RECREATION	
Mar. 28	Legal Drugs	G 8
Apr. 4	Psychedelics	G 9
Apr. 11	Cocaine	G 10
Apr. 18	Opium	G 11
.	POLICY	
Apr. 25	Drug Control	G 14
May 2	Policy	G 15
May 9	Final Examination	M 1:00-3:00

