

SDS 3481 – Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Fall 2007, Section 0913

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Office Hours: Wednesday 8 -10:30AM, or by appointment.

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Required Text:

Ksir, C., Hart, C. L., & Ray, O. (2008). *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior*, (12th ed.) New York: McGraw-Hill.

Required Journal Readings: (available through UF library E-Reserves)

Legrand, L. N., Iacono, W. G., & McGue, M. (2005). Predicting addiction: Behavioral genetics uses twins and time to decipher the origins of addiction and learn who is most vulnerable. *American Scientist*, 93(2), 140-147.

Office of National Drug Control Policy (2004). Marijuana & the truth behind 10 popular misperceptions. Retrieved August 5, 2007, from http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/marijuana_myths_facts/marijuana_myths_facts.pdf

Sullum, J. (2003). The surprising truth about heroin and addiction, *Reason*, 35, 32-40.

Recommended Text:

Goldberg, Raymond. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Drugs and Society*, 7th Edition. McGraw Hill, USA, 2006.

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the physiological, psychological, and sociological effects of legal and illegal drugs. We will examine issues related to drug use such as the interaction of drugs with the brain and body, the psychology of drug use, theories of addiction, and the role of drugs in society today. The goal of the class is to provide information so that individuals can make informed decisions concerning future behaviors. To accomplish this goal, we will use a variety of learning techniques including videos, lectures, guest speakers, debates, and other methods as warranted.

Students' Commitment

I expect each student to come to class prepared to be actively involved in daily activities. While there will be information that you must all learn, I expect each of you to form your own opinions and to express them in class, through the written assignments that you will complete. This class is meant not only to provide each of you with information about the subject, but to also give you the opportunity to think critically about the information we will cover. You are all college students with the ability to do this, and it will be an expectation throughout the semester.

Instructor's Commitment

As your instructor, I am committed to your success in this class. This means that I will be available for you during office hours (unless otherwise notified in advance), by appointment, and at other times throughout the semester. I will respond to e-mail in a timely manner.

Classroom Etiquette

In order to create an environment where we may all learn from one another, there are certain basic standards of classroom civility that we need to adhere. Civility does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community. Classroom civility does, however, include the following:

- 1) Participating in lectures, group activities, and other classroom exercises.
- 2) Avoiding unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, reading newspapers, and doing work for other classes.
- 3) Refraining from racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our classroom community.

These elements of classroom civility do not compromise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal behaviors that help to make the classroom a pleasant place for all of us. In this class (both face-to-face interaction and computer mediated interaction) the expectation is of mutual respect. I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade if you engage in behavior that significantly disrupts the learning environment for your classmates. I also reserve the right to remove anyone from the classroom who is disruptive.

Additionally:

- We will dismiss class when the class activities are finished for the day. Please refrain from “packing up” before we are officially through. Rarely will we go overtime. Occasionally we will finish early. If you absolutely must leave during class, please leave in a way that does not disrupt the flow of the class.
- Turn off pagers and cell phones (or place on silent mode) prior to the start of class. If there is an emergency situation for which you need to be reachable during class, place your cell phones or pagers on vibrate mode. If they go off, leave the class to take the call. Please only respond to cell phones or pagers if there is a true emergency.
- Laptops are welcomed for note-taking. However, do not check email, write letters, or surf the web during class. The same applies to reading newspapers, mail from home, or engaging in other tasks that are not class-related.

Properly dispose of trash and arrange desks/chairs in rows before leaving the room.

Email

E-mail is appropriate when used to schedule an appointment, notify me of an absence or tardiness, or for short questions clarifying class assignments or specific items from the lecture. Please do not email me the following:

- Any kind of Internet jokes, chain letters, junk email, etc.

- Requests for my lecture notes or if you “missed anything” when you miss class. It is your responsibility to attend class and take notes on the lecture or obtain them from a classmate.
- Questions about grades; or
- Anything else you would not be willing to communicate to me in person.

Email is not a substitute for meeting with me. Office visits are the best place to ask in-depth questions about the material, to discuss issues relating to the class, and to discuss any other special concerns pertaining to your class performance.

For email correspondence, please include SDS 3481 and a specific and concise description of the nature of the email in the subject line. Do not expect an immediate response via email. I will try to return all emails within 48 hours unless I am out of town.

Attendance

I expect that you will be on time and stay for the entire class period. People constantly walking in and out of class while in-session is a distraction and disrespectful of your classmates. If you must arrive late, please enter in the rear of the class and find a seat in that area. Although I have no penalty assessed for missing classes, there is an incentive for attending classes. First, I do not provide notes for students who miss lectures. Also, I do not put notes or presentations on the web. In addition, there will be speakers invited to present to the class, the content of those lectures used when I create the exams.

Per the University, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, participation in official university activities, and court-imposed legal obligations. *Computer malfunctions do not qualify as acceptable emergencies.* Participation in official university activities, special curricular requirements, military duty, and court-imposed legal obligations will be excused with official documentation from appropriate faculty/staff member or proper authority. Documentation should be received **PRIOR** to the event. Observances of religious holidays require notification in writing no later than the **second class meeting** so that appropriate accommodations may be made. Absences due to medical reasons are excused with appropriate documentations from a health care provider. You must contact me ASAP before or soon after the missed class meeting. Family emergencies are excused with appropriate written documentation. Again, contact me ASAP before or soon after the missed class meeting.

Academic Integrity

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be considered a violation of the University of Florida Student Honor Code. You signed a document upon enrolling at the University of Florida which includes the following: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized help in doing this assignment."* Violations of the code will be handled as outlined in the student handbook. For more information about the University of Florida Academic Integrity policy go to <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>

ADA Statement

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides individual assistance to students with documented disabilities based upon the need and impact of the special disability. There is no requirement for you to self-identify your disability; however, if you have a special need that may require an accommodation or assistance, you must first register with DRC located at 001 Reid Hall (south side ground floor), 392-8565 (voice)/392-3008 (TCC). The office will provide you with an accommodation letter, which you must then bring to me when requesting accommodation(s). Please provide this document to me as soon as possible, preferably no later than the end of the **second** class meeting.

Graded Assignments

Assignments are **DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS MEETING** on the **dates outlined in the syllabus**. All work turned in, including written assignments, extra credit, etc. must have the following information included to ensure proper recording of grades: name, student ID, date, and e-mail address. All graded and recorded work will be returned to you as soon as possible. **Please hold on to all returned assignments in case of any disputed grades.**

Late Assignments and Make-up Policy

Assignments are considered late if they are not turned in at the start of class. A letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. **There are no make-ups in this class without a documented excuse. There will be no make-up exams; however students will be allowed to drop one exam.** The best two out of three exam grades will be counted towards final grade.

Grading and Evaluation

Grades will be based upon the total number of points accumulated for performance on Exams, Participation and Written Assignments.

Point Distribution:

Assignment	Possible Points
Exams (2)	200
Participation	25
Research Paper	100
Personal Experience Paper or AA/NA Meeting (This assignment is optional)	25

Total: 350

Exams

There will be three (3) exams administered during the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points. You will be able to drop the lowest test therefore only 200 points can be earned from exams. **There will be no scaling of exams.** Exam questions will come from assigned readings in the textbook and materials from lectures, any guest speakers or videotapes. Each test is non-cumulative covering only the material since the last test.

Participation

Participation is an essential component of your experience in this class. Participation points will be given based on both your attendance and your willingness to take an active role in both class and group discussions. Attendance will also be considered in the amount of points you receive for participation.

Readings

Your reading assignments are included in the course schedule. Assigned material serves as background for topics covered in class. Some of the required readings are journals and articles available on the web. Journals will be available on the library course reserves found through the main page of the library website (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu>). Other web pages may be located by the address provided next to the assigned reading.

As the lectures and group discussions will be based in part on the assigned readings, you are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to class. A portion of your participation grade will be based on your ability to articulate the concepts of the readings during class. In addition, the course exams will be based largely on the readings. You are responsible for knowing this material even if it is not covered in lecture. I suggest that you bring your textbook to class just in case you need to reference it for in-class activities.

Written Assignment

Social Issues pertaining to Drugs (option 1)

Select a ***controversial*** social policy issue which pertains to alcohol or substance use and write a **1500 - 2000 word paper** which explores *at least two sides* of the issue. Make sure that you state your personal position on this issue and the rationale for taking this position. Be sure to use at least **five (5) REFEREED references** (include Reference page) beyond the class text. Examples of topics include some of the following: legalization of marijuana or other illicit drugs, needle exchange programs, mandatory sentencing for illegal drug users, drug prevention and/or education, steroid/supplement use in athletics, drug and alcohol use on college campuses, adolescent substance abuse, or any other related topic which you are interested in and is approved by the instructor. Examples of REFEREED sources include empirical articles from scholarly journals obtained through searching ERIC or other appropriate UF databases, books or articles recognized by the profession to be refereed and professional presentations given at conferences. **NOTE:** most Google, Yahoo, Wikipedia, Lexis-Nexis, Erowid and other general web-based searches DO NOT yield refereed material and you will NOT get credit for using these unless you have already met the five (5) refereed reference requirement for the paper.

Drug Research Paper (option 2)

Select one of the drugs we have studied in class (or other with instructor approval) and prepare 1500 - 2000 word page research paper on this drug. Information on the drug should include the physiological (body & brain), psychological, sociological, historical, legal, and other issues and opinions you wish to present concerning the drug. You must include at least five (5) REFEREED reference sources within your paper (include Reference page) beyond your textbook, as stated in the preceding section.

Extra Credit (Up to 25 points)

Personal Experience Paper: (Option 1) Write a 750+ word paper discussing your own personal experiences with alcohol and/or drugs. The assignment is designed to raise your awareness concerning the direct and indirect influences these substances have had upon you. If you have never used drugs or alcohol or have limited exposure, you may write about experiences you have observed with either friends or family. Your grade will not be influenced by personal information contained in the paper, but rather the quality and effort of the reflections portrayed. The important aspect of this paper is to link your past experiences to your present attitudes and/or behaviors. This assignment will be kept confidential and will only be read by the instructor. Papers will be returned in a manner that is also confidential and respectful of your personal privacy.

Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous Meeting: (Option 2) Find out about a local AA or NA meeting (or other similar support group), and attend as an observer. Write a 750+ word reaction to your experience. Include in your reflections how you think that these types of meetings may or may not be helpful to members. What factors make this program desirable and successful for so many people? You can find out about meeting times and dates by calling the local chapter of AA or NA (numbers are listed in the phone book and in the Sunday paper, under "Support Groups"). Make sure you attend a meeting that allows "visitors" (some meetings are closed to only those who believe they have a problem with drugs and/or alcohol). Appropriate meetings for visitors are often designated as "Open" meetings, but you can ask a representative about the appropriateness of attending.

***Out of respect for AA/NA members, please do not attend 12-step meetings with friends or classmates. This assignment should be completed on your own.*

Course Schedule

**This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion*

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/ ASIGNMENTS DUE (readings should be done before class)
8/27	Class Overview Syllabus Review	Chapter 1
8/29	Drug Use: An Overview	

9/3	<u>Labor Day</u> <u>No Class</u>	
9/5	Guest Speaker: Tavis Glassman	Chapter 2
9/10	Drug Use as a Social Problem	
9/12	Guest Speaker – Paul Doering	Chapter 3
9/17	Drug Products and Their Regulations	Chapter 4
9/19	The Nervous System	Chapter 5
9/24	The Actions of Drugs Review for Exam	
9/26	Exam #1	
10/1	Guest Speaker – Dr. Rafael Harris	Chapter 6
10/3	Stimulants	Chapter 7

10/8	Depressants and Inhalants	
10/10	Video – War on Meth	Chapter 9
10/15	Alcohol	Chapter 13
10/17	Opioids	Chapter 14
10/22	Hallucinogens	Chapter 15
10/24	Marijuana	
10/29	Guest Speaker Norml Exam Review	Chapter 16
10/31	Performance-Enhancing Drugs	
11/5	Exam II	
11/7	Video-Intervention	
11/12	Guest Speaker UPD	Chapter 17
11/14	Preventing Substance Abuse	

11/19	Video – Intervention	
11/21	Guest Speaker – Corner Drug Store	Chapter 18
11/26	Substance Abuse and Dependence	Extra Credit Due
11/28		Written Assignment Due
12/3		
12/5		Final Exam