

CRIJ 3344 – Drugs, Alcohol and Society

Fall 2022

University of Texas at Tyler

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00am-12:00pm by appointment (in person or Zoom)

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Course Description

This course will introduce you to the scholarly study of alcohol and drugs. Students will have an opportunity to become familiar with drug discourse and effects, as well as drug history and drug policy in American society. This course will take a multidisciplinary approach that will help students understand the substances' physiological and sociological effects and critically evaluate the policies, as well as their evolution, put into place to regulate/prohibit their use. A goal of this course is to help students develop into more informed consumers of drug-related information. Students should not only understand *what* policies are in place, but also *why* they exist and how they came to exist. This should help them to think critically about drug issues, drug prohibitions, allowed usage, and regimens for drug control.

Course Objectives: At the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- 1) Describe the history of drug and alcohol use in American culture
- 2) Identify the major controversies surrounding drug and alcohol use in the U.S.
- 3) Honestly and intelligently assess the usefulness and progress of the “War on Drugs.”
- 4) Explain why it may be difficult for political leaders to initiate changes in drug policy.
- 5) Intelligently argue in favor of policy shifts to better address the “drug problem.”

Course Materials:

- 1) Hanson, Glen R., Venturelli, Peter J., and Fleckenstein, Annette E. (2014). *Drugs and Society, 12th Edition*. Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284036374 **(REQUIRED)**.
- 2) A reliable Internet connection so you can access the class content and materials at the course website found at www.uttyler.edu/canvas.

Course Policies

COVID Policies: It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.

Class Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner, both in their interactions with other students and with the professor. This class is an exercise in professionalism in the workplace. As you are preparing to enter into the workforce (you may even be there already), it is important that you treat this class as though it were your job. Late work and poor attitudes are not acceptable in this class or any other. Please be respectful of others' opinions and experiences, and do not be aggressive or combative over the topics being discussed in the course.

Course Grade: Your course grade for the semester is dependent on the work that you put into the class. I do not give grades, you earn grades. Also, I do not provide a curve or offer extra credit at the end of the semester. **Please do not ask for extra points at the end of the semester that would boost you to the next letter grade – they will not be given.**

This semester will be broken up into three units; each of which will conclude with an exam. You will be responsible for the assigned readings. I wouldn't recommend missing class as there is always some information you will only receive during lecture.

Course Exams and Assignments

Exams: This semester you will have three exams that will test your knowledge and ability to apply the concepts learned in class. Each exam will be worth 100 points toward your final grade. The exam format will include multiple choice and true/false questions. In addition, you will have short answer responses that you will be required to complete.

Be sure to read the book and learn to apply in-class concepts to various scenarios. This includes learning key words and ideas and being able to apply them. Makeup exams will only be given with a medical note to excuse the student, and if the professor is informed within 2 days of the exam that the student is ill. I do not allow students to make up exams simply because they forgot or were unprepared.

Final Exam Exemption: This semester, I will allow for select students to be exempt from taking the third and final exam in this class. In order to qualify for this exemption, you must have an overall course grade of 85% by Week 14. I will not round up for this reward system. You must have an 85% on your own merit. If you have an 85% or higher in the class, you can still choose to take the final exam in order to increase your overall course grade. However, if you do not perform well on the final exam, please note that your grade can still go down.

At that point, I will email students individually through Canvas to let you know if you are eligible for the exemption. This means you do not have to take the third exam and there will be no penalty. You may still take the exam if you so desire, but if you have met the qualifications listed above you do not have to take the third exam in this course. Please do not assume that you are exempt until you specifically receive an email from me stating that you are exempt. **The third and final exam will take place during Week 15 of the semester. Even if you are exempt from taking the exam, you still must complete the regularly scheduled work for the week in order to remain exempt.**

Online Reading Quizzes: Each reading quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice/true-false questions derived from the text. This will assess how well you are reading the chapters and digesting the information. Reading quizzes will be worth 10 points per quiz and cannot be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances. There is one reading quiz for every chapter covered this semester, and will occur on a weekly basis. There will be 3 attempts for each quiz, and the highest score will be recorded in the gradebook.

Activities: Each week you will be required to complete an in-class activity or an online activity that corresponds with the materials presented in lecture for the week. In-class activities will be completed individually or as a group. You will be provided with instructions for each activity, and they will differ based on what is required for the week. Each activity, no matter the assignment, will be worth 10 points toward your final grade. Please refer to the course schedule to see the format in which these activities will take place.

Attendance: Each class session attendance will be taken. You will be allowed up to 3 unexcused absences before points will be deducted from the attendance grade. One point will be deducted for each absence.

Grading Scale:

Your grade will consist of points awarded to the successful completion of the following components:

- Syllabus quiz 20 points
- Plagiarism tutorial 20 points
- Attendance 20 points
- 3 exams (100 points each) 300 points
- Online reading quizzes (10 points each) 120 points
- F2F module activities (10 points each) 120 points

600 total points

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

Total Points	Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points
600 – 540	100 – 90%	A	4.0
539 – 480	89.9 – 80%	B	3.0
479 – 420	79.9 – 70%	C	2.0
419 – 360	69.9 – 60%	D	1.0
359 – below	59.9% and below	F	0.0

Additional Policies

Late Assignment Policy

As a general rule, I do not accept late assignments. I never spring any last-minute assignments on you – from the first day of class, you will know what is due and when it is due to me. It is up to you to plan accordingly as you have ample time to complete these assignments. If you do not turn in your assignments on time, it is a zero in the gradebook and I will not grade the assignment. If you have a documented excuse (death in the family, illness, car accident, etc...),

you must inform me of your situation within 2 days of the missed assignment and it is mandatory for you to provide documentation to me in order to be eligible for a make-up. Please note that having to work is not an excused absence. While I am sympathetic and understanding to your work schedule, you have made a choice to enroll in this class and it must be considered a priority. First responders and military personnel will receive exemptions from the work policy in this class on an individual basis.

Email Policy

I like to keep open lanes of communication between students and myself. If you need to ask any questions or discuss anything class related, please do not hesitate to email through Canvas. Please include CRIJ 3344 in the subject line so I know that it is class related. While you may email me through Canvas, please do not leave comments in the assignments themselves. I do not go back and check for those. My preferred method of contact is through Canvas, please try that first.

You are responsible for checking your email daily. I frequently email students individually or as a group – if I send you an email, I assume that you have read it and are informed with the message. It is a pet peeve of mine when students do not check their email – I will not hound you trying to get you to reply to my emails. At most, I will send you two emails and if I do not have a response in a reasonable amount of time then I will assume you have chosen not to reply to me, and I will act accordingly.

Instructor Expectations

Just as I have certain expectations of you, you should have certain expectations of me. I will be available by appointment and if I am unavailable, you will be notified. If you email me, you will receive a response within 48 hours during the business week and business hours. Email responses during late hours and the weekend are not a guarantee, so last-minute questions for assignments may not receive answers if they are sent during those times. As for grading, you will receive feedback on all assignments. Please do not email within a day or two of the assignment submission looking for a graded assignment. If there is a technological issue, please get in touch with the university IT department. I am unable to fix Canvas issues that are system based.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

University Policies and Information

Please see the section on **University Policies and Information** in Canvas for all relevant university policies, information, and student rights and responsibilities.

Fall 2022 Semester Schedule

	Date	Topic	Due Sundays at 11:59pm
Module 1	8/21 – 8/27	Syllabus Chapter 1: Introduction to Drugs and Society	Online Syllabus Quiz Online Plagiarism Tutorial Chapter 1 Online Reading Quiz
Module 2	8/28 – 9/3	Chapter 3: Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law	Chapter 3 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity: Drug Scheduling
Module 3	9/4 – 9/10	Chapter 5: How and Why Drugs Work	Chapter 5 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Body Parts and Drug Use
Module 4	9/11 – 9/17	Chapter 6: CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics	Chapter 6 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Pharmaceutical Advertisement Exam 1
Module 5	9/18 – 9/24	Chapter 7: Alcohol, Pharmacological Effects	Chapter 7 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity
Module 6	9/25 – 10/1	Chapter 8: Alcohol, Behavioral Effects	Chapter 8 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Binge Drinking Campaign

Module 7	10/2 – 10/8	Chapter 9: Narcotics	Chapter 9 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Opioid Timeline
Module 8	10/9 – 10/15	Chapter 10: Stimulants	Chapter 10 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Cocaine Venn Diagram Exam 2
Module 9	10/16 – 10/22	Chapter 11: Tobacco	Chapter 11 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Tobacco Industry Timeline
Module 10	10/23 – 10/29	Chapter 12: Hallucinogens	Chapter 12 Online Reading Quiz Activity: “The Man Who Turned on America”
Module 11	10/30 – 11/5	Chapter 13: Marijuana	Chapter 13 Online Reading Quiz In-Class Activity
Module 12	11/6 – 11/12	Chapter 13: Marijuana	Activity: “Reefer Madness”
Module 13	11/13 – 11/19	Chapter 15: Over-the-Counter, Prescription, and Herbal Drugs	Chapter 15 Online Reading Quiz Activity: Dissecting Pharmaceutical Advertisements
Module 14	11/20 – 11/26	No New Material	Happy Thanksgiving!

Module 15	11/27 – 12/3	Review Week	Exam 3
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* Please note that this course schedule is tentative and could change at the discretion of the professor. If changes do occur, you will be notified and an updated version of the syllabus will be uploaded to Canvas.