

SPRING 2025

CCJ 4934 Drugs In America (class number: 24579)

Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law

University of Florida

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Dr. Gibson's Office Hours:

M,W,F 4pm -5pm (Available also by appointment & zoom)

Course Lecture (Days and Times):

M,W,F 12:50pm - 1:40pm (Room: McCarty Hall B 2102)

Required Texts:

Goode, Erich. (2023) Drugs in American Society (11 edition). McGraw Hill.

Macy, Beth. (2018). DOPESICK: Dealers, doctors, and the drug company that addicted America. Back Bay Books.

Course Description

Drugs in America is a holistic introduction to drugs and drug use in the United States. We begin by examining definitions and classifications of drugs and patterns of drug consumption in the United States. Drugs are examined from a historical lens through the latest drug use trends. Topics to be discussed include federal and state-level drug policy in the United States, drug dealers and drug trafficking, the "War on Drugs", drug offenders and the U.S. criminal justice system, as well as evidenced-based drug treatment and prevention programs. Special topics will include decriminalization and mainstreaming of marijuana, as well as the opioid epidemic in the United States. Empirical research on drug policy, drug use, and the effects drug use has on individual life trajectories, families, and communities is highlighted throughout the course.

Course Objectives

1. Identify, describe, and explain key concepts and theories on drugs and drug use
2. Become an informed consumer of research on drugs and drug use
3. Develop understanding of historical perspectives on drugs, drug policy, and drug use in the United States
4. Develop understanding of state and federal laws on drugs and drug use.
5. Distinguish between evidence-based effective drug prevention and treatment programs from those that show no reliable evidence of success.

Material

Required readings for each week are listed in the course outline. Additional readings may be required as the course progresses, and these will always be announced and posted electronically in the course modules on canvas.

Expectations

What can you expect from me?

1. Be interested and passionate about the course material
2. Help you understand the applicability of material to modern approaches in drug prevention, policy, and the criminal justice system
3. Challenge you to think critically
4. Start and end class on time

What will I expect from you?

1. Attend class and show up on time
2. Finish readings prior to lecture and take complete notes
3. Complete all assignments on time
4. For success in most college courses, a student should put in 2 hours outside of class for each hour spent in class.

Course Policies and Etiquette

Course Policies

1. Upon entering class, please silence all cell phones, Ipods, Ipads, earphones, and MP3 players. Failure to do so can result in me asking you to leave the class and return the following class period.
2. Makeup exams will be provided for students with a university recognized excused absence such as: illnesses with a doctor's excuse, serious family emergency, and participation in official university activities(athletics). If you miss an exam due to extremely extenuating circumstance you must notify me before the exam by email. All make-up exams will be scheduled during finals week.
3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student suspected of cheating will be failed on that assignment and referred to the University Honor Court. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, then you are strongly encouraged to refer to your Student Handbook @ (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) or discuss any concerns with the instructor.
4. Be respectful of your professor and peers. Impulsively shouting out opinions will not be tolerated. If you want to share an insight, idea, or have a question please raise your hand. The expression of ideas will not be censored; however, be prepared to defend your ideas. In addition, extend appropriate courtesy to each person in the class.
5. I do not post video lectures on canvas. It is your responsibility to borrow notes from a peer who attended the lecture you miss.
6. Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, and other works are consistent with UF policies:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
7. Publication of audio or video of this course without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording,

regardless, of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> (Links to an external site.). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> (Links to an external site.). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> (Links to an external site.).

University's honesty policy regarding cheating and plagiarism

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.
Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action institution committed to providing reasonable accommodations for any person with a disability who meets the definition of disabled as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center (Links to an external site.). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Grading

Exams: 300 (6 mini-exams/50 points each)

Reaction Paper: 100 points

Class/Course Participation: 50 points

TOTAL POINTS: 450 points

To convert your earned points into a percentage for determining course standing you will need to take the number of earned points and divide by the total number of possible points. For example, if you earned a total of 400 points your grade is $400/450 = .888$ (which is an 88.8).

You can calculate your grade at any time during the course by taking the number of earned points and dividing by the total number of possible points at that particular time of the course.

Your final grade for this course will be a percentage converted to a letter grade using the grading scale shown below:

A = 100-94

A- = 93-90

B = 89 - 83

B- = 82-80

C = 79-73

C- = 72-70

D = 69 - 66

UF current grading policies and grade points is below:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Module Mini Exams

Exam questions will come from lecture notes and assigned readings. Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions.

Module 1 Mini-Exam: Monday, Feb 3rd

Module 2 Mini-Exam: Monday, Feb 17th

Module 3 Mini-Exam: Monday, March 3rd

Module 4 Mini-Exam: Monday, March 24th

Module 5 Mini-Exam: Monday, April 7th

Module 6 Mini-Exam: Wednesday, April 23rd

Drugs in America: Tentative Course Outline

Holidays (No Class): 1/20 MLK Day; 3/17-3/21 Spring Break

COURSE INTRODUCTION

Week 1 1/13 - 1/17

MODULE 1 DRUG USE: CLASSIFICATION, RATES, & USE

Week 2 1/22 & 1/24 Goode (Chpt. 1) An introduction to Drug Use. Pages 7-34

Week 3 1/28 - 1/31 Goode (Chpt. 2) Rates and Patterns of Drug Use. Pg. 36-65

MODULE 2 A HISTORY OF THE WAR ON DRUGS

Week 4 2/3 - 2/7 Goode (Chpt. 3) A History of Drug Use. Pg. 66-85

Week 5 2/10 - 2/14 Goode (Chpt. 4) A History of the War on Drugs. Pg. 66-85

MODULE 3 THEORIES ON DRUG USE & PROFILES OF DRUG USERS

Week 6 2/17 - 2/21 Goode. (Chpt. 5) Who uses which drugs and why?

Week 7 2/24 - 2/28 Goode. (Chpt. 5) Who uses which drugs and why?

MODULE 4 MARIJUANA AND OTHER RECREATIONAL DRUGS

Week 8 3/3 - 3/7 Goode. (Chpt. 8) Marijuana, LSD, & Club Drugs

Week 9 3/10 - 3/14 Goode. (Chpt. 8) Marijuana, LSD, & Club Drugs

MODULE 5 STIMULANTS AND NARCOTICS

Week 10 3/17 - 3/21 SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week 11 3/24 - 3/28 Goode. (Chpt. 9) Cocaine and the Amphetamines

Week 12 3/31 - 4/4 Goode. (Chpt. 10) Heroin and the Narcotics Pg. 326-353. Goode.
(Chpt. 11) Drug Trafficking. Pg. 365-388.

MODULE 6 DRUGS AND CRIME: LAW, TREATMENT, & PREVENTION

Week 13 4/7 - 4/11 Goode. (Chpt. 12) Drugs and Crime. Pg. 397-414.

Week 14 4/14 - 4/18 Goode. (Chpt. 13). Drug Law, Drug Treatment. Pg. 424-445

Week 15 4/21 & 4/23 Wrapping up