

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Sociology 3860 Sociology of Alcohol and Drugs

Fall Semester, 2009

Alcohol and drugs can hardly be seen as a drab or dusty topic for University students and their families, friends and significant others. These topics are “hot buttons” in contemporary American culture: Colleges and universities are seen as encouraging environments for “binge drinking,” a problem behavior “invented” over the past 20 years. These behaviors are not unknown in Athens an incredibly wet community, with dozens and dozens of alcohol outlets in the downtown area constituting a competitive industry immediately adjacent to campus. A second industry related to alcohol distribution employs many people to prevent other persons under the age of 21 from purchasing alcohol, using multiple ID checks and observations, but this is coupled with a third industry producing fake IDs that are used to “smooth” the purchasing process.

Our current national recession is definitely affected by the economic drain of the largely unsuccessful War on Drugs, conducted both nationally and globally. The imprisonment of thousands of people for illegal drug-related offenses as prisoners taken in this war has resulted in the US with a greater proportion of its citizens behind bars than any other nation on earth. So it can hardly be said that alcohol and drugs are “irrelevant” or trivial topics.

In this course we examine alcohol and drugs through sociological lenses. This means that a whole series of sociological issues can be illustrated by examining what happens with alcohol and drugs. Despite the strong sentiments and stigma surrounding alcohol and drugs, we aim to be objective and understand the sources of these sentiments. There is no intent in this class to advocate for or against the use of psychoactive substances, and you will not learn techniques for avoiding dangerous substances nor will you learn how to safely use these substances. The guidelines for examining norms, behaviors, and policies will be scientific evidence and logic. The topics covered in the class have huge global implications, but due to the constraints of time, most attention is focused upon the United States.

A QUIET WARNING. The course will not help students deal with alcohol or drug problems of their own. It will not help students deal with such problems among their loved ones (or hated ones). In the course, we will freely challenge some of the principles of treatment or recovery that may be very important to persons who may be in recovery, or who are coping with others in these processes. In fact, the course could be problematic for those in such circumstances. If this is a concern and you would like to discuss it with Dr. Roman, please contact him at 2-6091 for an appointment.

There are three other general topics which are not covered in this course:

**The lectures and the readings offer minimal attention to biological, genetic or psychological explanations for alcohol or drug dependence. We are however interested in the attractiveness of those explanations to American.

**There is minimal attention to the processes of manufacture, sale, or illegal distribution of alcohol or drugs.

**There is minimal attention to the criminal detection, prosecution or associated criminal activities of persons involved in manufacturing or marketing psychoactive substances, or to drug and alcohol enforcement policies and penalties.

The requirements include 5 components that will comprise the indicated proportions toward computing the final grade:

1. Class attendance and attendance and participation at weekly section meetings (20%) (this portion of your grade to be recommended by your Mentor). Section meetings are going to be centered on the review of specific readings. All students will be expected to be fully prepared to discuss the reading.

2. Completion of written assignments (15% each = 30%), each approximately 7 pages in length. The details of the first assignment will be distributed during the second week of class. The second writing assignment will be announced after the first assignment is completed.

3., 4, 5. Completion of three examinations, each of about 50 minutes duration (16 2/3% each = 50%). Each exam will involve comprehensive coverage of the lecture and reading materials for approximately each third of the course. While covering only the last third of the course, the third exam will be given during the scheduled final examination period. No make-up examinations are given.

The format of the exams is approximately 60 percent “objective” questions, and 40 percent short written answers. The material is balanced between what is presented in lecture and what is presented in the readings, including those readings discussed in-depth in sections. The lectures are not focused heavily on the readings, but instead cover additional material not found in the readings.

Consistent with University policy, students who miss more than three (3) class sessions (lecture or discussion groups) may be dropped from the class roll with a W or WF, depending upon the point in the semester.

The instructor is Paul Roman, who splits his time between the Department of Sociology and the Institute for Behavioral Research. He can be reached by e-mail at paulroman67@gmail.com or you may phone Kim Potter at 2-6090 for an appointment. He is available after class on Wednesday for about an hour in 117E Baldwin Hall and

usually available at his main office in 106 Barrow Hall for discussing any aspect of the course that you may want to talk about, but call ahead to make sure he is in.

Six discussion groups will meet on Fridays and are coordinated by doctoral student Mentors Jesse Clark and Jamie Palmer. **These sessions will be centered on the discussion of a specific assigned reading. In order to achieve a good grade from your TA, you must attend sections and be fully prepared to discuss the assigned reading.** In addition to Dr. Roman, your mentor will be available to you as a course adviser and will be involved in the review and grading of your written assignments, as well as assigning your grade for section participation.

There will also be a few lectures on Fridays at 10:10 a.m., as indicated on the syllabus. On such days, you will attend BOTH your section meeting and the lecture. The Friday lectures are scheduled to make up for lectures that must be canceled due to scheduled research travel by Dr. Roman.

Please Note: The conduct of this course will include conformity to the University of Georgia's Policies and Procedures on Academic Honesty. These policies were developed with substantial student input and are likewise administered with substantial student involvement. It is assumed that all students in the class have full understanding of these policies and procedures, as described in the booklet **A Culture of Honesty**, available without charge to all students at the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Deviation from these rules will be dealt with through a failing grade, dismissal from the course, or penalties prescribed in the policy

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND REQUIRED READINGS

August 17: Initial meeting, distribution of syllabus, course overview

August 19: Lecture: Historical Context of Substance Use and Abuse
Readings: Musto, Alcohol in American History
NPR, History of Drugs in America

August 21: Discussion Section: Objections to "The Good Creature of God"
Reading: Gusfield, Social Structure and Moral Reform

August 24: Lecture: Emergence of Alcohol Social Policy
Reading: Tyrrell, The US prohibition experiment

August 26: Lecture: Emergence of Drug-related Social Policy
Readings: Webster, Rethinking drug prohibition
Reinarman, Policing pleasure: food, drugs and the politics of ingestion

August 28: Discussion Section: Better Living Through Chemistry
Reading: Fox and Ward, Pharma in the bedroom...and the kitchen...

- August 31: Lecture: Use and Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs
Readings: Glassner and Berg, How Jews avoid alcohol problems
Becker, Becoming a marijuana user
- September 2: Lecture: Expectations and Myths?
Readings: Furnham and Thompson, Lay theories of heroin addiction
Harocopos, New injectors and the social context of injection initiation
- September 4: Discussion Section: Research Findings from the Real World
Reading: Moss, Subtypes of alcohol dependence in a nationally representative sample
- September 9: Lecture: Causation Theories
Readings: Rolfe, Life events and decreased drinking
Roman, Alcohol, pampering and the rise to social stardom
- September 11: Discussion Section: Get by with a little help from your friends
Reading: Zinberg, Research findings: drug use rituals, sanctions and controls
- September 14: Lecture: The Ecology of Trouble
Reading: Green and Plant, Bad bars: a review of risk factors
- September 16 : Lecture: A Very Different Perspective
Readings: Duff, The pleasure in context
Szmigin, Reframing binge drinking as calculated hedonism
- September 18 : **FIRST EXAM**
- September 21: Lecture: Pampering Theory and Labeling Theory
- September 23: Lecture: Issues in Measurement of Substance Use Problems and Pathologies
Readings: Rolfe, Life events and decreased drinking
Moss, Subtypes of alcohol dependence in a nationally representative sample
- September 25: **LECTURE AND SECTION MEETING BOTH HELD TODAY**
- Lecture: The Ecology of Trouble
Readings: Green and Plant, Bad bars: a review of risk factors
Duff, The pleasure in context
Szmigin, Reframing binge drinking as calculated hedonism
- September 28: Lecture: Social Constructionism and the Rise of a Problem

Reading: Reinerman, The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem

September 30: Lecture: Social Constructionism: Dimensions of College Drinking

Reading: Young et al., Drinking Like a Guy: Frequent Binge Drinking Among Undergraduate Women

October 2 SECTION MEETING **FIRST PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

Reading: Amaro et al. Trial of the University Assistance Program for Alcohol Use Among Mandated Students

October 5: Lecture: The Collegiate Drinking Hangover

Reading: Hingson et al., Magnitude of and Trends in Alcohol Related Mortality and Morbidity Among US College Students Ages 18-24, 1998-2005

October 7 Lecture: When Dick and Jane Grow Up: Workplace Drinking and Drugging

Reading: Roman, The Workplace and Alcohol Problem Prevention
Roman, Addictive Behavior in the Workplace

October 9 SECTION MEETING

Reading: Holtman, Disciplinary Careers of Drug Impaired Physicians
Stimson, The Impaired Physician Movement in the US

October 12 Lecture: I'll Let You Know When You're Finished: The Sociology of Urine

Reading: Comer, A Case Against Workplace Testing
Cavanaugh and Prasad, Drug Testing As Symbolic Managerial Action

October 14 Lecture: Better Living Through Chemistry: Prescription Drugs

Readings: Van Zee, The Promotion and Marketing of Oxycontin
Libby, Treating Doctors as Drug Dealers

October 16 LECTURE AND SECTION MEETING BOTH HELD TODAY

Lecture: Cognitive Enhancing Drugs

Reading: Greely and colleagues, Toward responsible use of cognitive enhancing drugs

October 19 Guest Lecturer, Dr Richard Rawson, UCLA Center for Integrated Drug Research: Methamphetamines in America

Readings: Rawson et al., Will the Methamphetamine Problem Go Away?

Lende et al, Functional Methamphetamine Use: The Insider's Perspective

October 21 NO CLASS

October 23 **SECOND EXAM (covering all material since first exam)**

Examination conducted during section times at regular section locations

October 26: Lecture: Disease Concept and Its Problems

Readings: Roman, The Disease Concept of Alcoholism

Larkin et al., Towards Addiction as a Relationship

Peele, The Diseasing of America

October 28: NO CLASS

November 2: Lecture: Emergence of Alcoholics Anonymous

Reading: Trice, Alcoholics Anonymous

November 4: NO CLASS

November 6: LECTURE AND SECTION MEETING BOTH HELD TODAY

Lecture: Alcoholics Anonymous

Reading: Hoffmann, Recovery Careers of People in Alcoholics Anonymous

November 9: Lecture: Alcoholics Anonymous

Reading: Whelan et al., The Role of AA Sponsors

Doukas and Cullen, Recovered addicts working in the addiction field

November 11: Lecture: Alternative Forms of Treatment

Reading: Ashton, The Motivational Halo

November 13 LECTURE AND SECTION MEETING BOTH HELD TODAY

Lecture: Medications and Addiction Treatment

Reading: Dempsey et al., The Influence of Monetary Compensation on Relapse

November 16: Lecture: Therapeutic Communities as a Methodology

Reading: DeLeon, The Therapeutic Community

November 18: Lecture: Oxford Houses as a Methodology

Reading: Jason et al., Oxford House: A Review of Research

November 20: LECTURE AND SECTION MEETING BOTH HELD TODAY

Lecture: Use of Medications in Treatment

Reading: Van Pelt, New Forms of Medication Show Promise

Antice et al., Supervised Methadone Consumption

November 30: Lecture: Use of Medications in Treatment and Harm Reduction Ideology

Reading: Carnwath, Prescribing Heroin

Kim et al., Expanded Access to Naloxone

December 2: Lecture: Drug Courts as a Methodology

Reading: Anderson, Much Ado About Drug Courts
Nolan, Drug Treatment and the Disease Paradigm

December 4: Section Meeting: International Dimensions of Drug and Alcohol Problems

Reading: Singer, Drugs and development

December 7: Lecture: International Dimensions of Alcohol Problems

Reading: Room, Intoxication and Bad Behavior

December 8: **THIRD EXAM (covering all material since second exam)**

Examination conducted during section times at regular section locations

