

DRUGS AND SOCIETY
SOC 246
COURSE SYLLABUS*

2:30-3:20 MW
Room: Malott--Bache

Spring 2007

Instructor: Douglas Heckathorn, Professor of Sociology
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Office Hours: 11:00 am Monday and Thursday or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: Matthew Hoffberg, Jason Perelshteyn

Description: The course focuses on drug use and abuse as a social--rather than as a medical or psychopathological--phenomenon. Specifically, the course deals with the history of drug use and regulatory attempts in the United States and around the world; the relationship between drug use and racism/class conflict; pharmacology and use patterns related to specific drugs; perspectives on the etiology of drug use/abuse; AIDS prevention and harm reduction interventions; drug using subcultures; drug policy, drug legislation, and drug enforcement; the promotion and condemnation of drug activities in the mass media.

Examinations will consist of a midterm examination and a final, each of which will constitute 35% of the grade. Writing assignments will consist of two short discussion papers, which together constitute 10% of the grade, and a term paper, which will constitute 20% of the grade.

Texts:

The Sociology of American Drug Use by Charles Faupel, Alan Horowitz, and Gret Weaver

The American Pipe Dream: Crack Cocaine and the Inner City by Dale Chitwood, James E. Rivers, and James A. Inciardi

Sex, Drugs, and the Continuing Spread of AIDS by Clyde McCoy and James Inciardi

Heavy Drinking by Herbert Fingarette

Point/Counterpoint: Opposing Perspectives on Issues of Drug Policy by Charles Levinthal

* This syllabus is subject to minor revision.

Articles/Book Chapters: (On reserve in the library)

- "I, Too, Sail Past: Odysseus and the Logic of Self-Control." By David Sally. *Kyklos*, Vol. 53, pp. 173-200.
- "Collective Action, Social Dilemmas, and Ideology." By Douglas Heckathorn. *Rationality and Society*, 10, #3, pp. 451-479, 1998.
- "Development of a Theory of Collective Action: From the Emergence of Norms to AIDS Prevention and the Analysis of Social Structure," by Douglas Heckathorn, in *New Directions in Sociological Theory: Growth of Contemporary Theories* (Joseph Berger and Morris Zelditch, editors). Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 79-108, 2002.
- Webs of Smoke: Smugglers, Warlords, Spies, and the History of the International Drug Trade* by Kathryn Meyer and Terry Parssinen, pp. 1-13, 277-289.
- Cops Across Borders: The Internationalization of U.S. Criminal Law Enforcement*, by Ethan Nadelmann, Penn State Press, 1997, pp. 189-312.

Schedule of Readings:

- Weeks 1-2: Drugs, Social Norms, Social Dilemmas, and the Commitment Problem
Readings: Faupel 1-3
Sally
Heckathorn, 1998
- Weeks 3-4: Social Reactions to Drugs
Readings: Faupel 4-6
First Discussion Paper Due
- Weeks 5: Structure of Drug Markets
Readings: Meyer
Nadelmann
Faupel 9
- Week 6-7: Race, Class, and Drugs
Readings: Faupel 7-8
Chitwood (all but chapter 5)
Midterm Exam
- Week 8: Gender and Drugs
Readings: Chitwood 5

(Spring break occurs between weeks 8 and 9)

Week 9-10: Drugs and HIV
Readings: McCoy
Heckathorn, 2002
Second Discussion Paper Due

Week 11: Drugs and Crime
Readings: Faupel 10

Week 12: Harm Reduction
Readings: Faupel 11-13

Week 13: Currently Legal Drugs
Readings: Fingarette
Term Paper Due

Week 14: Policy Debates
Readings: Faupel 14
Levinthal

Schedule of Examinations and Assignments:

February 19 First Discussion Paper Due (week 5)

March 7 Midterm Examination (week 7)

April 2 Second Discussion Paper Due (week 10)

April 27 Term Paper Due (week 14)

May 17 Final Examination, 2:00 - 4:30 pm (Thursday)