

Syllabus

SOCI 270: Drugs, Society, and Behavior

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Spring 2018

Office Location: 205 Crawford

Office Hours:

M: 11-11:50am | T, W, R: 10-10:50am
or by appointment

e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu

web: <http://sociology.morrisville.edu/>

Course Description: Examination of the biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of drug use and abuse in the United States. *Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or SOCI 101. 3 credits. These credits count toward the Social Sciences (list C) requirements for graduation.*

Course Outcomes:

The goal of this class is to examine the relationship between substances that affect the human body and the human institutions that organize society and create social rules, norms and expectations respecting these substances. The outcomes of the course for you, the student, will allow you to:

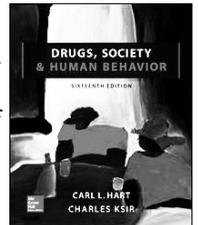
- define drugs and recognize the socio-political implications of such definitions;
- comprehend the psychopharmacological effects on the human nervous system;
- examine the relationship of drugs to social institutions from a sociological perspective;
- apply knowledge of American legal statutes and policies regarding drugs;
- analyze the impacts of the modern American political-legal institutions' stance on drugs.

The course will examine the definition(s) of a drug, the biological and psychological patterns of behavior related to specific drugs, and the political, economic, and cultural institutions that are affected by drugs in American society as well as other countries, and in the international relations between countries.

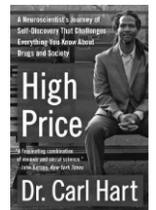
Required Books and Resources:

You are responsible for purchasing the following resources (available at the Campus Store and online):

 Hart, Carl L. and Charles Ksir. 2015. Drugs, Society & Human Behavior, 16th ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing. Available at the college bookstore or online bookseller. *Reading roughly one chapter a week will enhance your understanding of the topics of the weekly class sessions.*



 Hart, Carl L. 2014. High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self-Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society. HarperCollins Publishers. Available at the college bookstore or online bookseller. *Reading roughly one chapter a week will enhance your understanding of the relation between drugs, class, race, gender and society through the lived experience of the textbook author.*



Electronic reserve material (online). Available on the course website, <http://sociology.morrisville.edu> > SOCI270. *These readings, podcasts and videos will be posted weekly to the course website and will be required reading to supplement weekly topics.*

Notebook, writing implement.

It is required of you to bring to class some paper for notes and a pen/pencil. It will be to your benefit to also bring with you the readings for the week and an open mind with questions that contribute to discussion and debate.

Grades:

Attendance and Participation (10%)

You are allowed *two absences* available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. I do not distinguish between “excused” or “unexcused” absences, but I do require an explanation of absences. See the *Class Policies* section of this syllabus for more information regarding attendance. Participation may involve voluntary and involuntary contributions in class, attending tutoring sessions, seeing me during my office hours to discuss the course, or other behaviors indicating your involvement in the course.



Group Plickers Quizzes (20%)



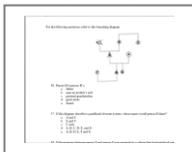
Several quizzes will be given, but you will not be alone! For these quizzes, you will be able to use your classmates in preassigned groups as resources in answering the questions. I will use the *Plickers* smartphone technology to conduct these quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up more than one week after given in class. Quiz averages make up 20% of your final grade.

Online Media Weekly Assignments (30%)

There will be activities posted to the website for you to complete throughout the semester (one every week). The activities will involve a variety of activities, such as personal reflection, online research, or watching videos regarding the week’s topic. Ten (10) of these assignments will be given (due at the end of each week) and should be done after reading the associated textbook chapter and asking any questions in class.



Exams (40%)



Two major exams (a midterm and a final) will be given during the course - study weekly with the schedule provided, use the review notes and web materials, and be prepared to get the most out of this portion of your grade. Unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Unless otherwise specified, you are not allowed to use any books, notes or materials during the exams and quizzes. You will have the regular class period to complete exams.

Grade Distribution:

10% of grade: **Attendance and Participation** (recorded daily)
20% of grade: **Group Quizzes** (in-class *Plickers* quizzes)
30% of grade: **Online Activities** (weekly writing assignments)
40% of grade: **Exams** (midterm and final are each 20% of final grade)
100%

General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:

93 to 105 = **A** = 4.0 90 to 92 = **A-** = 3.6787 to 89 = **B+** = 3.33

83 to 86 = **B** = 3.080 to 82 = **B-** = 2.6777 to 79 = **C+** = 2.33

73 to 76 = **C** = 2.070 to 72 = **C-** = 1.6768 to 69 = **D+** = 1.33

63 to 67 = **D** = 1.0 62 and below = **F** = 0.0

Note: *Grade systems for every professor are unique.*

Asking about grades:

Feel free to ask your professor in person about your grade in the course at any point during the semester. However, I will not respond to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam. This is due to the fact that email is not a confidential medium.

Class Policies:

- **Attendance:** Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. **Missing any more than two classes impedes your work and may result in a lower grade. Attendance is taken daily and recorded.**
The Fine Print: The absences allowed are for (college-sponsored) athletic events, sickness (a serious injury requiring hospitalization or contagious illness, for example), family emergencies (death or life-threatening predicaments, for example), snow days, car accidents, etc. It is expected that the absences allowed will cover the cases where absence is necessary. If they do not, please meet with me during my office hours to explain your case. If you have more than the allowed number of absences and would like to have your case considered, please provide documentation of the reason for your absences beyond the first three, including date, evidence, and explanation of the absence, *in writing* (**not** by e-mail or verbal agreement). As an incentive for good attendance, for each of the absences you are allowed that go unused, you will earn an extra bonus point toward the final grade. Also, if you attend each class before and after the mid-semester break, one point will be added to your attendance score.

- **Classroom Norms:** You are attending class in a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. *Being on your cell phone, playing games, texting, calls from friends or family, eating, sleeping, reading outside material, working on other classes' assignments, using a laptop computer outside of class purposes, etc.,* are examples of *unacceptable* classroom behavior.

The Fine Print: Talking in class is ok – however, it should be public, relate directly to the class conversation, should take the form of civilized argument or a relevant question, and should never preempt another speaker (one speaker at a time, please). RESPECT for the space of the classroom (this includes professor and fellow students) and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (usually defined when you disturb the students around you) the professor reserves the right to take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to affecting your grade and asking you to leave the classroom. In general, attendance of college classes is directly correlated to the grades that students receive, despite that it may not be noticeably or regularly enforced. If you want a high grade, come to class and recognize these guidelines.

- **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early – anyone showing up more than *15 minutes* after the start of class, or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of emergencies only) will be marked absent. Every three instances of tardiness prior to the 15 minute deadline will translate into an absence marked off of your attendance. **Weather Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, please pay attention to the college's Class Cancellations webpage to see if the class is cancelled. If class is cancelled due to weather, or for other reasons, see the course website immediately for instructions on assignments, due dates, or other important and timely information.
- **Plagiarism Rule:** Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any written assignment (including all electronic media) submitted by a student must be *original authorship*. Representation of another's work as his or her own shall constitute plagiarism. See the student handbook for more information.

The Fine Print: Plagiarism means theft of intellectual property, obtained from a print or electronic medium. A person has plagiarized if s/he quotes three or more words in sequence from a source and (1) doesn't use quotation marks ("The quick brown fox..."), or (2) doesn't identify the source (what is known as "citation"). A person has also plagiarized if s/he records or cites ideas, information, or other material from a source that is not identified, or if the individual paraphrases information from a source that is not acknowledged. The penalty for plagiarism could be failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or even expulsion from the college. *Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.*

Late/Make-up Assignment/Extra Credit Policy

Exams: Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me more than *48 hours (2 days)* in advance of the exam. If you miss an exam without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive no credit for that particular exam, unless you can demonstrate evidence that an emergency occurred. In the case of bad weather on an exam day, see the course webpage for instructions.

Group Plickers Quizzes: Plickers quizzes cannot be made up more than one week after the quiz is given in class.

Online Activities: You cannot make up *any* online media response assignments after Friday 5pm the week they are due. There are no exceptions to this rule. Not having access to the website questions is NOT a valid excuse for not submitting your answers on time. See the course website Grades page for instructions on what to do if you emailed a completed assignment but it was not credited to you.

Extra credit: I do not give extra credit assignments to individuals – any extra credit will be on a class-wide basis (and there is no guarantee of ANY extra credit assignments in any given semester).

Students with Learning and/or Physical Challenges

Morrisville State College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with ODS. The ODS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. If you wish to use their test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the class before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day and time the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student and the instructor. For further information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the ODS. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them. If you do not have a documented disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center, are available to all students.

Note that this schedule is **tentative and subject to change** – check the website to find out what changes are made.
<http://sociology.morrisville.edu/> > Intro to Sociology Questions? e-mail reymers@morrisville.edu

I. Defining and Regulating Drugs

1. Jan 16, 18: Introduction to Drug Use

Acquire textbook (*DSHB**) and biography (*HP***);
 read *DSHB Chapter 1, HP Author’s Note and Prologue* (p. xi - 8)

2. Jan 23, 25: Drugs and Society

Read *DSHB Chapter 2 & HP Chapter 1,2* (p. 9 -41)
 Do Online Activity 1 by Friday 5pm

3. Jan 30, Feb 1: Drug Policy (Government and Drugs)

Read *DSHB Chapter 3 & HP Chapter 3,4* (p. 42-82)
 Do Online Activity 2 by Friday 5pm

II. Psychopharmacology (How Drugs Work)

4. Feb 6, 8: The Central Nervous System

Read *DSHB Chapter 4 & HP Chapter 5* (p. 83-101)
 Do Online Activity 3 by Friday 5pm

5. Feb 13, 15: The Actions of Drugs

Read *DSHB Chapter 5 & HP Chapter 6* (p. 102-124)
 Do Online Activity 4 by Friday 5pm

6. Feb 20, 22: Treating Substance Use Disorders

Read *DSHB Chapter 18 & HP Chap 7* (p.125-142)
 Do Online Activity 5 by Friday 5pm

7. Feb 27, Mar 1: Midterm Week

****Midterm Exam, Thursday Mar 1**

~ SPRING BREAK MARCH 5 - 9 ~

III. The Familiar Drugs

8. Mar 6, 8: Stimulants and Caffeine

Read *DSHB Chaps 6, 11*

9. Mar 20, 22: Depressants and Inhalants

Read *DSHB Chap 7 & HP Chaps 8,9* (p.143-196)
 Do Online Activity 6 by Friday 5pm

10. Mar 27, 29: Alcohol

Read *DSHB Chap 9 & HP Chaps 10,11* (p.197-237)
 Do Online Activity 7 by Friday 5pm

11. Apr 3, 5: Tobacco

Read *DSHB Chap 10 & HP Chaps 12,13* (p.238-276)
 Do Online Activity 8 by Friday 5pm

IV. The Restricted Drugs

12. Apr 10, 12: Opioids

Read *DSHB Chap 13 & HP Chaps 14,15* (p.277-312)
 Do Online Activity 9 by Friday 5pm

13. Apr 17, 19: Marijuana

Read *DSHB Chaps 14 & HP Chap 16* (p.313-321)
 Do Online Activity 10 by Friday 5pm

14. Apr 24, 26: Hallucinogens

Read *DSHB Chaps 15 & HP Chap 17* (p.322-332)

15. Finals Week: Review for final

Final Exam (see schedule on website)

* *DSHB* stands for the textbook name, “Drugs, Society and Human Behavior” (16th ed)

** *HP* stands for Carl Hart’s biography, titled “High Price.”