

Syllabus – COVID-19 Edition (March 30 – May 15)

SOCI 270: Drugs, Society, and Behavior

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Spring 2020



Course Websites:

<http://sociology.morrisville.edu> > SOCI270

<http://blackboard.morrisville.edu>

Office Location: Blackboard Collaborate
Office Hours: I will make individual appointments to speak with you on Blackboard. Contact me by email to make an appointment.
e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu
web: <http://sociology.morrisville.edu>

Note: This syllabus *complements* (does not replace) the syllabus from the first half of the course.

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:

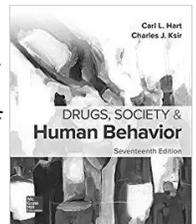
- define drugs and recognize the socio-political implications of such definitions;
- comprehend the psychopharmacological effects on the human nervous system;
- examine the relationship of drugs to social institutions from a sociological perspective;
- apply knowledge of American legal statutes and policies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

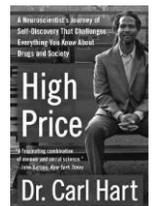
Required Books and Resources:

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, 17th 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.

Even though this is now an online class, you should have a pencil and notebook to take notes on the chapter reading assignments and even copy the Powerpoint notes online as if we were in class.

Grades



Blackboard Discussion Board Participation (recorded weekly) (10% of final grade)

For the remainder of the course, I will offer discussion prompts online that will allow you to chime in on class issues and topics and ask questions of me and the other students in the class. This discussion group participation will count as your "attendance" for the remainder of the course. Posting to the Discussion Board: Go to <http://blackboard.morrisville.edu> and click on your course (SOCI270). The "Discussions" can be found using the links on the left side of the Blackboard page; click that link and then **click on the title of the Discussion** to which you want to add a comment or reply. You'll see a page of posts with the other student's names; to **add to it, click on "Create Thread"** at the upper left side of the discussion page.



Online Chapter Quizzes (taken between Tuesday 9am and Thurs 9pm every week) (20% of final grade)

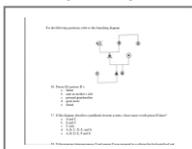
The remainder of your weekly quizzes will be taken on Blackboard. You will be required to complete unit-based online quizzes every week for the remainder of the semester. Quizzes will be accessible through the Blackboard course page and should be taken between Tuesday 9am and Thursday 9pm.

Online Activity Weekly Assignments (30%)

There will be activities posted to the website for you to complete throughout the semester (one every week). The assignments 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%)



One last major exam (a cumulative final exam) 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. Like the midterm, the exam will be multiple choice and short answer and will be administered through Blackboard.

Grade Distribution:

- 10% of grade: Discussions** (recorded weekly)
- 20% of grade: Online Quizzes** (online Chapter quizzes)
- 30% of grade: Online Activities** (weekly writing assignments)
- 40% of grade: Exams** (midterm and final, 20% each)

100% General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:

93 to 105 = A = 4.0	90 to 92 = A- = 3.67	87 to 89 = B+ = 3.33
83 to 86 = B = 3.0	80 to 82 = B- = 2.67	77 to 79 = C+ = 2.33
73 to 76 = C = 2.0	70 to 72 = C- = 1.67	68 to 69 = D+ = 1.33
60 to 67 = D = 1.0	59 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, because I offer the website Grades page, I may not respond to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam.

Class Policies:

- Participation:** Students should make every attempt to participate every week of the course. Non-participation will flag you for individual contact by the instructor. **You must have regular access to your Morrisville e-mail account, the Morrisville Blackboard page online, and the course web site** (see top of syllabus), as well as have regular (daily) access to a broadband internet connection. Proper use of each of these resources will be vital to your success in the course. Participation will involve doing activities and exercises related to weekly topics. Your report on these sociological experiences will help define your involvement in the course.
- Class Norms:** You are attending class in an online setting, but one required to resemble a college classroom designed specifically to help you seek knowledge. It is expected, just as in the face-to-face classroom, that you will be courteous and polite in your discussions and interactions. Trolling, phishing, spamming, hacking, doxing, or otherwise treating other students or the professor in disrespectful ways are examples of *unacceptable* class

behavior. The class conversation online should take the form of civilized, logical argument or a relevant question, and should never show disdain for another participant's point of view, although you are welcome to define your own point of view. RESPECT for the online space of the class and its ideas and the exercise of SELF-CONTROL in posting is expected from ALL STUDENTS. If the norms of respect are not being observed (for example, if you continually post on the discussion board messages that specifically deride and abuse another person's opinion) the professor reserves the right to point it out and take disciplinary action(s) against the offender(s), including but not limited to asking you to leave the online discussion board for a week or longer (for which a grade penalty will be incurred). If you want a higher grade, recognize these guidelines and be thoughtful of others.

- **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.

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 and quizzes: I expect exams to be taken during the preassigned times arranged during the course. Make-up exams (opening the exam portal online) will not be done, unless you make arrangements with me more than *24 hours (1 full day)* in advance of the exam. If you miss an exam or quiz without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam or quiz.

Online Activities: You cannot make up *any* online activities after the due date (typically Friday 5pm). There are no exceptions to this rule. Online activities can be submitted at any time *before* the due date/time. Inability to access the website to complete the activity is NOT a valid excuse for missing an assignment. Be prepared to complete the activity prior to the due date.

Discussion Board: Your contributions to the course discussion board should take place during the week that the discussion assignment is given (by the following Sunday at midnight). Late discussion board contributions will be subject to approval by the professor and given half-credit if accepted.

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 let me know the week 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, instructor, and the ODS. Even if you do not have a documentable disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center and the professor's office hours, 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

Week 1. Jan 27-31: Introduction to Drugs
 Acquire textbook (DSHB*) and biography (HP**);
 read DSHB Chapter 1, HP Author’s Note and
 Prologue (p. xi - 8)

Week 2. Feb 3-7: Drugs and Society:History and Norms
 Read DSHB Chapter 2 & HP Chapter 1,2 (p. 9 -41)
 Do Online Activity 1 by Friday 5pm

Week 3. Feb 10-14: Drug Policy: Government and Law
 Read DSHB Chapter 3 & HP Chapter 3,4 (p. 42-82)
 Do Online Activity 2 by Friday 5pm

II. Psychopharmacology (How Drugs Work)

Week 4. Feb 17-21: The Central Nervous System
 Read DSHB Chapter 4 & HP Chapter 5 (p. 83-101)
 Do Online Activity 3 by Friday 5pm

Week 5. Feb 24-28: The Actions of Drugs
 Read DSHB Chapter 5 & HP Chapter 6 (p. 102-124)
 Do Online Activity 4 by Friday 5pm

Week 6. Mar 2-6: Substance Use Disorders
 Read DSHB Chapter 18 & HP Chap 7 (p.125-142)
 Do Online Activity 5 by Friday 5pm

Week 7. Mar 9-12: Midterm Week
****Midterm Exam**

~ EXTENDED SPRING BREAK MARCH 16-29 ~
Coronavirus Strikes! We’re now online →

III. The Familiar Drugs

Week 8. Mar 30-Apr 3: Stimulants and Caffeine
 Read DSHB Chaps 6, 11 & HP Chap 8 (p.143-168)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity 6 by Friday 5pm

Week 9. Apr 6-10: Depressants and Inhalants
 Read DSHB Chap 7 & HP Chap 9 (p.169-196)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity 7 by Friday 5pm

Week 10. Apr 13-17: Alcohol
 Read DSHB Chap 9 & HP Chaps 10,11 (p.197-237)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity 8 by Friday 5pm

Week 11. Apr 20-24: Tobacco
 Read DSHB Chap 10 & HP Chaps 12,13 (p.238-276)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity 9 by Friday 5pm

IV. The Restricted Drugs

Week 12. Apr 27-May 1: Opioids
 Read DSHB Chap 13 & HP Chaps 14,15 (p.277-312)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity 10 by Friday 5pm

Week 13. May 4-8: Marijuana & Hallucinogens
 Read DSHB Chaps 14,15 & HP Chap 16,17 (p.313-332)
 Take quiz between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Add to Discussion Board
 Do Online Activity B1 by Friday 5pm

Week 14. May 9-11 Study for final
Final Exam (see Blackboard)

* DSHB stands for the textbook name, “Drugs,
 Society and Human Behavior” (17th ed)

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