

Syllabus

SOCI 270: Drugs, Society, and Behavior

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Spring 2021

Course Website:

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



Meets Online every Thursday 10-11am on MS Teams (you will be sent a link by email)

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall
(not present spring 2021)

Office Hours: I will be generally available by email on weekdays (M-F) during business hours (9am-5pm). Please do not expect an email back immediately outside of these hours.

e-mail: reymers@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:

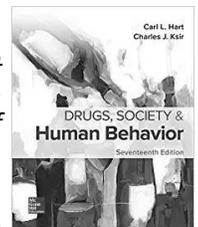
- define drugs and recognize the socio-political implications of such definitions;
- comprehend the psychopharmacological effects on the human nervous system;
- examine the relationship of drugs to social institutions from a sociological perspective;
- apply knowledge of American legal statutes and policies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

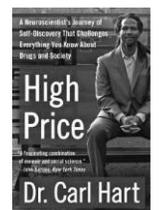
Required Books and Resources:

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, 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 through Blackboard, <http://blackboard.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 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. Scribble notes in your notebook whenever you have a thought about drugs, as if it were a journal. Draw pictures. Make it a record of your deeper thinking about the bio-psycho-social perspective on drugs and drug use.

Grades



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

I will offer discussion prompts online at the beginning of each week 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 course. **To post 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)

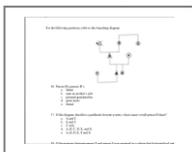
Weekly quizzes will be taken on Blackboard. You will be required to complete chapter-based online quizzes every week of the semester. Quizzes will be accessible through the Blackboard course page and should be taken between Tuesday 9am and Thursday 9pm.

Online Activity Weekly Assignments (30%)

There will be activities posted to the course 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 on the discussion board.



Exams (40%)



Two exams (a midterm and 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. The exams will be mixed format, with some multiple choice and some writing and they will be administered through Blackboard.

Grade Distribution:

10% of grade: Online Discussions (recorded weekly)

20% of grade: Online Quizzes (online Chapter quizzes)

30% of grade: Online Activities (weekly writing/group assignments)

40% of grade: Exams (midterm and final, 20% each)

100% General Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:

93 to 105 = **A** = 4.0

83 to 86 = **B** = 3.0

73 to 76 = **C** = 2.0

60 to 67 = **D** = 1.0

90 to 92 = **A-** = 3.67

80 to 82 = **B-** = 2.67

70 to 72 = **C-** = 1.67

59 and below = **F** = 0.0

87 to 89 = **B+** = 3.33

77 to 79 = **C+** = 2.33

68 to 69 = **D+** = 1.33

Asking about grades:

I DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD GRADE BOOK. All your grades for this course will be available on the course webpage, by clicking the "Grades" link at the top and signing in with a password I will get from you early in the semester. Please refer to this page before emailing me with questions about specific grades on assignments and exams.

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 participants 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

SUNY As part of SUNY Morrisville's pledge to a diverse, equitable and inclusive campus, we seek to provide students with equal access to all courses - whether in person or virtual. If you require accommodations in this course, please reach out to the **Accessibility Services Center** ("ASC") at ASCTesting@morrisville.edu or call 315.684.6349. If you are a **Norwich Campus** student, please contact Pat Davis at davispm@morrisville.edu or call at 607.334.5144 ext. 5055. Your timely contact with the ASC is important (preferably early, before or immediately after the semester starts), to provide the staff and faculty ample time to address your academic needs. All students should consider scheduling a meeting with course instructors, in person or online, as these conversations may be throughout the semester toward meeting mutual academic goals.

Temporary Disability Syllabus Statement

Students recovering from an injury (NCAA-athletic or other), serious illness or medical procedure may wish to use temporary academic accommodations during their recovery. If you are pregnant, pregnancy-related conditions may qualify you for temporary reasonable accommodations. Please contact the Accessibility Services Center ("ASC") for further information.

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. Feb 8-12: Introduction to Drugs

Mon: Acquire textbook (DSHB*) and biography (HP**)
 Tues: read [DSHB Chapter 1](#) & [HP Author's Note and Prologue](#)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am (see [Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 1](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 2. Feb 15-19: Drugs and Society: History & Norms

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chapter 2 & HP Chapter 1, 2 (p. 9 -41)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 2](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 3. Feb 22-26: Drug Policy: Government and Law

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chapter 3 & HP Chapter 3, 4 (p. 42-82)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 3](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

II. Psychopharmacology (How Drugs Work)

Week 4. Mar 1-5: The Central Nervous System

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chapter 4 & HP Chapter 5 (p. 83-101)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 4](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 5. Mar 8-12: The Actions of Drugs

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chapter 5 & HP Chapter 6 (p. 102-124)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 5](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 6. Mar 15-19: Midterm Week

**Midterm Exam due end-of-day Weds. 5/17

III. The Familiar Drugs

Week 7. Mar 22-26: Stimulants and Caffeine

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chaps 6, 11 & HP Chap 8 (p.143-168)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 6](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 8. Mar 29-Apr 2: Depressants and Inhalants

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chap 7 & HP Chap 9 (p.169-196)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 7](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 9. Apr 5-9: Alcohol

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chap 9 & HP Chaps 10,11 (p.197-237)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 8](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 10. Apr 12-16: Tobacco

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chap 10 & HP Chaps 12,13 (p.238-276)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 9](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 11. Apr 19-23: Amnesty week – optional assignments

IV. The Restricted Drugs

Week 12. Apr 26-30: Opioids

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chap 13 & HP Chaps 14,15 (p.277-312)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do [Online Activity 10](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 13. May 3-7: Psychedelics

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chaps 14 & HP Chap 16 (p.313-321)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do Optional [Online Activity B1](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 14. May 10-14: Cannabis

Mon, Tues: Read DSHB Chaps 15 & HP Chap 17 (p.322-332)
 Weds: [Take quiz](#) between Tues 9am & Thurs 9pm
 Thurs: Meet on MS Teams 10am ([Blackboard](#))
 Fri: Do Optional [Online Activity B2](#) by 5pm, add to [Discussions](#)

Week 15: Final Exam May 17-19 (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."