

Syllabus

SOCI 270: Drugs, Society, and Behavior

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Spring 2023

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.*

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Office Hours: Mon & Weds: 1pm - 2pm;

Tues, Thurs: 2pm-3pm [or by

Fri: No office hour appointment]

e-mail: reymers@morrisville.edu

website: sociology.morrisville.edu

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:

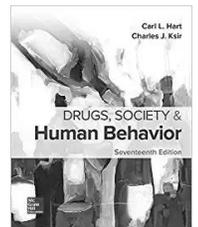
- define drugs and recognize the socio-political implications of such definitions;
- comprehend the psychopharmacological effects on the human nervous system;
- examine the relationship of drugs to social institutions from a sociological perspective;
- apply knowledge of American legal statutes and policies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

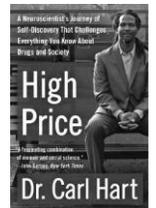
Required Books and Resources:

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.*



Online media reading/video material. Available on the Blackboard website.

These readings, podcasts and videos will be posted weekly to the Blackboard website and will be required reading to supplement weekly topics.

Notebook (analog or digital), writing implement/stylus.

It is required of you to bring to class some paper for notes and a pen/pencil. If you have greater technological literacy, a phone, tablet, or laptop may be used, but ONLY for the purpose of the class. 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 (20%)

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 if special dispensation is expected. 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. In the event I miss class, I will post instructions on the course website regarding readings and additional assignments to guide you in self-study.



Bi-Weekly Journal (20%)

The bi-weekly journal is a place to record your thoughts on the class readings, this semester involving the autobiography of neuroscientist Dr. Carl Hart (your textbook’s author), titled “High Price.” A prompt will be given on the Blackboard course webpage Bi-Weekly Journal tab, and you can respond with a written, audio, and/or video recorded response. The response should be of sufficient length to fully address the topic involved for that week. The assignment will be graded on a 0 (unsatisfactory), 1 (satisfactory), or 2 (excellent) point scale.

Group Plickers Quizzes (20%)



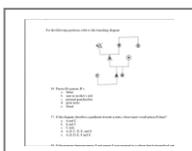
Several quizzes will be given, but you will not be alone! For these quizzes, you will be able to use your classmates in preassigned groups as resources in answering the questions. I will use the *Plickers* smartphone technology to conduct these quizzes. Quizzes cannot be made up more than one week after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

Online Media Weekly Homework Assignments (20%)

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, reading comprehension, 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 (20%) 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 may also 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:

- 20%** of grade: **Attendance and Participation** (recorded daily)
- 20%** of grade: **A bi-weekly journal** (recorded weekly)
- 20%** of grade: **Group Quizzes** (in-class *Plickers* quizzes)
- 20%** of grade: **Online Media Homework** (weekly writing assignments)
- 20%** of grade: **Exams** (midterm and final – 20% of final grade 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

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 distracted by 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) Professor Reymers 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 within one week 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.

Bi-weekly Journals: Late Journal entries will be penalized at a rate of 1 point per week late (no points after 2 weeks late).

Group Plickers Quizzes: Plickers quizzes can be made up within one week after the quiz is given in class.

Online Media Homework: You cannot make up *any* online media response assignments after the end of the day on Friday during the week they are due, after which a 10% penalty will be invoked for each week they are late. Not having access to the website questions is NOT a valid excuse for not submitting your answers on time. See the Blackboard My Grades page for instructions on what to do if you submitted 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).

Starfish

This course participates in the Starfish Early Alert System, an early intervention system designed to enable academic success, student persistence, and graduation. When an instructor observes student behaviors or concerns that may impede academic success, the instructor may raise an alert flag that 1) notifies the student of the concern, 2) requests an individual contact to discuss the issue, and 3) in most cases, also refers the student to the academic advisor. If you receive an email notification of an early alert, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the issue. The purpose of the contact is to determine the severity of the issue, accurately assess its potential impact on your academic success, and to plan actions to prevent negative consequences and enable academic success. For more information about the Early Alert system, contact your academic advisor.

Academic Assistance

The Tutoring Center is a resource available to all students who would like assistance with their courses. Both peer and professional tutors are available Sundays through Fridays by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Help is provided for most subjects taught at the College. The Tutoring Center also provides online tutoring for about ten subjects through NightOWL, which occurs 7:00 PM to midnight Sundays through Thursdays. In addition to assisting students with course content, the Tutoring Center staff can assist students with general study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, time management, and critical thinking. The Tutoring Center also organizes Student Success Seminars, workshops exploring these and other topics that are useful regardless of one's courses or major. The Tutoring Center is located in the back left corner on the first floor of Butcher Library. For additional information, please visit the Tutoring Center's webpages at <https://www.morrisville.edu/contact/offices/tutoring-center> and/or email Stephanie Lawhorne, Director of the Tutoring Center, at LawhorSL@morrisville.edu.

Counseling Support

Successful academic performance is a mutual goal between students and the SUNY Morrisville community. Many problems may arise during your time here that could interfere with your academic course work. Things such as significant stress, mood swings, anxiety, and difficulties concentrating. Problems with strained relationships, drugs/alcohol, family concerns, loss or crisis may also contribute to decreased academic performance. Counseling services are available to assist you in addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. Services are *free* and *confidential* for all enrolled students through the Student Health Center. You can call **315.684.6078** to schedule an appointment or visit [health center](#) to find out more about counseling services.

Students in need of accommodations

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Accessibilities Services Office immediately to register for services. You will meet privately to discuss your specific needs and prepare your accommodation sheets for you to distribute to your instructors. Although you may register for services at any time, please attempt to make arrangements within the first two weeks of the semester so all appropriate academic accommodations can be set. For additional information, contact 315.684.6031.

Morrisville Campus Classes: in the Academic Enrichment Center of the Butcher Library. 315.684.6930

Norwich Campus Classes: 607.334.5144 in the Student Services Office at the Norwich Campus.

English Language Learners

Students who identify as English Language Learners can request additional time on exams, separate locations, bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries. Students should work with the faculty member and the Chief Diversity Officer arrange extra time and separate location for exam. Call Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity 315.684.6981

Title IX Protections

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681) is an all-encompassing federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance. Although Title IX is often associated with equal opportunity in athletics programs, the law is much broader and includes discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual harassment and sexual assault. Questions or concerns regarding Title IX should be directed to SUNY Morrisville's Title IX Coordinator at 315.684.6981 or for Norwich 607.547.1072. Students should also familiarize themselves with the Student's Bill of Rights located in the student handbook (pg. 43), which outlines students' rights related to the reporting of incidents under Title IX. The official policy can be found online at the [Title IX page](#).

Part 1: Society and the Mind/Body

The Bio-Psycho-Social Perspective

I. Defining and Regulating Drugs (Social Stuff)

Week 1. Jan 23-27: Introduction to Drugs

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

Week 2. Jan 30-Feb 3: Drugs & Society: History & Norms

Read *DSHB* Chapter 2 & *HP* Chapter 1,2 (p. 9 -41)
Do Online Media 1 by end of Friday
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

Week 3. Feb 6-10: Drug Policy: Government and Law

Read *DSHB* Chapter 3 & *HP* Chapter 3,4 (p. 42-82)
Do Online Media 2 by end of Friday

II. Psychopharmacology (How Drugs Work)

Week 4. Feb 13-17: The Central Nervous System

Read *DSHB* Chapter 4 & *HP* Chapter 5 (p. 83-101)
Do Online Media 3 by end of Friday
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

Week 5. Feb 20-24: The Actions of Drugs

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

Week 6. Feb 27-Mar 3: Substance Use Disorders

Read *DSHB* Chapter 18 & *HP* Chap 7 (p.125-142)
Do Online Media 5 by end of Friday
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

Week 7. Mar 6-10: Midterm Week

Mar 8: **Midterm Exam

~ SPRING BREAK MARCH 13-17 ~

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

***HP* stands for Carl Hart's biography, titled "High Price..."

Part 2: The Drugs

III. Familiar Drugs

Week 8. Mar 20-24: Stimulants and Caffeine

Read *DSHB* Chaps 6, 11
Do Online Media 6 by end of Friday

Week 9. Mar 27-Mar 31: Depressants and Inhalants

Read *DSHB* Chap 7 & *HP* Chaps 8,9 (p.143-196)
Do Online Media 7 by end of Friday
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

Week 10. Apr 3-7: Alcohol

Read *DSHB* Chap 9 & *HP* Chaps 10,11 (p.197-237)
Do Online Media 8 by end of Friday

Week 11. Apr 10-14: Tobacco

Read *DSHB* Chap 10 & *HP* Chaps 12,13 (p.238-276)
Do Online Media 9 by end of Friday
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

IV. Restricted Drugs

Week 12. Apr 17-21: Opioids

Read *DSHB* Chap 13 & *HP* Chaps 14,15 (p.277-312)
Do Online Media 10 by end of Friday

Week 13. Apr 24-28: Marijuana

Read *DSHB* Chaps 14 & *HP* Chap 16 (p.313-321)
Biweekly Journal due by end of Friday

Week 14. May 1-5: Hallucinogens

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

Week 15. May 8: Study for final

May 9 (Check schedule)

Final Exam (see schedule message on Blackboard)