



**COURSE TITLE/SECTION:** SOCW 7377 (21102) Drugs in Society

**TIME:** arranged Fall 2011

**FACULTY:**  
Susan P. Robbins

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
Thursday 4:00 – 5:30 PM by appt.  
Other hours by appointment

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## **I. Course**

### **Catalog Description**

Examines current bio-psychosocial problems of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and addiction with focus on historical antecedents pharmacological action, and factors associated with alcohol and drug taking behavior. Implications for policy and social work practice are emphasized.

## **II. Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Trace the societal measures historically used for control of drugs and alcohol.
2. Discuss the pharmacological action of alcohol and commonly abused drugs in America today.
3. Delineate physiobiological, psychological, and sociocultural factors associated with alcohol and drug taking behavior over the life span.
4. Discuss theoretical perspectives of abuse and addiction.
5. Critically analyze the drug/alcohol literature and assess its relevance for social work practice.
6. Discuss the present and future implications of drug and alcohol policies and the efficacy of treatment.

## **III. Course Content**

Societal control of drugs and alcohol; pharmacological action of drugs of abuse; physiobiological, psychological, sociocultural, economic, and political factors in

drug use and abuse; treatment efficacy; and policy implications. Issues of human diversity are addressed throughout. Additional information about specific course content is listed on the class schedule below.

#### **IV. Course Structure**

This is a distance education course that is delivered on Blackboard via streaming video of the lectures and PowerPoint slides. Blackboard has been set up to facilitate online class discussion about the lectures and readings. Lecture material is intended to supplement, not review, the assigned readings. Because the readings are a major source of your learning, you are encouraged to study the materials carefully as they are assigned and to view the lectures on the weeks indicated in the class schedule below.

#### **V. Textbooks**

##### **Required**

Kuhn, C. Swartzwelder, S. & Wilson, W. (2008). *Buzzed: The straight facts About the most used and abused drugs* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Norton.

McNeece, C.A. & DiNitto, D.M. (latest edition). *Chemical dependency: A systems approach* (latest ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon. \*\*\* **please check the bookstore for the newest edition**

Robinson, M.B. & Scherlen, R.G. (2007). *Lies, damned lies, and drug war statistics*. New York: SUNY Press.

##### **Recommended**

Lewis, J.A., Dana, R.Q. and Blevins, G.A. (2002). *Substance abuse counseling: An individual approach* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Earleywine, M. J. (2005). *Understanding marijuana: A new look at the scientific evidence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Additional required and recommended readings may be posted to Blackboard.**

#### **VI. Course Requirements**

##### **A. Reading Assignments**

Readings listed on the class outline are to be completed prior to the scheduled lecture. Due dates for reading assignments are listed on the class schedule below.

## B. Exams

There will be two objective exams in this class, one midterm and one final exam. The questions on the pre-test will serve as a basis for part of the mid-term and final exam. Both exams will be administered on Blackboard. For the final exam, students will be able to write and answer 15 questions that they will submit individually. Please see below for complete directions.

- c. I will be using Blackboard for exams in this class and **all class members are REQUIRED to sign onto Blackboard by Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and check it weekly (at a minimum)**. This allows me to have instant communication with everyone in the class. Students will also be required to post a brief introduction and picture of themselves. **Participation in 4 online class discussions will be required. For each discussion students must also respond to at least 2 other students.** You can also earn extra credit towards your final grade if you participate in a meaningful way and contribute to more than the 4 required discussions. We will discuss this more fully at the class orientation. Students are also required to download and test the Respondus Lockdown Browser prior to the midterm exam.

## VII. Evaluation and Grading

Your final grade will be based on:

Discussions 20% (4 discussions @ 5% each)  
Midterm 30%  
Final exam 50%

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

A =	96-100% of the points	C+ =	76-79.9%
A- =	92-95.9%	C =	72-75.9%
B+ =	88-91.9%	C- =	68-71.9%
B =	84-87.9%	D =	64-67.9%
B- =	80-83.9%	F =	Below 64%

Please refer to the UH Graduate and Professional Studies catalogue for the university policy regarding a grade of "incomplete." Incompletes will be given only in accordance with this policy.

## VIII. Consultation

My office is on the third floor of the Social Work Building, room 311, and my office phone number is (713) 743-8103. Scheduled office hours are listed at the

top of this syllabus and are also posted outside my office door. Other hours can be arranged by appointment. My E-mail address is **srobbins@uh.edu**

**Addendum:** Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance. Instructors may not provide accommodations without supporting documentation from the UH Center for Students with DisAbilities.

## **IX. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism**

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one's own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an "I" for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.

Academic dishonesty includes using any other person's work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see the instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

## **Class Schedule and Assignments**

**Aug. 27 Required Class Orientation 2 – 5 PM ROOM TBA**  
All written class materials and a pre-test will be distributed at this orientation. In addition, Blackboard participation, and the mid-term and final exams will be discussed in detail. **All students who are registered for this class must attend this mandatory orientation.**

**Recommended Viewing Week**

Aug. 29 Lecture 1: Drugs of abuse and motivations for use: Dr. Susan Robbins  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 17- 61 Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 1

Sept. 5 Lecture 2: Pharmacology and drugs of abuse: Dr. Susan Robbins  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 62-117; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 2; McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 1  
**Last date to sign on to Blackboard and post a picture and introduction**

Sept. 12 Lecture 3: History of Drug and Alcohol Control: Professor Buford Terrell  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 118-171; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 3; McNeece & DiNitto  
Ch. 2  
**Last date to post a picture and introduction**

Sept. 19 Lecture 4: Economic and Legal Issues: Dr. Malcolm Skolnick  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 172- 213 and 285-295; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 4

Sept. 26 Lecture 5: Cultural Factors in Drug Use & Abuse: Dr. Luis Torres  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 214 -262; McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 11

Oct. 3 Lecture 6: Drug Use, Misuse, Abuse and Addiction: Dr. Susan Robbins  
Dual Diagnosis: Professor Sheree' Ahart  
Kuhn, et al. pp. 263-284; McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 3 & 13

**Oct. 9-10 MIDTERM EXAM on Blackboard will be available from 5 AM on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through 11:30 PM, Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. It will cover the pretest questions, all lectures and all readings in Kuhn, et al. through October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Oct. 10 Lecture 7: Appropriate Medical Use of Drugs vs. Abuse; Use of Opiates for Pain Management: Dr. C. Stratton Hill  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 5; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 5

Oct. 17 Lecture 8: Drug Use & HIV/AIDS/STIs; Prevention and Treatment Issues with Gay Men and Lesbian Women: Professor Mende Snodgrass  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 12; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 6

- Oct. 24 Lecture 9: Legal and Judicial Perspectives on Illegal Drugs: Judge John Delaney and Russ Jones (retired police officer and undercover narcotics agent)  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 14-15; Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 7
- Oct. 31 Lecture 10: Adolescent Drug Use and Abuse: Dr. Susan Robbins  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 9 & 10
- Nov. 7 Lecture 11: Drug policy reform: National and International Perspectives: Drug Policy Forum of Texas  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 8
- Nov. 14 Lecture 12: Current Policy & Treatment Issues: Dr. Malcolm Skolnick  
Robinson & Scherlen, Ch. 8
- Nov. 21 Lecture 13: Prevention, Treatment, Relapse Prevention & Aftercare: Dr. Susan Robbins  
McNeece & DiNitto Ch. 6, 7 & 16
- Nov. 23-26 **Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 Lecture 14: Prenatal and Neonatal Effects/Treatment with Women - Dr. Ronith Elk
- Dec. 2 Self-written questions due (see instructions below). Submit your 15 self-written questions for the final exam by 11:30 PM on Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> via email as an MS Word .doc or .docx ATTACHMENT to srobbins@uh.edu**  
**DO NOT submit this to me on Blackboard**
- Dec. 3 Required in-class meeting for course evaluations and exam preparation 2– 5 PM Room TBA**
- Dec. 7-8 FINAL EXAM on Blackboard will be available from 5 AM on Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> through 11:30 PM on Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SELF-WRITTEN QUESTIONS FOR THE FINAL EXAM**

Here are some explicit guidelines for the questions that each of you will write for your own final exam and **students are expected to follow all of these guidelines** to receive full credit:

Each student should submit 15 questions with answers and sources (i.e. taken from the class lectures, required textbooks and readings) for the final exam. The questions must be numbered, typed and use double spacing between the questions and answers. Please use an Arial 12 point font and insert numbers on the pages. The questions can be short answer (fill in the blank), multiple choice, or true/false. **At least eight (8) questions must be multiple choice**. You **MUST** include the question, the answer and the source (including page or lecture #.) **Use the exact format shown below.**

**Examples:**

1. According to Kuhn et al., most smoking cessation programs help people to quit and most do not return to smoking. T or F

Answer F (Kuhn, et al. pg. 183)

2. Barbiturates fall into which category of drugs:

- a. opiates
- b. sedatives
- c. steroids
- d. hallucinogens
- e. stimulant

Answer B (Kuhn, et al, pg. 203)

3. According to Dr. Robbins' lecture on prevention and treatment, what factors contribute to drug use and abuse? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: predisposing influences, enabling influences, and reinforcing influences.  
(Dr. Robbins, lecture 13)

There is no need to include a cover page. Just **be certain to put your name at the top of the first page** and **email this to me as an MS Word .doc or .docx attachment**

This is a comprehensive final exam, **so I expect the questions to reflect a full range of the course lectures and books**. Points will be subtracted if all three textbooks are not reflected in your questions. It is OK to draw more heavily from some sources and/or lectures than others, but I do expect a set of questions that reflects the material that we have covered for the entire semester. I also expect the correct page numbers to be

reflected on your answers and the names of the authors and lecturers to be spelled correctly. Points will be subtracted for incorrect page numbers and misspelled names.

As I told everyone at the first class, **if there are contradictions about specific drugs in the information presented in Kuhn, et al. and McNeece & DiNitto, the Kuhn text is the one that contains the accurate information.** Please remember this when you are writing your questions and use only the assigned chapters from McNeece & DiNitto.

Your 15 questions will be worth 2 points apiece, for a total of 30 points on your final exam grade. **You are expected to carefully proofread your questions and answers before submitting them.** No rewrites will be permitted. Points will be subtracted for incorrect answers, partly incorrect answers and failure to follow all of the guidelines above.

### References

Austin, J., Bruce, M.A., Carroll, L, McCall, P. L., and Richards, S.C. (2001). The use of incarceration in the United States: National policy white paper, American Society of Criminology National Policy Committee. *The Criminologist*, 26 (3). 14-16.

Baum, D. (1997). *Smoke and mirrors: The war on drugs and the politics of failure*. Boston: Little, Brown.

Cohn, J. (2001, May 24). Drug education: The triumph of bad science *Rolling Stone*. Retrieved July 12, 2002, from <http://www.cerd.org/press/press13.html>

Drucker, E. (1998, Jan./Feb.). Drug prohibition and public health, *Public Health Reports*. U.S. Public Health Service. Vol. 114.

Earleywine, M. (2005) *Understanding marijuana: A new look at the scientific evidence*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Friedman, M. (1998, January 11). There's no justice in the war on drugs: Can our laws be moral if they have so racist an effect? *New York Times*, p. 19.

Gonet, M. M. ( 1994). *Counseling the adolescent substance abuser: School-based intervention and prevention*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Goode, E. (2007). *Drugs in American society* (7th Ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

Gray, M. (2000). *Drug crazy: How we got into this mess and how we can get out*. New York: Random House.

Halpern, J.H., Sherwood, A.R., Hudson, J.I., Gruber, S., Kozin, D., & Pope Jr.,



H. G. (2011). Residual neurocognitive features of long-term ecstasy users with minimal exposure to other drugs. *Addiction*, 106 (4), 777-786.

Heyman, G. M. (2009). *Addiction: A disorder of choice*. Boston: Harvard University Press.

Jaynes, R. (2010). *Methadone: Bad boy of drug treatment: What works & what doesn't*. Parker, CO: Outskirts Press.

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Ksir, C., Hart, C. & Ray, O. (2006). *Drugs, society, and human behavior* (12<sup>th</sup> Ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

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Rydell, C.P. & Everingham, S.S., (1994). *Controlling Cocaine* (Prepared for the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the United States Army). Santa Monica, CA: Drug Policy Research Center, RAND Corporation, p. xvi.

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