

**SOC 335**  
**SURVEY OF DRUGS AND SOCIETY**  
**SPRING 2018**  
**Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:45**

Dr. Katherine Irwin  
Saunders Hall #238  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

By using drugs as a central topic, this course will examine several core theories and concepts related to sociology, criminology, deviance, and social control. The ideas presented during this course will range from the problems that drugs present to individuals, society, Hawai'i, and sociological theory to the ways that drugs and drug culture relate to art, philosophy, and social movements. This course will not view drugs as either "good" or "bad." Rather, we will view drugs as a venue to think critically about the world and as a tool to train students to apply sociological concepts and theories to everyday life.

During the first six weeks of the course, we will discuss some of the core criminological perspectives regarding drugs including how drugs are defined, how drug users are classified, why individuals use drugs, and the connection between drugs and crime. During the next six weeks of the semester, we will explore the "social construction" of drug use, meaning that we will examine how drug use has been viewed throughout history and the changing legal and deviant status of particular drugs and their users. We will also examine the concepts of "drug careers" and "drug subcultures" as a way of introducing students to some of the core concepts in the sociology of deviance. In the last few weeks of course, we will look at some of the dominant drug policy debates and explore some contemporary approaches to drug treatment.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

During the semester you will learn:

- Some of the sociological perspectives related to drug use, including how social problems are constructed by society.
- How to apply some of the theories about drug use causation
- Some of the hypotheses about how drugs and crime are linked
- Gender, race, and class explanation of why some drugs are legalized and others are outlawed
- Contemporary debates about drug laws and drug policies

**EXAMS**

There will be three exams administered during this course. Exams will combine multiple choice, fill-in, and short essay questions and are designed to test your comprehension of course readings and your ability to apply concepts from class to examples from the reading. The exams will cover material from both lecture and reading, thus requiring you to keep up with the readings, attend all classes, and take detailed notes. The first two exams will cover the material presented during that mid-term period. The final exam will include material presented throughout the semester. The final exam will be given during the final examination period. There will be many extra credit opportunities announced periodically throughout the class to help students improve their exam scores. For example, an extra credit assignment might be to write a two-page (typed) essay in which you apply a concept discussed in the course to a film or a public lecture. Students who complete the extra credit assignment will be given two extra points to an upcoming exam.

If you must be absent from class during the date of an exam you must:

- 1) talk with me at least 24 hours before the exam or as soon as possible after the exam

AND

- 2) provide a note from a doctor or other relevant professional explaining that you missed the exam due to an emergency

Make up exams will be available for students who meet the above conditions. Make up exams will be more difficult than in class exams because they are take home exams and require students to use detailed examples from the readings and the lectures. Students will have a week to complete the make up exams and can pick up the exam after the in-class exam. Dr. Irwin and the student will determine the time and date that a student will pick up the make up exam (to be tailored to meet the needs of a student who confronted an emergency). Individuals who miss an exam and who do not meet the above criteria will fail the exam.

### **EXAM REVIEWS**

There will be six review sessions for the three exams – two review sessions before each exam. You are required to participate in one of the two review sessions before each exam, but are invited to attend both. Because the majority of your grade will be based on your exam performances, these review sessions will be very important. I have split the review sessions into two parts in order to provide a smaller, more “hands-on” learning environment within this large class. You will be required to attend the review session corresponding with your last name. The A-L review sessions will be held for individuals with last names beginning with A-L. The M-Z sessions will be held for individuals with last names beginning with M-Z.

### **KOKUA STATEMENT**

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services

### **PLAGIARISM**

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code:

*Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or "drylabbing," which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.*

University of Hawai'i at Manoa *Student Conduct Code* (1992), p. 6

### **ATTENDANCE**

I do not take attendance during lecture. This does not mean that it is okay to skip class. Your grade will directly reflect your ability to attend classes. The reading in this course is from primary sources. Therefore there is no “secondary” textbook outlining the general themes, theories, and concepts from lectures. If you miss lecture, you will be missing a significant portion of the course. There will be no other source for the lecture material. Please get to know the people in your class and exchange phone numbers. If you must miss lecture, you will need to rely on your classmates for lecture notes.

Names and UH e-mail addresses of three people in this class:

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Also, you are responsible for **ALL** of the announcements and business discussed during class. Therefore, if you can not make it to class or if you are late you will need to turn to your classmates to learn what you missed.

**GRADING**

The following outlines the percentage of your final grade that each assignment represents:

<u>Percentage of Grade</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
25%	Exam 1
25%	Exam 2
50%	Final Exam

**REQUIRED READING**

There are two required books for this course:

The American Drug Scene. 2015. Edited by James A. Inciardi and Karen McElrath. Seventh Edition. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company.

DATES	SUBJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS DUE	READINGS DUE
Jan 9, 11, 16, 18	The Nature of Drug Use	Inciardi and McElrath (I&M) I&M Chpts. 1, 5, 9, 12, 14, 18
Jan 23, 25	Why People Use Drugs	Introduction to Part I I&M Chpts. 6, 7, 8, 15
Jan 30 Feb 1	Drugs and Crime	I&M Chpts. 22, 32, 33, 34 “Why Rich Kids Sell Street Drugs” by Moham3d and Fritsvold, excerpt from <u>Dorm Room Dealers</u> (on electronic reserves via the UH Library).
Feb 6 Feb 8 <b>Feb 13</b>	EXAM REVIEW A - L EXAM REVIEW M - Z <b>EXAM #1</b>	
Feb 15, 20, 22, 27 March 1	Responding to and Controlling Drug Use	I&M Chpts. 2, 3, 4, 13, 25, 35
March 6, 8, 13, 15	Drug Careers	I&M Chpts. 10, 11, 16, 20
March 20, 22 <b>March 26-30, Spring Break</b>	Drug Subcultures	“An Intoxicating Life” by Shukla, excerpt from <u>Methamphetamine: A Love Story</u> (on electronic reserves via the UH Library).
April 3 April 5 <b>April 10</b>	EXAM REVIEW A - L EXAM REVIEW M - Z <b>EXAM #2</b>	Review Previous Readings
April 12, 17	Drug Policy Perspectives	I&M Chpts. 26, 30, 31, 37, 38
April 19, 24	Treating Drug Use	I&M Chpts. 27, 29 “Using Drunk Support: Responding to the Persistence of Heavy Drinking,” by Vander Ven, excerpt from <u>Getting Wasted</u> (on electronic reserves via the UH Library).
April 26 May 1 <b>May 8</b>	EXAM REVIEW A- L EXAM REVIEW M -Z <b>FINAL EXAM 9:45-11:45</b>	Review Previous Readings