

**University of Hawai'i at Manoa**  
**Sociology 335**  
**Survey of Drugs & Society**  
-Spring 2015-  
MWF 1:30-2:20p, SAUND 541

**Instructor:** Angel Camacho – M.A., Sociology; M.A., Criminal Justice

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**Office:** Saunders Hall 213

**Office hours:** MW 11:00a-1:00p

**Course Description:**

In this course we will learn about various legal and illegal drugs and their effects on society. We will focus on illuminating the social construction of drug use and abuse and the empirical reality of such phenomena. Further, we will investigate current U.S. drug policies, their consequences, and proposed alternatives. Additional topics will include media coverage of drugs and the history of drug use in the United States, among others.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the course each student should:

- Understand the ways through which drug use and drug policies are scientifically studied.
- Be familiar with various drugs, their legal status, physiological effects, and social consequences.
- Be aware of the disconnect between the socially constructed reality of drug use and the underlying empirical reality.
- Be aware of current U.S. drug policies and scientific assessments of such policies.
- Further develop her/his sociological imagination and a critical perspective in relation to drug use and drug policy.

**Textbook:**

Faupel, Weaver and Jay Corzine. 2014. *The Sociology of American Drug Use*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

*Supplemental readings will be available on Lulima or handed out in class.*

## Requirements:

### 1. **Assignments: 80%**

All readings should be completed **prior** to the date reflected on the class schedule.

**Interest Statement (5%):** You are required to submit an interest statement in class on 1/30/15 (week 3). *For this assignment you will state what topic in “drugs and society” interests you most, **and why**: drug policy, medicinal marijuana, hallucinogens, legalization, drug addiction, drug treatment, drug violence, etc. (see textbook for more ideas). This writing exercise is not meant to be overly exhaustive. In other words, keep your statements brief—2 pages **max** (typed, double space, 12-point font, 1-inch margin). Although this assignment will be graded as ‘complete’ or ‘incomplete,’ simple statements such as, “I’m interested in recreational pot,” are unacceptable and will receive a zero (0).*

**\*Note:** You **must** complete this assignment in order to be placed into a file sharing group (below).

**File Sharing (15%):** Utilizing your interest statements, the instructor will group you by interests on our Lualima discussion board. At various times throughout the semester (see class schedule below) you will be required to find and post a link to an on-line article, streaming video clip, peer-reviewed article, or book review/synopsis pertaining to your topic (graded as ‘complete’ or ‘incomplete’). In addition, you are required to respond to *one* link posted by another student in your group. The links can be academic, non-academic, serious, funny, or satirical; **however, your response should be informed by sociological analyses**. Responses should be well thought-out and thorough (at least one paragraph) and will be graded on a three point scale (low satisfactory, medium satisfactory, high satisfactory). Initial links will be due by 11:59pm on the Fridays reflected on the class schedule (below). Responses will be due by 11:59pm on the Mondays reflected on class schedule.

**\*Note:** These assignments are “all or nothing.” In other words, you must **both** post a link **and** response in order to receive **any** credit at all.

**Interest Presentation (20%):** Toward the end of the semester (beginning on 4/22/15) you will be required to present your interest topic utilizing the information you gathered throughout the semester via the File Sharing component. Further details TBA.

**Mid-Term Reaction (20%):** There will be no mid-term exam in this course. Instead, you are required to submit a short reaction paper (2-3 pages) in class on 3/11/15 (week 9). The topic and details of this assignment will be posted on Lualima during week 7.

**Final Reaction (20%):** There will be no final exam in this course. Instead, you are required to submit a short reaction paper (2-3 pages) in class on 5/6/15 (week 17). The topic and details of this assignment will be posted on Lualima during week 15.

(continued on next page)

**\*NOTE:** Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted, therefore, if you cannot make it to class for any reason, be sure to email me your assignment by the start time of class or by the due date/time reflected on the class schedule.

## 2. **Attendance: 20%**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class period. We will meet a total of 45 times throughout the semester. Thus, attendance grades will be calculated by taking the number of times you have attended class and dividing it by 45.

### **Grading Scale:**

100—90% = A+ — A-  
89—80% = B+ — B-  
79—70% = C+ — C-  
69—60% = D+ — D-  
59—0% = F

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic zero (0) for the assignment in question. Not understanding plagiarism will not be an acceptable excuse. Please familiarize yourself with the UHM guidelines and penalties for academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. A useful resource can be found here:

[http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct\\_code/table\\_of\\_contents.php](http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/table_of_contents.php)

### **Expectations:**

As with any learning experience, your level of engagement will determine what you get out of this course. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity by actively participating in class, keeping up with the assigned readings, and reflecting on your own experiences. And, ask questions! If there is anything that you do not understand or that you are having trouble with, please ask for help. I want to make sure that you are learning the material and learning how to think about the material in a sociological manner.

Throughout the course, some of the topics will be sensitive, so I expect that we approach these classes with respect. While each person is entitled to an opinion, it is crucial that our discussions remain respectful. In other words, **always engage in debates about ideas, never engage in personal attacks**. I reserve the right to ask a student to leave the class if their comments are disrespectful or inappropriate in any way.

Cell phones need to be off or on silent AND **put away** during class. When you are in class be “in-class” and not somewhere else. Please do not work on assignments from other classes while in my class. Lastly, **BE ON TIME!** Again, I reserve the right to ask students who are being disrespectful to leave the class.

**Communications:**

E-mail is a good way to reach me. Monday through Friday I generally respond within 24 hours. If you e-mail me after 5pm on Friday, I may not respond until Monday morning. Sometimes questions and concerns come up that are best discussed in person. If it turns out you have such questions or concerns, we'll find a time to meet—either during office hours or at another mutually convenient time. Lastly, I would like to avoid receiving e-mails with questions that can be answered with a close reading of the syllabus.

**Facing Challenges?**

If you have things going on in your life which will affect your ability to do your best, then let me know as soon as possible—don't wait! You may not be responsible for your circumstances, but you are responsible for letting me know you need help or support.

**Disabilities**

Please notify me if you have any particular needs. UHM strives to maintain a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access classes, programs, services and other campus activities. If you need any assistance please contact the KOKUA Program at 808.956.7511 or you can visit their website at:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

**Syllabus:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. If I make changes, I will send out an email informing you of the amendment. **It is your responsibility to check your email for announcements, updates, and general class correspondence.**

## SOC 335 Tentative Class Schedule

My goal is to keep pace with the class schedule, but throughout the semester there may be times when we explore topics that require more or less time than I have scheduled for them. We should feel free to explore these issues fully without the anxiety of having to keep strictly to the schedule.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	1/12	Introductions	N/A
	1/14	3 Theoretical Approaches to Sociology	N/A
	1/16		N/A
2	1/19	<b>NO CLASS: MLK Day</b>	
	1/21	The Sociological Study of Drug Use	Chapter 1: <i>Read Entire Chapter</i>
	1/23		
3	1/26	Drugs Through the Ages: 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century America	Ch. 2, pp. 30-42
	1/28	20 <sup>th</sup> -Century America	Ch. 2, pp. 43-64
	1/30		<b>(Interest Statement Due)</b>
4	2/2	Narcotics Depressants Stimulants	Ch. 3, pp. 69-89
	2/4		
	2/6		
5	2/9	Hallucinogens Marijuana Mood & Performance-Enhancing	Ch. 3, pp. 89-104
	2/11		
	2/13		<b>(File Share Link Due)</b>
6	2/16	<b>NO CLASS: President's Day</b>	
	2/18	Important Terms Official Drug Use Statistics	Ch. 4, pp. 104-121 <b>(File Share Response Due)</b>
	2/20	Unofficial Drug Use Statistics	Ch. 4, pp. 121-133
7	2/23	Nature Theories Biological Theories Psychological Theories	Ch. 5, pp. 137-147
	2/25		
	2/27		<b>(File Share Link Due)</b>
8	3/2	Sociological Theories	Ch. 5, pp. 147-162 <b>(File Share Response Due)</b>
	3/4		
	3/6		

9	3/9	Sex & Gender Correlates Racial & Ethnic Correlates	Ch. 6, pp. 167-185
	3/11	Age Correlates Social Class Correlates	Ch. 6, pp. 185-202 <b>(MID-TERM REACTION DUE)</b>
	3/13	Family Medical Professionals Military Law Enforcement	Ch. 7, pp. 205-219
10	3/16		
	3/18	Religion Sports	Ch. 7, pp. 219-230
	3/20		<b>(File Share Link Due)</b>
12	3/30	Negative Health Consequences	Ch. 8, pp. 233-251 <b>(File Share Response Due)</b>
	4/1	Potential Health Benefits	Ch. 8, pp. 252-263
	4/3	<b>NO CLASS: Good Friday</b>	
13	4/6	Drug Use, Crime, and Violence: Historical Understanding Theoretical Understanding	Ch. 11, pp. 326-340
	4/8	Drug Use, Crime, and Violence: Empirical Understanding Victimization	Ch. 11, pp. 340-359
	4/10	Drug Education	Ch. 12, pp. 365-381 <b>(File Share Link Due)</b>
14	4/13	Drug Treatment	Ch. 13: <i>Read Entire Chapter</i> <b>(File Share Response Due)</b>
	4/15		
	4/17	Importance of Policy Prohibition	Ch. 14, pp. 435-449
15	4/20	Legalization Decriminalization Harm Reduction	Ch. 14, pp. 449-464 <b>and</b> Jensen, Gerber and Mosher – “Social Consequences of the War on Drugs” in <i>Correctional Contexts: Contemporary and Classical Readings</i> , pp. 384-395 (Laulima)
	4/22	<b>Student Presentations</b>	
	4/24		
16	4/27		
	4/29		
	5/1		
17	5/4		
	5/6		<b>(FINAL REACTION DUE)</b>