

**University of Hawaii – Manoa
Sociology 335 - Class Syllabus
Summer Session - 2009**

COURSE TITLE:

Soc 335

Survey of Drugs and Society

Credits: Three (3)

PREREQUISITES:

100 or any 200-level SOC course or junior standing; or consent.

Professor: Dr. Rafael B. Boritzer

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Use of mood-and mind-altering drugs in America among adults, youth, and cross-culturally, illicit drug culture, psychedelics, and perception; social norms and deviant behavior.

Required Texts:

The Sociology of American Drug Use, by Faupel, Horowitz, and Weaver. McGraw-Hill,. ISBN 0-07-240683-6

Force of Habits, by Courtwright. Harvard University Press. ISBN 978-0674010031

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To provide students with an overview of the basic concepts and issues involved in the study of drug use from a sociological perspective, including the social construction of drug use as a social problem.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and apply the major sociological theoretical paradigms and their applications to drug and alcohol use.
- Demonstrate reasonable knowledge about the historical context of drug and alcohol use.
- Recognize and describe various drugs and their use, including legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco.
- Examine the relationship between drugs and crime.

PROPOSED COURSE CONTENT, TIME LINE, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

PART I: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO DRUG USE

Week 1

How do we define “drugs”?

The Social construction of drug addiction.

Sociological Study of Drugs

Reading: Chapter 1 (Faupel)

Drug use in the 19th and 20th centuries in America.

A Brief History of Drug Use

Reading: Chapter 2 (Faupel)

Chapters 1,2,3 (Courtwright)

Web article or audiostream: *To be posted on Laulima*

Answer the following question: What is the psychoactive revolution? What are the principles that govern the entrance of different plant based drugs into world commerce? Pay attention to these principles in reading about tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, opium, cocaine, & marijuana. What are the characteristics of plant drugs that were not globalized? Submit on Assignment tab in Laulima.

Week 2

***Narcotics; depressants; stimulants; hallucinogens; marijuana
Classifying Psychoactive Drugs.***

Reading: Chapter 3 (Faupel)

Biological, psychological and sociological theories.

Theoretical Explanations

Reading: Chapter 4 (Faupel)

Chapters 4,5,6 (Courtwright)

First Test

Week 3

***Rastafarianism; the Native American Church; Rave and Street-Heroin subcultures.
Subcultures of Drug Use***

Reading: Chapter 5 (Faupel)

***Epidemiology and etiology; Uniform Crime Reports
Official/Unofficial Data Sources***

Reading: Chapter 6 (Faupel)

On Discussion Board in Laulima answer the following question: What is an amphetamine (synthetic drug) democracy and what role does it play in the increasing availability of illicit drugs? What is the medical dilemma? What is the evolutionary paradox and what has it got to do with the inflexible demand for drugs? What principles did Duke exploit in enabling his Duke tobacco companies to escape from "commodity hell?"

PART II: SOCIAL CORRELATES OF DRUG USE

Week 4

***Drug use related to sex and gender; race and ethnicity; age; occupation.
Demographic/Occupational/ Health Correlates of Drug Use***

Reading: Chapter 7 & 8 (Faupel)

***Cost-Benefit analysis; the underground drug economy.
Drugs and the Economy***

Reading: Chapter 9 (Faupel)

Second Test

Week 5

***Does drug use cause crime? Does crime cause drug use?
Drugs and Crime***

Reading: Chapter 10 (Faupel)

Chapters 7,8,9,10 (Courtwright)

Prohibition, Legalization, and Decriminalization

Legal Responses to Drugs

Reading: Chapter 11 (Faupel)

Answer the following question: How do drugs control labor forces? What is the best way to tax drugs? With so many benefits, what social changes led American leaders to prohibit drugs? Why kill the golden goose? **Post on assignment page in Laulima.**

III. SOCIETAL RESPONSES TO DRUG USE

Week 6

Medical/ Pharmacological; Residential; Self-Help Treatment Programs.

Drug Treatment

Reading: Chapter 12 (Faupel)

Preventative Response to Drug Problems

Drug Education/Drug Testing

Reading: Chapter 13(Faupel)

Drug Legislation- Legalization of Marijuana

Drug Policy for the 21st Century

Reading: Chapter 14(Faupel)

Final Exam

Procedures and Course Requirements:

This course will be taught as an on-line course, utilizing a variety of digital tools, including but not limited to audio streaming, video streaming and VOIP (voice over internet protocol). The presentation platform will be on the Laulima server of the University of Hawaii. **ALL your assignments will be posted on Laulima.**

Reading assignments:

Make your reading time productive by: 1) skimming section headings within each chapter or article before reading to get a “map” of the concepts covered; 2) write down a brief summary of what you’ve read; 3) jot down things you don’t understand so you can re-read that part of the text, bring it up in Discussion Boards or ask me to clarify by e-mail.

Discussion Boards:

You are required to make an appearance on the Discussion Boards at least once a week. Your participation in the discussions is worth 50 points.

Examinations:

There will be 3 exams – two mid-terms (each 100 points) and one final (150 points). These exams will include multiple-choice, definitions, and short answer format items. *Tests will* not be cumulative as they will cover each sections of the course that they follow. The *final exam* will emphasize chapters 10 through 14 of the Faupel book, but will include some essay questions that tap into key concepts and findings from the entire course. All exams=300 points, total (see point distribution, below). **DO NOT SCHEDULE** trips, flights, interviews, medical appointments, or any other events on exam dates.

Assignments:

Students will complete 3 assignments cased on the Courtwright book, each worth 50 possible points.

The grade distribution will be as follows:

A	90-100%	450-500 points
B	80-89%	400-449 points
C	70-79%	350-399 points
D	60-69%	300-349 points
F	< 60%	<300 points

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments or exams will not be accepted. There will be no partial credit for any late assignments.

Dr. Rafael Boritzer - Biography

Prof. Boritzer has earned a doctorate from Columbia University in Community Health Education where his doctoral research was entitled Exploratory Study of Attitudes of Long Term Care Administrators Toward the Aged and Disabled. He is a graduate of the New School for Social Research with an M.A. & Ph.D. (ABD) in Sociology, his research focus was the dynamics of transition from medical student to medical professional. Additionally, he has an earned M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a B.A. in Sociology from New York University. He completed additional postgraduate work at the University of Hawaii, the University of California, and City University of New York.

Dr. Boritzer is currently teaching Sociology, Political Science, History, Community Health Administration, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship at the University of Hawaii. He has previously taught at Hawaii Pacific University, Swinburne University of Technology (Australia), New School University, William Patterson State University of New Jersey, American University of Cyprus, Hebrew University Medical School and Ben Gurion University (Israel).

His work background includes the establishment and operations of 17 long term care institutional facilities, consulting in geriatric institutionalization, development of "nursing homes without walls," and the management of a variety of health and homeland security services in the public and proprietary arenas. He is also a veteran of the Israel National Police-Tel Aviv Metro Patrol, Israel Border Police-Counter Terror Force, and the Israel Defense Force-Desert Camel Reconnaissance Squad.