

MINERAL AREA COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
SOC 124 SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN MODERN SOCIETY
INSTRUCTOR: MATT SOPKO, M.A.
Fall, 2005

The purpose of this course is to address drugs and drug use today from the psychological, pharmacological, historical and legal perspectives while examining the effects of the use of drugs on one's health and social functioning.

The study of Substance Abuse in Modern Society will afford the student a survey of a wide variety of drugs of abuse and their societal relevance as well as the process of addiction and its prevention and treatment.

I. TEXTBOOK: Ksir, Charles, Hart, Carl L., and Ray, Oakley, Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior, 11th Edition, McGraw-Hill Companies, 2006.

II. COURSE COMPETENCIES AND OBJECTIVES:

A. Examine the content, theories, processes, and concepts that characterize the study of substance abuse as a social science discipline.

1. identify and explain the major theories of substance abuse and addiction.
2. identify and explain the major theories of prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction.
3. identify and use concepts representing the sociological perspective of substance abuse as a social problem.
4. demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems related to the study of substance abuse in modern society.

B. Examine the research methods that characterize the study of substance abuse as a social science discipline.

1. describe the basic steps of the conventional research paradigm.
2. explain the difference between quantitative and qualitative research methods and give examples of each.
3. distinguish the research methods used to study substance abuse and describe the advantages and disadvantages of each.
4. interpret research conclusions appropriately.
5. identify and describe the ethical concerns in substance abuse research.
6. demonstrate reasonable skepticism and intellectual curiosity by asking questions about the causes of individual and group behavior.

C. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nervous system and the actions of drugs.

1. identify and explain on an introductory level the basic structures and functions of the neuron.
2. identify and describe on an introductory level the basic structures of the brain and how it works.
3. describe on an introductory level the process of neurotransmission and the various ways that drugs influence the process.
4. identify and explain the distinguishing characteristics of the major categories of drugs of abuse and their various effects.

D. Analyze attitudes and substance abuse patterns in modern society in terms of diversity.

1. identify and explain gender differences in patterns of substance abuse.
2. identify and explain differences in pattern of substance abuse for different socioeconomic statuses.
3. identify and propose explanation for regional, educational, and religious differences in patterns of substance abuse.
4. explain how diversity may affect perceptions including prejudice in regard to individuals who use psychoactive substances.

E. Analyze the importance of a healthy lifestyle as it pertains to substance abuse issues.

1. identify and discuss health related issues associated with the medicinal and recreational use of psychoactive substances.
2. identify and describe the characteristics of healthy lifestyles and explain their significance for personal adjustment.
3. identify and explain risk factors associated with substance abuse and chemical dependence.
4. identify and explain the psychological impact of substance abuse on the individual and family.
5. identify and explain the socioeconomic impact of substance abuse on society.

III. LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

The classroom experience will consist of lecture, classroom discussion, group activities, and the use of video material, when applicable. Class discussions will include the opportunity for discussing current issues pertinent to assigned topics as they arise during the course work.

IV. EVALUATION--GRADING:

Students' theoretical progress will be assessed by:

A. Four multiple choice exams on which students are given some choice in which questions on the exam are to be answered, that is, students are allowed to "pass" on a small number of exam question;

B. The final grade will be determined by averaging the three highest of each student's four exam scores and the attendance grade (see Course Policies). The following scale will

be used to determine your final grade:

<u>Percent Correct</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Less than 60%	F

V. COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance: Each student will start the semester with 100 attendance points. Two points will be deducted for each unexcused hour of absence throughout the semester. The final attendance grade will count for 25% of each student's grade in the class. Further, "Excessive Absences" for this course shall be defined as: Seven hours of absence or two missed exams which may result in a student being dropped from class. It is advised that the student be familiar with college policies regarding attendance, change of class schedule, and withdrawal from classes as stated in the Student Handbook.

Make-up Exams: All make-up exams will be given at the next regularly scheduled class meeting. Since the student is aware that an exam has been missed, it is the student's responsibility to be prepared for examination at the appropriate time. The final exam must be taken at the time scheduled per the college calendar.

VI. SPECIAL NEEDS:

Accommodations for students with special needs will be provided on an as needed basis. Students with special needs should contact me or Lisa Leftridge in the Access Office.

VII. OFFICE HOURS:

As an adjunct faculty member, my office hours will be arranged by appointment. Occasionally, I may be able to meet with students on a drop in basis. My office is in Room C-7 of the Arts & Sciences Building and my office phone number is (573) 518-2250. Feel free to call anytime and leave a message on the answering machine if the office is closed.

VIII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Incidents of academic dishonesty, for example, plagiarism, cheating on exams, etc. will be reported to the Dean of Arts and Sciences and may result in, but not limited to receiving an F for the course or being dropped from the course.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE:

Chapter 1: Drug Use: An Overview
Chapter 2: Drug Use as a Social Problem
Chapter 3: Drug Products and Their Regulation
FIRST EXAM: Chapters 1, 2, and 3
Chapter 4: The Nervous System
Chapter 5: The Actions of Drugs
Chapter 6: Stimulants
Chapter 7: Depressants and Inhalants
SECOND EXAM: Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7
Chapter 8: Medication for Mental Disorders
Chapter 9: Alcohol
Chapter 13: Opiates
Chapter 14: Hallucinogens
THIRD EXAM: Chapters 8, 9, 13, and 14
Chapter 15: Marijuana
Chapter 16: Performance-Enhancing Drugs
Chapter 17: Preventing Substance Abuse
Chapter 18: Treating Substance Abuse and Dependence
FINAL EXAM: Chapters 15, 16, 17, and 18