

# **THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

## **Franklin College of Arts and Sciences**

Sociology 3860

Sociology of Alcohol and Drugs

Second Semester, 2007

In this course we examine the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs through sociological lenses. This means we will try to refrain from judgments and conclusions that reflect morals and values, and will instead try to understand the bases for American mores and values about psychoactive substances. There is no intent to advocate for or against the use of psychoactive substances, and you will not learn techniques for avoiding dangerous substances nor will you learn how to safely use these substances. Rather we will examine the social history, institutional contexts, and social processes within which alcohol and drug use occur. A central focus is upon why certain social policies and interventions are directed at these behaviors at different historical times and in different institutional settings. The guidelines for examining norms, attitudes, and policies will be scientific evidence and logic. With a few exceptions, most attention is focused upon the United States.

**A MILD WARNING.** It is important to emphasize what the course will not provide. While avoiding a focus on personal use, the course will not help students deal with alcohol or drug problems of their own. It will not help students deal with such problems among their loved ones (or hated ones). It will not provide students with strategies to deal with such problems among unrelated others toward whom such concern might be directed.

In fact, it is possible that the course could be “un-helpful” to students struggling with substance abuse. As will become evident, the contemporary Western ideology of substance abuse treatment is based on some fairly rigid ideas that many regard as not open to challenge. The course material is intended to address those with open-minds about the scientific foundations of supposed causes and cures of substance abuse. These matters will be discussed freely. If you or your significant others are involved in a recovery program that advocates the absolute truth of certain beliefs, this may be problematic for you, and a hindrance to learning and enjoying the class. If these issues apply to you, you should feel free to discuss with Professor Roman whether or not you should drop the course.

There are three other general topics which are not covered in this course:

\*\*Neither the lectures nor the readings will offer significant attention to

biological, genetic or psychological explanations for alcohol or drug dependence or addiction. Our emphasis is sociological, and we use theories of substance abuse that emphasize social circumstances and institutional/historical context.

\*\*There is minimal attention to the processes of manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcohol or drugs.

\*\*There is minimal attention to the criminal prosecution or associated criminal activities of persons involved in manufacturing or marketing psychoactive substances. Students seeking in-depth information about drug and alcohol enforcement policies, procedures and penalties will not find such material in this class.

The requirements include 5 components that will comprise the indicated proportions toward computing the final grade:

1. Class attendance and attendance and participation at weekly section meetings (10%).
2. Completion of written assignment (approximately 15 pages in length). (30%). The details of this assignment will be distributed during the second week of class.

The paper involves a review of research findings in a selected area involving alcohol or drug use as either a cause, and effect, or both. The assignment has deadlines for submission of your selected topic and preliminary bibliography, submission of your draft, and submission of your final draft.

3., 4, 5. Completion of three examinations, each of about 50 minutes duration (20% each = 60%). Each exam will involve comprehensive coverage of the lecture and reading materials for approximately each third of the course. While covering only the last third of the course, the third exam will be given during the scheduled final examination period. No make-up examinations are given.

The format of the exams is approximately 60 percent “objective” questions, and 40 percent short written answers. The material is balanced between what is presented in lecture and what is presented in the readings. The lectures touch upon most of the readings, but generally do not review them in depth, instead covering additional material not found in the readings.

In accordance with University policy, students who miss more than three (3) class sessions will be regarded as delinquent in attendance, and may be dropped from the class roll with a W or WF, depending upon the point in the semester.

All of the required reading materials are on electronic reserve at the Main Library. The password is **proman**.

The instructor is Paul Roman, Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for Research on Behavioral Health and Human Service Delivery in the Institute for Behavioral Research. He can be reached by e-mail at [proman@uga.edu](mailto:proman@uga.edu) or phone at 2-6090 for an appointment. Prof. Roman is usually available at his research office in 143 Barrow Hall for discussing any aspect of the course that you may want to talk about, but call ahead to make sure he is in.

The class will also be broken into six discussion groups that are assigned to doctoral student mentors and which will meet on Fridays. Your mentor will be available to you as a course adviser and will be involved in the review and grading of your written assignments, as well as assigning your grade for section participation. **There will also be lectures on a number of Fridays at 10:10 a.m., as indicated on the syllabus. On such days, you will attend BOTH your section meeting and the lecture.** The Friday lectures are scheduled to make up for lectures that must be canceled due to scheduled travel by Dr. Roman.

**Please Note:** The conduct of this course will include conformity to the University of Georgia's Policies and Procedures on Academic Honesty. These policies were developed with substantial student input and are likewise administered with substantial student involvement. It is assumed that all students in the class have full understanding of these policies and procedures, as described in the booklet **A Culture of Honesty**, available without charge to all students at the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Deviation from these rules will be dealt with through a failing grade, dismissal from the course, or penalties prescribed in the policy.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND REQUIRED READINGS**

January 8: Initial meeting, distribution of syllabus

January 10: Lecture: Historical Context of Substance Use and Abuse

Readings: Alcohol in American History (Musto) 13

Lessons from US History of Drug Abuse (Skolnick) 57

January 12: Discussion Section

Readings: Social Structure and Moral Reform: WCTU (Gusfield) 81

Organizing for Reform: The Anti Saloon League (Kerr) 63

The Saloon Problem (Fox) 93

January 15: Martin Luther King Holiday

January 17: Lecture: Emergence of Current Social Policy

Readings: US Prohibition Experiment (Tyrrell) 97

January 19: Discussion Section

Readings: Women and the Repeal of Prohibition (Kyvig) 113

- January 22: Lecture: Contemporary Social Policy on Alcohol and Drugs  
 Reading: Rethinking Drug Prohibition (Webster)
- January 24: Lecture: Contemporary Social Policy on Alcohol and Drugs  
 Reading: The Medicalization of Deviance as an Interactive Achievement (Rossol)  
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- January 26: Discussion Section  
 Readings: Drinking Among African Americans (Jones-Webb):
- January 29: Lecture: Factors in the Use and Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs  
 Reading: Drinking Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities (Caetano)  
 How Jews Avoid Alcohol Problems (Glassner and Berg) 46
- January 31: Lecture: Factors in the Use and Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs  
 Epidemiology of Problems from the NESARC Findings 40  
 Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (Roman) 10
- February 2: Discussion: Hardware and Software  
 Readings: Becoming a Marijuana User (Becker) 21  
 (SELECTION OF PAPER TOPIC AND PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE)
- February 5: Lecture: Expectations and Myths?  
 Reading: Lay Theories of Heroin Addiction 56  
 Research Findings: Drug Use Rituals, Sanctions and Controls (Zinberg) 72
- February 7: Lecture: Theories of Alcohol Abuse  
 Readings: Alcoholics: Vulnerable Personalities and Drinking Groups (Trice) 17
- February 9: **FIRST EXAM**
- February 12: Lecture: Summary of Causation Theories  
 Reading: Life Events and Decreased Drinking (Rolfe) 62  
 Alcohol, Pampering and the Rise to Social Stardom (Roman) 14
- February 14: Lecture: Drinking and Associated Problems  
 Readings: The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem (Reinarman) 95
- February 20: Discussion: Drinking, Drugs and Associated Problems  
 Reading: Epidemiology of Alcohol-Related Violence (Collins) 39
- February 19: Lecture : Underage Drinking  
 The Community Construction of the Underage Drinker (99)
- February 21: Lecture: The College World

Drinking Like a Guy: Frequent Binge Drinking among Women (32)

February 23: Discussion: College Student Drinking and Drugging

Reading: Beyond Peer Pressure: rethinking drug use (Pilkington) 23

February 26: Lecture: The Family

Reading: Alcohol Abuse as a Risk Factor and Consequence for Child Abuse 11

February 28: Lecture: The Latest Drug Threats: Methamphetamine, Prescription Drugs

Readings: Redneck Cocaine 70

Life with Jib: Street Use of Meth 58

March 2: Discussion Section

Will the Methamphetamine Problem Go Away? (Rawson) 112

The Meaning of Ecstasy Use to Women (Hinchliff) 103

March 5: Lecture: Drinking and Work

Reading: The Workplace and Alcohol Problem Prevention (Roman) 98

March 7: Lecture: Drinking, Drugs and Work

Reading: Addictive Behavior in the Workplace (Roman) 24

March 9: Discussion Section

Reading: Disciplinary Careers of Drug Impaired Physicians (Holtman) 30

The Impaired Physician Movement in the US (Stimson) 68

## **SPRING BREAK**

March 19: Lecture: Testing for Performance in the Workplace.

Readings: A Case Against Workplace Testing 6

Drug Testing As Symbolic Managerial Action 35

March 21: NO CLASS

March 23: **SECOND EXAM**

March 26: Lecture: AA as a Social Invention

Reading: Alcoholics Anonymous (Trice) 15

March 28: Lecture: AA in Process

Reading: The AA Program as a Set of Beliefs and Program for Action 85

March 30: Lecture AND Discussion Section

Reading: Delabeling, Relabeling and Alcoholics Anonymous (Trice & Roman) 29

April 2: Lecture: Positives and Negatives of AA

Reading: Personal Stories (Cain) 64

- April 5: Lecture: The Disease Concept and Its Problems  
Reading: Alcoholism as Addiction (Douglas) 18
- April 6: Discussion Section (DRAFT OF PAPER AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE)
- April 9: Lecture: The Disease Concept and Its Problems  
Reading: The Diseasing of America (Peele) 111
- April 11: Lecture: Issues in Conceptualizing the Diseases of Addiction  
Reading: The Legitimacy of Addiction in a World of Smart People (Klingemann) 102
- April 13: Discussion Section
- April 16: Lecture: The Ideology of Treatment  
Reading: Is Treatment the Right Way to Think About It (Miller) 53
- April 18: Lecture: The Nature of Treatment  
Reading: Out There: The Ecology of Discourse in Drug Treatment (Weinberg)
- April 20: Lecture AND Discussion Section  
Therapeutic Communities  
Readings: Therapeutic Community 105  
The Therapeutic Community for Substance Abuse 96  
The Community Approach 86
- April 23: NO CLASS:
- April 25: NO CLASS
- April 27: Lecture AND Discussion Section: Medications and Addictions: FINAL COPY OF PAPER DUE  
Reading: The History of Medicinal Specifics as Addiction Cures (White) 101  
Doctors and Dirty Work (Strong) 31  
How Good is Addiction Treatment? (Humphreys) 47
- April 30 : Drug Courts as a Social Innovation  
Reading: Much Ado About Drug Courts (Anderson) 110  
Drug Treatment and the Disease Paradigm (Nolan)
- May X: **THIRD EXAM, LIBRARY B-2, 10:10-11 AM**