SOC210
ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND SOCIETY
3 Credit Hours

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Arts & Science Education
Dr. Mindy Selsor, Dean
SOC210 ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND SOCIETY

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course examines the medical, legal and social aspects of alcohol and drug use. Medical aspects considered include treatment approaches and the role of physicians in controlling such behavior. In the legal realm, past and present alcohol and drug laws are explored. Cultural and social influences on alcohol and drug use are discussed. (F)

Prerequisite: None
Credit Hours: 3

II. GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVE

The basic objective of this course is to provide a comprehensive survey of the development of sociological theories and analyses of drug use, focusing on images of drug use and the drug user as social constructs rather than as an intrinsically pathological behavior or identity. An additional objective of this course is to survey the current information and research on selected categories of drugs and the socially constructed reality that surrounds their use in contemporary society in order to understand:

A. The socio-cultural based definitions of drugs

B. The individual, group, and social structural dimensions of drug using behavior.

The final objective for this course includes an analysis of the implications of definitions and relationships for social policy and social control.

III. COURSE OUTLINE (Course content will be drawn from this).

A. Drug Use in Modern Society

B. How Drugs Work

C. Uppers and Downers

D. Alcohol

E. Familiar Drugs

F. Restricted Drugs


G. Drugs, Crime and Drug Control
   1. Drugs and crime: What is the connection? The scope of the alcohol/drug problem.
   2. Review and examine drug and alcohol abuse from behavioral, pharmacological, historical, social, legal and clinical perspectives.

IV. UNIT OBJECTIVES

A. Articulate the variety of social, individual, and bio-chemical factors that impact definitions of drugs, as well as how these factors influence a drug’s effect.

B. Understand the process of the social construction of drug use as a social problem.

C. Develop a familiarity with the various biological, psychological and sociological theories that seek to explain drug using behavior; including an analysis of their basic assumptions, limitations, and implications for social policy.

D. Be familiar with trends, patterns, and types of drug use in society.

E. Display knowledge of the various drugs, both legal and illegal, used in American society, as well as the social reality that surrounds their use.

F. Develop an analysis of the relationship between drugs, crime and socio-cultural definitions of drug using behavior.

G. Develop an analysis of the various social responses to drug use, displaying an understanding of the emergence of these responses as linked to particular cultural and social structural shifts.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A. Lectures with use of “Smart Board”
B. Assigned Reading and Written Work

C. Internet Assignments

D. Films

E. Guest Speakers

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S) (WITH PUBLICATION INFORMATION)

Textbook decision is determined by the Instructor and supplied on the semester syllabus.

VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS (STUDENT)

Textbook (as required by Instructor)
Note Taking Materials.

VIII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

Internet Sources
Materials Found in the Jefferson College Library

IX. METHOD OF EVALUATION (STUDENT)

A. Written Exams (Multiple Choice, True/False, Essay)

B. On-line Testing

C. Research Project