South Central College
SOC 259  Drugs and Society
Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description
This course focuses on drug use and abuse as a social rather than as a medical or psychopathological phenomenon. Specifically, the course deals with the history of drug use and regulatory attempts in the United States and around the world; the relationship between drug use and race/social class; pharmacology and use patterns related to specific drugs; perspectives on the causes of drug abuse; AIDS prevention and harm reduction interventions; drug-using subcultures; drug policy, drug dealing and street gangs, drug legislation, and drug enforcement; and the promotion and condemnation of drug activities in the mass media. Each week, students can expect to discuss one of these issues and also view an episode of a program from the popular media used as a basis for discussion. (Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer; MNTC Goal Areas 5 and 9; History and Social Sciences, Ethical and Civic Responsibility)

Career Cluster
Liberal Arts & Sciences

Instructional Level
Associate Degree

Total Credits
3.00

Total Hours
48.00

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type Credits
Lecture 3

Pre/Co-requisites
Prerequisite Prerequisite: Completion of READ 0090 with a grade of C or higher or a score of 78 or above in Reading comprehension on the Accuplacer

Institutional Core Competencies

1 Civic knowledge and engagement- local and global: Students will understand the richness and challenge of local and world cultures and the effects of globalization, and will develop the skills and attitudes to function as “global citizens.”

2 Ethical reasoning and action: Students will develop ethical and social responsibility to self and others, and will collaborate with others to address ethical and social issues in a sustainable manner.

3 Intercultural knowledge and competence: Students will recognize and understand the rich and complex
ways that group and individual inequalities and interactions impact self and society.

External Standards

Title  
MN Transfer Goals

Target Standards
GOAL 5. HISTORY AND THE SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES To increase students’ knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas.

5.a Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.

5.b Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

5.c Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

5.d Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

GOAL 9. ETHICAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY To develop students’ capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship.

9.a Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.

9.b Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.

9.c Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

9.d Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

9.e Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Course Competencies

1  Explain the historical foundations of drug use in human history
Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the origins of drug and substance abuse in antiquity
Demonstrate understanding of the foundations of modern drug use in the United States as well as globally
Demonstrate understanding of economic issues surrounding drug use historically (e.g. Great Britain and opium dealing in China)

2  Explain the historical foundations of drug use in the United States
Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the historical foundations of drug use in the United States, with emphasis on the "evolution" of substance abuse since 1800
Demonstrate understanding of the changes in the substances being abused, and changes in their rates

3  Analyze current drug use patterns in the United States
Learning Objectives
Analyze the race/class/gender differences in drug use
Contrast current patterns and rates of substance abuse
Demonstrate understanding of the variety of drugs typically abused in the United States
Demonstrate understanding of the physiological effects when "high" on given drugs

4  Evaluate the legal controls attempted and currently used to curb drug use in the United States
Learning Objectives
Demonstrate understanding of the national drug control laws used since 1900
Demonstrate understanding of the effectiveness or lack thereof with regards to alcohol prohibition
Using evidence, evaluate the overall effectiveness of these laws, as well as new laws being proposed
Propose solutions to shortcomings identified in the previous objective

5 **Examine the history of and attendant circumstances surrounding the "War on Drugs"**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Demonstrate understanding of the history of the war on drugs
   - Evaluate the ethical implications of the war on drugs
   - Question the race/class/gender issues surrounding the "War on Drugs"

6 **Estimate the effects of substance abuse on wider society**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Demonstrate understanding of the effects of substance abuse on formal social control efforts
   - Predict and interpret the effects of substance abuse on informal social control efforts, families, neighborhoods, and children

7 **Estimate the effects of substance abuse on the individual**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Estimate, predict, and summarize the implications of substance abuse on one's life changes and later social stratification
   - Compare and contrast the effects of substance abuse as it relates to the body and mind, with particular emphasis on the long-term effects of certain drugs

8 **Explain the various methods of drug dealing**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods that populations prohibited from obtaining otherwise legal substances are able to secure them
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical recreational dealer
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical street gang dealing drugs
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical drug corner crew
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical mid-level supplier
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical drug cartel

9 **Evaluate law enforcement strategies used to combat substance abuse and drug dealing**

   **Learning Objectives**
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical local police agency
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical state agency
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical social service agency (quasi-governmental)
   - Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by and the characteristics of the typical federal agency or international interdiction effort
   - Demonstrate understanding of the ethical and moral implications of these efforts
   - Demonstrate understanding of the reproduction of inequality as it relates to drug enforcement

10 **Formulate the various ethical and moral implications surrounding drug and substance abuse, with particular emphasis on the preceding competencies**

    **Learning Objectives**
    - Evaluate the ethical and moral implications of the individual choice to abuse substances
    - Evaluate the ethical and moral implications of societal pressure to abuse substances
    - Demonstrate understanding of the ethical and moral implications of various enforcement efforts and the mass incarceration of low-level non-violent drug offenders
Formulate own position on drug policy and defend it with evidence

11 **Explain the etiology of substance abuse**

Learning Objectives
- Demonstrate understanding of the psychosocial roots of substance abuse
- Postulate, evaluate, and refine the impact of social stratification on the decision to engage in substance abuse

**SCC Accessibility Statement**

If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in the course activities, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. This information will be made available in an alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or cassette tape, upon request. If you wish to contact the college ADA Coordinator, call that office at 507-389-7222.

Disabilities page [http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html](http://southcentral.edu/academic-policies/disability-rights.html)