



South Central College

SOC 259 Drugs and Society

Course Outcome Summary

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)

Total Credits 3

Total Hours 48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3

Pre/Corequisites

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

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

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

South Central College strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you have a disability and need accommodations for access to this class, contact the Academic Support Center to request and discuss accommodations. North Mankato: Room B-132, (507) 389-7222; Faribault: Room A-116, (507) 332-7222.

Additional information and forms can be found at: www.southcentral.edu/disability

This material can be made available in alternative formats by contacting the Academic Support Center at 507-389-7222.