

Dixie State College of Utah
Drugs and Crime
CJ 3400
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 – 10:50 am
Hazy 220

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Each student is expected to read and understand everything outlined in this syllabus. Think of it as my part of a contract that sets out the rules and stipulations of this class. Your enrollment and participation in this class is your signature on this contract, meaning you are in agreement with the terms of this deal. If you have any questions or concerns about what you read, feel free to discuss them with me.

Course Description per the Course Catalogue

Explains the international aspect of the growth, production and distribution of controlled dangerous substances, including the manufacture, cultivation, and distribution of controlled dangerous substances in the United States as well as strategies that have been used to combat the problem. Prerequisite: CJ 1010.

Course Overview

This class is designed to provide a comprehensive look into the issue of drugs and crime. We will be doing this by examining four main themes: Drug Effects and Policy; the War on Drugs; Drug Organization and Trafficking; and Drugs, Crime, and the Media. By the end of this course, you will be more informed on the issues surrounding illicit drugs and the amazing world that has taken root in the use and abuse of these substances.

Because this is an upper division class, it will be run as a seminar. This means that our time together will primarily consist of class discussions on the designated subject matter and that your preparation and participation is vital. The following paragraphs describe how you will be expected to prepare for each topic we will cover this semester.

The first topic we cover in class will be Drug Effects and Policy. This theme does not have any assigned text or reading. I decided not to order a specific book for this section however it is required for you to research the effects and policies for each drug listed on the class schedule for that respective day. The best way to do this is by using the internet to research about the physiological effects and the legal policies in place to control the distribution and use of each listed drug.

The next two topics we will cover this semester require you to do assigned reading as part of your preparation for class. As we focus on the War on Drugs you will be asked to read *Drug Crazy: How We Got into This Mess and How We Can Get Out*, which is available in the bookstore. When we switch gears and begin discussing our third topic which is Drug Organization and Trafficking, you will be asked to choose a book from a list I will provide in the first few weeks of class or you can choose another book dealing with this topic and clear the title with me.

To help address the last theme in this class you will be asked to take the time to read news reports; view movies and television programs; and listen to music that attempts to address the issues surrounding drugs and crime. A list of some places to start will be provided to you as we transition into this section of the course. Yet it is important to note that this list will not be anywhere near comprehensive, so you will be free to find other sources of media to use.

The details for your assignments and participation are described below (due dates for your papers can be found on the class schedule), along with the book information and other class policies. Please feel free to let me know of any concerns or questions you may have. My office and email account are always open to you.

Course Objectives

1. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of and discuss the nature of the drug problem from historic, economic, social, political and physical impact perspectives.
2. Students will develop general knowledge of and be able to explain the impact of illegal drugs on the criminal justice system; illicit drugs contribution to crime; drug production and distribution organizations and systems; efforts to combat drugs, drug prevention and treatment programs; and the debate over decriminalization of illicit drugs.

Required Text and Reading (Book is available at the Bookstore)

Gray, Mike. (2000). *Drug Crazy: How We Got into This Mess and How We Can Get Out*. Routledge Publishing.

Reading for this class is NOT optional. You will be held accountable for the reading that is assigned. My advice is: DO THE READING.

You will be required to keep up with the reading. This means having read the chapter corresponding to that day's class *before* coming to class. In addition to helping you get more out of class discussions, this will also help you avoid having to read large chunks of the book all at once. In the end, this will help you retain more of the information and will enhance your learning ability.

Class Policies

“Punctuality is the politeness of kings.” – Louis XVIII

Be on time to class. If you arrive late, please be courteous to others by entering as quietly as possible.

Also, please do not pack-up until we have finished our discussion for the day. I promise we will never go over our allotted time. Because of this, please do not start gathering your things and banging around in the classroom until we are finished up for the day. If for some reason you do need to leave early, please sit close to the door, in a spot where you do not need to cut in front of anyone, and when the time comes, leave as quietly as you can. Thank you all in advance for being sensitive to this request.

“I could never think well of a man’s intellectual or moral character, if he was habitually unfaithful to his appointments.” – Nathaniel Emmons

Attendance is required in order to pass this class, no exceptions. As discussed below, you will take exams and write papers in order to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter, but these facets of the course are not the only integral components to a passing grade. Attendance, in order to participate in the class discussions, is vital to a passing grade. I understand that situations outside of your control (untimely illnesses, family deaths, or other crises) arise and may take you away from the classroom for a period of time. I hope they don’t, but if circumstances like these affect your life during the semester, it is **your responsibility** to contact me as soon as possible (this means within a day or two of your return/recovery) to discuss the work and class periods that have been missed. If more than a work week has passed without you contacting me, you will be unable to make up the work you missed and the absence will be counted as unexcused.

If you are going to miss a substantial amount of time, we will not discuss a passing grade for the semester. Being absent from class will significantly damage your performance in this class.

Also, please turn off and put away all noise makers when entering the classroom. Cell phones should be silenced or turned off and put away for the duration of the class period. This also includes iPods or other mp3 players. If I notice you are consistently making phone calls, sending text messages, or playing on your mp3 player during class time, I reserve the right to deduct up to 10% off your **final grade**. (If you are expecting an important call or text during the time we have class and need to have your phone on, please talk to me about it *before* class so I don’t act a fool.) Remember to please be respectful of your classmates; it may bother them even if it doesn’t bother you.

Remember, a diversity of ideas is a blessing. During class discussions, please remember to speak to others with respect. Simply because someone else thinks differently than you do does not make them bad, deficient, or unintelligent. We need to cultivate an

environment in which everyone feels safe expressing their ideas. Please do not do anything that would harm our work towards this goal.

One of the secondary goals of this course is to make each one of us a better person for having taken and participated in this class. I hope we may all demonstrate honesty, integrity, accountability, hard work, and patience with one another. And in so doing, I hope we will push each other closer to excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.

Grades and assignments

Let me issue a brief caution about grades (I do this so we can get this out of the way and can bypass this conversation in the future). During every semester, there are students who come to me and say, “I am not doing well in this class and I really need to pass, what can I do?” My answer will be a simple, “Nothing.” There is no extra credit or make-up work for unexcused absences in this class. If this class is important to you, then I expect you to approach your studies with the fervor needed to obtain the results you desire from the *beginning* of the semester. Do not come to me looking for help if you decide part way through the semester that you need to exert more effort. Start working hard today as you will only go as far as your effort takes you.

On this same note, please do not come talk to me or send me emails at the end of the semester asking for me to bump up your final grade because you are just short of the grade you need to keep your scholarship, stay in this major, or stay enrolled in the university. Much like in sports, it is not a single play that determines the outcome of the game. By this I mean it is not your performance in one class that determines whether or not you can keep your scholarship or stay in this major, but the accumulation of the results from multiple classes. It is an untenable and unfair position to put me in, so please understand now that, “You earn what you earn.”

The following list shows the assignments you will be required to do during the semester. This list provides very brief descriptions of the assignments. We will discuss each assignment and exam in greater detail during class. Feel free to ask for more thorough descriptions for each paper, if necessary. The due dates can be found on the class schedule. Remember, no late assignments will be accepted. The descriptions of the exams and the expectations for class participation are listed below:

I. Papers – Four papers will be due during the course of the semester. Each paper will cover one of the four overarching topics we discuss in class: Drug Effects and Policy; the War on Drugs; Drug Organization and Trafficking; and Drugs, Crime, and the Media. More information will be given for each paper as the due date approaches. Feel free to email me or stop by my office to ask any questions you may have about the papers. Papers are due at the beginning of the class period. Emailed assignments will not be accepted, unless arraignments have been made with me before the day the paper is due. No late papers will be accepted whatsoever, no exceptions.

Please pay attention to the layout of the paper:

-Separate cover page with name, date, and class title (CJ 3400).

-Typed written, Twelve point, Times New Roman Font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on the top and bottom and 1.25 inch margins on both sides. These are the default margins on a Word document.

-The paper must be no less than three full pages and no more than five full pages of written text. The title page does not count toward the length of the paper. The writing of the assignment must start at the very top of page one. Do not, I repeat, do not put your name, the date, or any other information at the top of page one. Leave all that information on the cover page. Also, do not space down a line or two and then start writing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For each requirement not met, an automatic 10 points will be deducted from the total score of the paper.

II. Class Participation – Productive commentary is required. The grading of productive commentary is tough to do objectively, so let me at least say this: do not let yourself go more than one class discussion without making a comment. This class will primarily revolve around class discussions, so it is important you participate in them. Preparation is key to be successful in the participation aspect of this class. Part of your preparation will be to send me three discussions questions per class period that deal with the subject matter we will discuss that day. The questions will need to be sent to my dixie.edu email address by midnight the night before each class period. You will be given 3 freebie days (days when you do not send in questions). After these three days, 5 points will be deducted from your participation score for each day you fail to send in questions. You will also be asked to give one 7-10 minute presentation during our last section, which will be part of your participation score. Additionally, your promptness and attendance will be reflected in this portion of your grade.

III. Final Exam – The final exam will consist of one essay question. You will be asked to describe your informed, substantiated opinion on the issues surrounding drugs and crime. More detail will be given during the review session on the last day of class.

Point Breakdown

Drug Effects and Policy Paper	50 points
<i>Drug Crazy</i> Paper	50 points
Book Report Paper	50 points
Drugs, Crime, and Media Paper	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Class Participation	<u>100 points</u>
Point Total	<i>350 points</i>

Grade Breakdown

A	100-94%	C	76-74%
A-	94-90%	C-	73-70%
B+	89-87%	D+	69-67%
B	86-84%	D	66-64%
B-	83-80%	D-	63-60%
C+	79-77%	F	59% or below

Other policies and issues

Although I will try very hard to stick to the attached schedule, changes may be made. Notice of such changes will be made during class (or on the blackboard course website if I have to miss class unexpectedly). Students are responsible for getting this information. Because this and other pertinent information will make its way onto blackboard, make sure you place blackboard into your daily internet rotation. Just place it in there between checking your email account and stalking your friends on facebook.

At the risk of sounding like your parent, I recommend you make a friend in this class. I say this in case you unfortunately have to miss class. The notes we use in class will not be posted on blackboard and I will not make copies of my notes for any student. So, make a friend and problem solved.

Dixie State College's Policies

The following link will allow you to view information on the following school policies, important dates, the final exam schedule, and helpful resources such as:

Disability Resource Center
Library Information
IT Help Desk
Online Writing Lab
Testing Center
Tutoring Center
Writing Center
Semester Schedule
Academic Dishonesty/Academic Integrity Policy
Disruptive Behavior Policy
Absences Related to College Functions
Reasonable Accommodation Policy

<http://new.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/>

**Class Schedule for
Drugs and Crime
CJ 3400, Summer 2011**

Week 1

Tuesday, 5/31 – Syllabus Review and Class Introduction

Wednesday, 6/1 – Marijuana, Prescription Drugs, and Inhalants, Effects and Policy

Thursday, 6/2 – Steroids and LSD, Effects and Policy

Week 2

Tuesday, 6/7 – Heroin, Methamphetamines, and Cocaine, Effects and Policy

Wednesday, 6/8 – Cigarettes and Alcohol, Effects and Policy

Thursday, 6/9 – Who Uses and Why?

Week 3

Tuesday, 6/14 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 1, **Paper Due**

Wednesday, 6/15 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 2

Thursday, 6/16 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 3

Week 4

Tuesday, 6/21 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 4

Wednesday, 6/22 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 5

Thursday, 6/23 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 6

Week 5

Tuesday, 6/28 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapters 7 & 8

Wednesday, 6/29 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapter 9

Thursday, 6/30 – *Drug Crazy*, Chapters 10, 11, and Appendix A & B

Week 6

Tuesday, 7/5 – Theories of Drug Dealing/Participation, **Paper Due**

Wednesday, 7/6 – Does Crime Pay?

Thursday, 7/7 – Drug Trafficking

Week 7

Tuesday, 7/12 – Drug Dealing Organization

Wednesday, 7/13 – Drugs, Crime, and the Media, **Paper Due**

Thursday, 7/14 – Drugs, Crime, and the Media

Week 8

Tuesday, 7/19 – Drugs, Crime, and the Media

Wednesday, 7/20 – Review Session, **Paper Due**

Thursday, 7/21 – Final Exam