

# Drugs and Pharmaceuticals in Society

Prof. Goodman

Period 2 MWF 1:45-2:50

**Course Description:** Licit and illicit drugs make illuminating case studies for our economic and political systems. We investigate the following questions: Are profit motives and humanitarian concerns in irresolvable conflict? Does the international network of illegal drugs show the future of globalization? Does pharmaceutical lobbying demonstrate the anti-democratic influence of money? Is the “war on drugs” political demagoguery or a rational response to human weakness? We will use readings, research papers and discussions to explore these questions.

**Grades:** Your grade will depend on reading points, writing assignments and two exams, according to the following formula:

Reading Points	20%
Position Papers	30% (2 papers at 15% each)
Comparing Exam	20%
Final	30%

*Incompletes will only be given when the student is otherwise passing the course and cannot complete it due to circumstances that are unforeseen and beyond the student's control.*

**Reading Points:** I will provide reading points for most assignments. You will be graded on your ability to provide a summary of the author on those points when called on in class. Only students called on in class will be graded on that day. If you are absent the day that I call on you without a university defined excuse, you will receive an 'F'. Since each student is likely to be called on only 4 or 5 times, it is important that you be prepared for every class. I will give everyone one 'free pass' for the quarter on reading points. In other words, you can let me know that you will be unprepared to answer the reading points for that day. However, **you must do this before class starts**, either in person, phone message or email. You will not be given a free pass after I have called on you.

I will sometimes have you write a short paragraph to answer one of the reading points. That answer should be submitted on Blackboard by 10:30 a.m. the morning of class. It will count as one reading point. A free pass for that day will also apply to that.

**Position Papers:** There will be two position papers one on the Economics of Illegal Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, and one on the Law and Politics of Illegal Drugs. Fuller descriptions of these assignments will be provided. These papers will not require any outside research. They will draw on the readings and class discussion to develop your own position on the subject.

**Comparing Exam:** This will be an in class exam where you will write a short essay comparing and contrasting two of the readings. A fuller description and grading criteria will be provided.

**Final Exam:** The exam will be short essays. I will provide you with a list of study questions and the exam questions will be a subset of the study questions.

**Readings:** All readings will be provided as downloaded pdf or MSWord files. Please let me know if you anticipate any problems with those formats and we will figure out an alternative.

**Help:** I will hold office hours Mon., Wed. & Fri. from 11:00 to 12:00 and from 3:00 to 4:00. I can also be reached by phone or email. I check my email often every day and it is my preferred mode of communication. Messages can also be left for me in the Sociology office.

*Please let me know if you have any disabilities which will affect your participation in this class. I will make every effort to accommodate you.*

## Readings/Assignments

### Social Problem or Individual Responsibility

**Fri. Sept 25** .....

“You Can’t Help but Get Stoned: Notes on the Social Organization of Marijuana Smoking.” 1977. Don Zimmerman & D. Wieder. *Social Problems*.

“History, Culture and Subjective Experience: An Exploration of the Social Bases of Drug-Induced Experiences.” Howard S. Becker. 1967. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

“Social Patterning of Individual Health Behaviors: The Case of Cigarette Smoking.” Martin Jarvis & Jane Wardle. 2006. In *Social Determinants of Health*. M.G. Marmot, Richard Wilkinson, editors.

**Mon. Sept 28** .....

“Deviant Drinking as Disease: Alcoholism as a Social Accomplishment.” Joseph W. Schneider. 1978. *Social Problems*.

“Addiction is a Brain Disease.” Alan I. Leshner. 2001. *Issues in Science and Technology*.

### Economics of Illegal Drugs

**Wed. Sept 30** .....

“Illegal Drugs: It’s the Economy, Man,” Diane Coyle. 2002. In *Sex, Drugs & Economics*.

“The Economic Case Against Drug Prohibition.” Jeffery Miron & Jeffery Zwiebel. 1993. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

**Fri. Oct 2** ..

“Are We a Family or a Business? History and Disjuncture in the Urban American Street Gang.” Sudhir Venkatesh; Steven D. Levitt. 2000. *Theory and Society*.

**Mon. Oct 5** .....

“Drug Markets and Distribution Systems.” Tiggey May & Mike Hough. 2004. *Addiction Research and Theory*.

“Consumer Behaviour in an Unregulated Market: The Satisfactions and Dissatisfactions of Illicit Drug Consumption.” James Fitchett. 2001. *Journal of Consumer Behaviour*.

**Wed. Oct 7** .....

“The Puzzle of Distribution.” David Courtwright. 2001. In *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*.

“A Drug Trade Primer.” Geopolitical Drug Watch. 1998. *Current History*.

"The Drug War's New Battlegrounds." 2007. *Foreign Policy*.

**Fri. Oct 9**.....

"Perverse Integration: Drug Trafficking and Youth in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro."

Alba Zaluar. 2000. *Journal of International Affairs*.

"Coca Is Everything Here: Hard Truths about Bolivia's Drug War." Daniel Kurtz-Phelan.

2005. *World Policy Journal*.

*Economics of Pharmaceuticals*

**Mon. Oct 12**.....

Selections from *Selling Sickness: How the World's Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies Are Turning Us All into Patients*. Ray Moynihan & Alan Cassels. 2002.

**Wed. Oct 14**.....

"Medicalization, Markets and Consumers." Peter Conrad & Valerie Leiter. 2004. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

"Do Consumers understand Drug Ads?" 2008. *Time*

**Fri. Oct 16**.....

"America's Other Drug Problem." Arnold S. Relman & Marcia Angell. 2002. *The New Republic*.

"Prices, Profits, And Innovation: Examining Criticisms Of New Psychotropic Drugs' Value." Halden Huskamp. 2006. *Health Affairs*.

**Mon. Oct 19**.....

**In Class Test: Compare and Contrast Two Articles**

**Wed. Oct 21**.....

"Dr. Drug Rep." Daniel Carlat. 2001. *New York Times*.

"Surviving Sepsis — Practice Guidelines, Marketing Campaigns and Eli Lilly." Peter Eichacker, Charles Natanson, and Robert L. Danner. 2002. *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**Fri. Oct 23**.....

Selections from *The Body Hunters*. Soni Shar. 2006.

**Mon. Oct 26**.....

**Position Paper Due: Economics of Illegal Drugs and Pharmaceuticals**

*Politics & Law of Illegal Drugs*

**Wed. Oct 28**.....

Selections from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream*. Hunter S. Thompson. 1972

**Fri. Oct 30**.....

“Licit & Illicit.” David Courtwright. 2001. In *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*.

“Development of a Rational Scale to Assess the Harm of Drugs of Potential Misuse.” David Nutt. 2007. *Lancet*.

**Mon. Nov 2**.....

“The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem: The Case of Mothers against Drunk Drivers and Social Control in the 1980s.” Craig Reinerman. 1988. *Theory and Society*.

“Introduction.” Joseph Gusfield. 1963. In *Symbolic Crusade: Status Politics and the American Temperance Movement*.

**Wed. Nov 4**.....

“Hawks Ascendant: The Punitive Trend of American Drug Policy.” Peters Reuters. 1992. *Daedalus*.

“Legalize Drugs Now!: An Analysis of the Benefits of Legalized Drugs.” Meaghan Cussen & Walter Block. 2000. *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*.

**Fri. Nov 6**,

“Drugging the Poor.” Merrill Singer. 2008. In *Legal and Illegal Drugs and Social Inequality*.

**Mon. Nov 9**.....

“How America Lost the War on Drugs.” Ben Wallace-Wells. 2007. *Rolling Stone*.

“Drugs, National Sovereignty, and Democratic Legitimacy.” Pablo De Greiff. 1999. In *Drugs and the Limits of Liberalism: Moral and Legal Issues*.

**Wed. Nov 11**.....

“Foreign Drugs, Foreign Wars.” Mathea Falco. 1992. *Daedalus*.

"La Familia" and "La Zeta" mp3 files from NPR.

“The FARC And The Taliban's Connection To Drugs.” Alain Labrousse. 2005. *Journal Of Drug Issues*.

Politics & Law of Pharmaceuticals

**Fri. Nov 13**.....

"Drugstore Athlete." Malcolm Gladwell. Sep 10,2001. *The New Yorker*.

“Non-steroid Users Should be Barred from Athletic Competition.” Sidney Gendin. 1999. From *Sports and Drugs*.

“Professor’s Little Helper.” 2007. *Nature*.

“Drugs to Build up that Mental Muscle.” Karen Kaplan & Denise Gellene. 2007. *Los Angeles Times*.

"Smartening Up: Brain Enhancement Is Wrong, Right?" Benedict Carey. March 9, 2008. *New York Times*.

**Mon. Nov 16** .....

“Shiny Happy People.” David Rothman. 1994. *The New Republic*.

"Neuropharmacology and the Control of Behavior." Francis Fukuyama. 2002. From *Our Posthuman Future*.

**Wed. Nov 18** ..... **(Don't worry, they're all short!)**

“The Changing Face of Teenage Drug Abuse — The Trend toward Prescription Drugs.” Richard A. Friedman. 2006. *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"Psychiatrists, Troubled Children and Drug Industry's Role." May 10, 2007. G. Harris, B. Carey & J. Roberts *New York Times*.

"Black Beauties, Gorilla Pills, Footballs, And Hillbilly Heroin: Some Reflections On Prescription Drug Abuse And Diversion Research Over The Past 40 Years." James A. Inciardi, Theodore J . Cicero. 2009. *Journal Of Drug Issues*.

"Direct-to-Consumer Marketing of Prescription Drugs: Creating Consumer Demand." Matthew F. Hollon. 1999. *Journal of the American Medical Society*.

**Fri. Nov 20** .....

“The Right To a Trial; Medical Dispatch.” Jerome Groopman. 2006. *The New Yorker*.

"Juggling Figures, and Justice, in a Doctor’s Trial." John Tierney. July 3, 2007. *New York Times*.

"Wit." 2001. Dir. Mike Nichols. On Blackboard.

**Mon. Nov 23** .....

Havidol.com web site

“Afterword.” James Young. 1992. *The Medical Messiahs: A Social History of Health Quackery in Twentieth-Century America*.

**Mon. Nov 30** .....

**Politics and Law of Illegal Drugs Paper Due**

**Wed. Dec 2**.....  
Futurological Congress

**Final.....Sun., Dec 6, 3:00** .....