

**DRUGS AND SOCIETY**  
**SOC 2460**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS\***

**Lectures: 2:30-3:20 MW**

**Spring 2016**

Room: Baker Laboratory 135

Discussion Sections: Fridays

(201) 1:25 PM -2:15 PM McGraw Hall 165

(202) 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM Morrill Hall 107

Instructor: Douglas Heckathorn, Professor of Sociology  
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Office Hours: 3:30-4:30 Mondays and Wednesdays or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Thomas Davidson <trd54@cornell.edu>

Description: The 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 racism/class conflict; use patterns related to specific drugs; perspectives on the etiology of drug use/abuse; AIDS prevention and harm reduction interventions; drug using subcultures; drug policy; drug legislation; drug enforcement; and the promotion and condemnation of drug activities in the mass media.

Examinations will consist of a midterm examination and a final, each of which will constitute 30% of the grade. Writing assignments will consist of two short discussion papers, which together constitute 10% of the grade, and a term paper, which will constitute 20% of the grade. Participation in the discussion sections constitutes the final 10% of the grade.

**Texts:**

*Heavy Drinking* by Herbert Fingarette

*Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Drugs and Society 10<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Raymond Goldberg,

**Articles, Book Chapters (Available on BlackBoard)**

"I, Too, Sail Past: Odysseus and the Logic of Self-Control." By David Sally. *Kyklos*, Vol. 53, pp. 173-200.  
*The Sociology of American Drug Use* by Charles E. Faupel, Alan M. Horowitz, and Greg S. Weaver, Chapters 1 and 2.

*Culture, Society, and Drugs: The Social Science Approach to Drug Use* by Ed Knipe, Chapters 4 and 8.

*Drugs in American Society* by Erich Goode, Chapter 4

*The American Disease: Origins of Narcotic Control, Third Edition*, by David F. Musto, Chapters 1 and 3

"Development of a Theory of Collective Action: From the Emergence of Norms to AIDS Prevention and the Analysis of Social Structure," by Douglas Heckathorn, in *New Directions in Sociological Theory: Growth of Contemporary Theories* (Joseph Berger and Morris Zelditch, editors). Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 79-108, 2002.

*Webs of Smoke: Smugglers, Warlords, Spies, and the History of the International Drug Trade* by Kathryn Meyer and Terry Parssinen, pp. 1-13, 277-289.

*Cops Across Borders: The Internationalization of U.S. Criminal Law Enforcement*, by Ethan Nadelmann, Penn State Press, 1997, pp. 189-312.

*The American Pipe Dream: Crack Cocaine and the Inner City* by Dale Chitwood, James E. Rivers, and James A. Inciardi, Chapter 5.

*Point/Counterpoint: Opposing Perspectives on Issues of Drug Policy* by Charles Levinthal, Chapter 2

*Let States Decide on Marijuana*, New York Times, July 27, 2014. URL:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/27/opinion/sunday/high-time-let-states-decide-on-marijuana.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/27/opinion/sunday/high-time-let-states-decide-on-marijuana.html?_r=0)

*The Federal Marijuana Ban Is Rooted in Myth and Xenophobia*, New York Times, July 30, 2014. URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/30/opinion/high-time-federal-marijuana-ban-is-rooted-in-myth.html>

**Schedule of Readings:**

**Note: Due to the new academic calendar, classes begin on Wednesday of Week 1 (January 27). February break is Feb 15 to 16, so there is no class on Monday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. Spring break is March 28 to April 1, so there are no classes during Week 10.**

Week 1 (January 27): Introduction to course  
Readings: None

Weeks 2-3 (February 1): Drugs, Social Norms, Social Dilemmas, and the Commitment Problem  
Readings: Faupel 1 and 2  
Sally

Weeks 4-5 (February 17\*): Social Reactions to Drugs: Changing views of Marijuana and other Drugs  
Readings: Knipe 4  
New York Times, July 27 and 30

Musto 1 and 3  
Goldberg Issues 1-2, 9, 16

\*Note, the Monday and Tuesday of Week 4, February 15th  
and 16th, is February break

Week 6-7 (February 29):	Structure of Drug Markets Readings: Meyer Nadelmann Knipe 8
Weeks 8 (March 14):	Race, Class, and Drugs Readings: Goode 4
Week 9 (March 21):	Gender and Drugs Readings: Chitwood 5 Goldberg Issue 5
Week 10 (March 28):	Spring Break
Weeks 11 (April 4):	Drugs and HIV Readings: Heckathorn, 2002 Goldberg Issues 6, 17
Week 12 (April 11):	Drugs and Crime Readings: Levinthal Chapter 2
Week 13 (April 18):	Harm Reduction Readings: Goldberg Issues 10, 18-19
Week 14 (April 25):	Currently Legal Drugs Readings: Fingarette Goldberg Issues 3-4, 8, 11, 14-15
Week 15-16 (May 2):	Policy Debates Readings: Goldberg Issues 7, 12-13

**Schedule of Events, Examinations and Assignments:**

January 27	First day of classes
February 15-16	February Break
February 26	First Discussion Paper Due (end of week 5)
March 9	Midterm Examination (week 7)
March 28-April 1	Spring Break
April 15	Second Discussion Paper Due (end of week 12)
April 29	Term Paper Due (week 14)
May 11	Last day of classes
May 16-24	Final Exam Exact date, time, and room for this course will be announced on February 16 <sup>th</sup> at the following URL: <a href="https://registrar.cornell.edu/Sched/exams.html">https://registrar.cornell.edu/Sched/exams.html</a>

This syllabus is subject to minor revision.

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