

HSTY 293: History of Drugs in the U.S.

Professor:	Dr. Rhonda Y. Williams	Time:	T/R, 10-11:15 a.m.
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Description:

This course will survey the rise and political, social, and cultural effects of drugs in modern societies with an emphasis on the late 19th- and 20th-century United States. First, we will examine the global emergence and popularization of drugs as part of what David Courtwright has coined the “psychoactive revolution.” Then, we will narrow this broad lens by shifting our gaze to narcotics in the expanding U.S. nation. Specifically, we will examine the shifting nature of and debates regarding narcotic consumption, regulation, and policy. Finally, we will explore the human toll of narcotics in post-World War II culture and cities through film and autobiography.

Course Requirements:

Note on Attendance and Participation (20%):

Attending class is important. If you are absent from class, you miss information, can not participate, and more than likely will not perform well on assignments. Discussions, in particular, provide the space for you to critically engage the material—in other words, to test ideas, clarify unclear points, and express concerns. My hope is that you not only learn from lectures, but through exchanges with each other. Poor attendance not only affects your learning experience, but also your peers’.

Missing four classes (the equivalent of 2 weeks) will result in a “0” for the attendance and participation portion of your grade. Missing an additional two classes (the equivalent of another week) will result in an automatic “F” in the course. Moreover, merely attending class does not ensure an “A.” You must come prepared and be ready to actively engage the material.

Finally, there are very few reasons why any absence may be excused (such as a documented illness or death in the family). You must inform me in a timely manner, and sole discretion is mine.

Essays (50%)

You will write five critical review essays (3 pages in length) during the semester. Your goal is to convince me that you’ve read thoroughly, that you can critically assess the work(s), and can write clearly and persuasively. To that end, your essays should include ALL of the following elements:

- 1) **Brief summary:** Outline the author(s)’ main arguments. What are the main questions the author is seeking to answer, what are the outcomes reached?

- 2) **Work(s)' Contributions:** Explain how the work(s) contribute to our understanding of the course topic under consideration and the specific issues raised in the class readings and discussions about that topic?

- 3) **Your Evaluation:** Provide your evaluation of the work(s)' strengths and weaknesses by assessing the author's evidence and reasoning. Questions you might ask yourself: In what ways are the arguments powerful or convincing? In what ways are the arguments unsubstantiated? Are there internal inconsistencies or contradictions in the work(s)? What new questions do the works raise, but don't necessarily answer? (This is essentially a sign of a good monograph)

Final Project (30%):

Select an autobiography or memoir. The autobiography or memoir that you choose must feature drugs as a primary part of the writer's experience. Write an essay that analyzes what the autobiography, as a primary source, reveals to us about the roles, effects, and political economy of drugs, and the history of drug culture. You should draw on historical sources as evidentiary support. Make sure that your arguments and claims are historically grounded and nuanced.

POLICIES

NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted.

NO FAXED or EMAILED PAPERS will be accepted. You must turn in a hard copy at the beginning of class.

DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. *Plagiarism* is a serious violation of ethical conduct and academic integrity. Plagiarism need not be intentional. All cases of plagiarism – the theft of words, ideas, sources, and conclusions whether from written, audio, oral, or digital materials – will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Grades:

Attendance/Participation	20%
5 Critical Review Essays (3 pages each)	50%
Final Paper Project (10-12 pages)	30%

Required Books:

David F. Courtwright, *Dark Paradise: A History of Opiate Addiction*

Cassandra Tate, *The Cigarette Wars: The Triumph of the 'Little White Slaver'*

Eugene O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*

David Simon & Edward Burns, *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner City Neighborhood*

Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, *On the Pill: A Social History of Oral Contraceptions, 1950-1970*

Other required readings will be posted on the course's Blackboard site or available online through JSTOR or Project Muse.

Schedule: Course Readings & Assignments

Week 1: Drugs & Making Modern Societies

Tuesday Introduction: "What are drugs?"

Thursday The "Psychoactive Revolution"

David Courtwright, *Forces of Habit*, Introduction & Chapters 1-2

Week 2: Cash Crops, Plantations & Commodities

Tuesday Coffee

Thursday Sugar, Rum & Breweries

Peter C. Mancall, "I was addicted to drinking rum: Four Centuries of Alcohol Consumption in Indian Territory"; Katharine Chavigny, "Reforming Drunkards in Nineteenth Century America: Religion, Medicine, Therapy," from *Altering American Consciousness*, pp. 91-123.

Week 3: Alcohol

Tuesday U.S. Temperance & Prohibition

Documents, Chapters 6 (read the: Hillsboro Crusade Sketches), Chapter 7 (read the: Songs), Chapter 8-11 (all), 13-14 (all), from *Drugs in America: A Documentary History*, pp. 87-121, 124-129.

Thursday Prohibition & Its Repeal

Documents, Chapter 15-19, from *Drugs in America: A Documentary History*, pp. 130-157.

Week 4: Tobacco

Tuesday Tate, *The Cigarette Wars*, Intro, Chapters 1-3

Thursday Tate, *The Cigarette Wars*, Finish the book

Week 5: Opiates

Courtwright, *Dark Paradise*

Week 6: A Mish-Mash of It All

O'Neill, *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Week 7: Drugs in post-World War II United States

Tuesday "The Era of No Mercy"

Douglas Clark Kinder, "Bureaucratic Cold Warrior: Harry J. Anslinger and Illicit Narcotic Traffic," *The Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 50, No. 2 (May, 1981), pp. 169-191. (Accessible online through JSTOR)

Nancy D. Campbell, "The 'Enemy Within': Gender Deviance in the Mid-Century," in *Using Women: Gender, Drug Policy, and Social Justice*, pp. 91-111.

Thursday Documents, Chapters 43-46 (all), from *Drugs in America: A Documentary History*, pp. 276-304

Week 8: Marijuana, Beats, and the "Counterculture"

Tuesday Marijuana & the Beats

Thursday LSD, etc.

Jill Jonnes, Chapter 11: "Burning for the Heavenly Connection," and Chapter 12: "One Pill Makes You Larger," from *Hep-cats, Narcs, and Pipe-Dreams: A History of America's Romance with Illegal Drugs*, pp. 205-240.

Week 9: The "Counterculture" cont....

Tuesday ****Fall Break**

Thursday Cocaine, etc.

Jill Jonnes, Chapter 14: "The Problem Has Assumed the Dimensions of a National Emergency," from *Hep-cats, Narcs, and Pipe-Dreams: A History of America's Romance with Illegal Drugs*, pp. ??-302.

Week 10: Prescription Drugs: "The Pill, Tranquilizers & Viagra"

Tuesday Pills: Birth Control

Watkins, *On the Pill*, Chapters 1-3.

Thursday Watkins, *On the Pill*, Chapters 4-6.

Week 11: Prescription Drugs: "The Pill, Tranquilizers & Viagra" cont.

Tuesday Pills: Tranquilizers

David Herzberg, "*The Pill You Love Can Turn on You: Feminism, Tranquilizers, and the Valium Panic of the 1970s*," *American Quarterly* 58.1 (2006), pp. 79-103. Accessible online through Project Muse)

Andrea Tone, "Tranquilizers on Trial: Psychopharmacology in the Age of Anxiety," in *Medicating Modern America: Prescription Drugs in History* (Edited by Andrea Tone and Elizabeth Siegel Watkins), pp. 156-179.

Thursday Pills: Viagra
Jennifer Fishman, "Making Viagra: From Impotence to Erectile Dysfunction," in *Medicating Modern America: Prescription Drugs in History* (Edited by Andrea Tone and Elizabeth Siegel Watkins), pp. 229-252.

Week 12: "Just Say No" in a Drug Society

Tuesday Cities, Race & Illicit Drugs
Begin Discussion: Simon and Burns, *The Corner*

Thursday Discussion: Simon and Burns, *The Corner*

Week 13: No Class/Independent Research Days

Week 14:

Tuesday No class

Thursday NO CLASS/"Thanksgiving Holiday"

Week 15: The United States: A Medicated Nation

Tuesday No Class
**Tuesday Film Night, 6-8 p.m.: "Requiem for a Dream," (2001, 102 minutes)
(Pizza dinner provided; bring own beverage & other snacks)

Thursday In-class discussion of "Requiem for a Dream" & Conclusions

****Final Papers Due: Tuesday, December 8**