SAMPLE SYLLABUS

GPH-GU 2500 002 Topics in Public Health: Drug Use and Public Health (#6185) 3.0 credits
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Summer 2015 Semester
Meets TR 4:55-7:00 from 5/25-7/2
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Office hours: By appointment via student initiated email request and location to be determined on ad hoc basis dependent on convenience for student and Instructor.

A. Course description

This course covers the broad group of drugs with psychoactive effects used world-wide, including: licit and illicit use of prescribed medications for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and opioid based pain medications; alcohol; marijuana; tobacco; Ecstasy, Designer Drugs and methamphetamine; cocaine and crack; heroin and methadone; hallucinogens such as LSD and peyote; as well as others like energy drinks and steroids. The epidemiology and effects on biologic, psychological, social function and public health as well as history, trafficking, regulation, treatment and controversies are the focus.

B. Course learning objectives

This course will help students:

1. To understand the scope and history of multiple widely used licit and illicit psychoactive drugs in the US and world-wide.

2. To identify the epidemiology of the use of multiple different psychoactive drugs in the US and globally, including how race, socioeconomic status, gender and other socio-demographic factors influence their use.

3. To understand the effects of the use of the drugs covered on the biological, psychological and social function of individuals, as well as their effects on society, clinical medicine and public health.

4. To understand the principal US and global policies and programs in drug use regulation, trafficking and seizure of drugs across countries and the intended and unintended consequences of such policies and programs.

5. To identify the history, consequences, processes of developing and dismantling, as well as controversies concerning drug related policies such as the earlier prohibition of alcohol use, needle exchange programs for heroin and cocaine to prevent HIV, and the legalization of some drugs such as marijuana in the US and multiple other countries and regions.
6. To understand the principals of drug dependence and treatments for drug use.

C. Required readings

Each week 3-5 required readings (required readings may vary, and in some cases be more than 5 or less than 3, depending on the length of the readings) and 3-10 suggested readings will be provided. Students will be expected to read all of the required readings relevant to that week’s class. In addition, articles will be made available as current articles on relevant topics become available.

Class 1: Introduction to the course and review of the content, expectations and process of student and class evaluation

No readings

Class 2: Drug Trafficking and Regulation

Required:


Supplemental:


Class 3: Use of medically prescribed psychoactive drugs such as those for ADHA, depression and pain management for (a) medically indicated purposes and (b) use of such psychoactive drugs obtained illicitly

Required:


Supplemental:


Class 4: Global Alcohol Use

Required:


Casswell, S, Thamarangsi, T. Reducing harm from alcohol: call to action. The lancet 2009; 373:2247-57


Supplemental:


**Class 5: Cocaine and Crack**

**Required:**


**Supplemental:**


Quick Facts: Crack Cocaine Trafficking Offenses. United States Sentencing Commission.


**Class 6: Ecstasy, MDMA, Methamphetamine**

**Required:**


Parrott AC, Lasky J. Ecstasy (MDMA) effects upon mood and cognition: before, during and after a Saturday night dance. Psychopharmacology, 1998; 139:261–268


Supplemental:


Parrott AC .MDMA in humans: factors which affect the neuropsychobiological profiles of recreational ecstasy-users, the integrative role of bioenergetic stress. J Psychopharmacol, 2006; 20: 147–163


Class 7: Tobacco as a global health issues: use, uptake, effects and the new face of alternative tobacco products


Class 8: Heroin

Required:


Supplemental:


Class 9: Hallucinogen such as LSD and peyote

Required:


Supplemental:

Class 10: Marijuana

Required:


Supplemental:


Class 11: Nitrous oxide, Ketamine, energy drinks and Steroids


Class 12: Dependence and Addiction treatments

Required:


Supplemental:


Class 13: Controversies in regulation and penal system involvement

Required:

Hughes, C.E., Stevens, A. What can we learn from the Portuguese decriminalization of illicit drugs? Brit J Criminol. 2010;50:999-122.


Supplemental:


**Class 14:** Presentations by students, discussion of presentations and student discussion of the strengths, weaknesses and proposed changes of the course.

D. Methods of evaluating the final course grade

As the richness of the educational experience of a course such as this is greatly influenced by student input and discussion, all students will be encouraged to actively participate in each classes' discussions.

There will be no comprehensive exam. Instead there will be a weekly five-minute, five question, multiple-choice quizzes to confirm the comprehension of the assigned reading material. Students will decide upon their term paper by Week 4 (2/20/15) of the course, after discussion with the Instructor. Students may choose topics on their own or choose from a list of potential topics provided by the Instructor. Term papers will be due by Week 11 of the course (4/17/15). Students will randomly be assigned to groups of 3-5 students depending on class size. These groups will each do a 10 minute presentation on a discrete relevant topic during the last class. Topics will be decided by Class 11 (4/17/15). After all 5 group presentations the entire class will discuss the presentations.

The Grade for the course will be determined based on:

20% class participation
20% weekly quizzes
40% midterm paper
20% group presentation

E. Students with disabilities
Any student attending NYU who needs an accommodation due to a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility and/or learning disability, or is Deaf or Hard of Hearing should register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212 998-4980, 726 Broadway, 2nd Floor, http://www.nyu.edu/csd.

F. Statement of academic integrity
The NYU Global Institute of Public Health values both open inquiry and academic integrity. Students in the program are expected to follow standards of excellence set forth by New York University. Such standards include respect, honesty and responsibility. The GIPH does not tolerate violations to academic integrity including:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating on an exam
- Submitting your own work toward requirements in more than one course without prior approval from the instructor
- Collaborating with other students for work expected to be completed individually
- Giving your work to another student to submit as his/her own
- Purchasing or using papers or work online or from a commercial firm and presenting it as your own work

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the GIPH and University’s policy on academic integrity as they will be expected to adhere to such policies at all times – as a student and an alumni of New York University.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, whether intended or not, is not tolerated in the GIPH. Plagiarism involves presenting ideas and/or words without acknowledging the source and includes any of the following acts:

- Using a phrase, sentence, or passage from another writer's work without using quotation marks
- Paraphrasing a passage from another writer's work without attribution
- Presenting facts, ideas, or written text gathered or downloaded from the Internet as your own
- Submitting another student’s work with your name on it
- Submitting your own work toward requirements in more than one course without prior approval from the instructor
- Purchasing a paper or "research" from a term paper mill.

Students in the GIPH and GIPH courses are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. Students are encouraged to discuss specific questions with faculty instructors and to utilize the many resources available at New York University.

Disciplinary Sanctions

When a professor suspects cheating, plagiarism, and/or other forms of academic dishonesty, appropriate disciplinary action is as follows:
The Professor will meet with the student to discuss, and present evidence for the particular violation, giving the student opportunity to refute or deny the charge(s).

- If the Professor confirms that violation(s), he/she, in consultation with the Program Director may take any of the following actions:
  - Allow the student to redo the assignment
  - Lower the grade for the work in question
  - Assign a grade of F for the work in question
  - Assign a grade of F for the course
  - Recommend dismissal

Once an action(s) is taken, the Professor will inform the Program Director and inform the student in writing, instructing the student to schedule an appointment with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, as a final step. The student has the right to appeal the action taken in accordance with the GIPH Student Complaint Procedure.