

ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 253  
Drug Abuse in America

Winter 2007

Instructor: Dr. Michael Caldero

Office: D-100-C

Office Hours: 10:30am to 11:30pm (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Drugs in American Society, Erich Goode, Sixth Edition, McGraw-Hill Publishers.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

"Taking Sides", (Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Drugs and Society) by Raymond Goldberg, published by Duskin publishers.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this class is to present the issue of licit and illicit drug use in American Society from a variety of perspectives. This process will illustrate why the solutions we apply to this problem are heavily dependent upon the social, economic, or political views we hold.

The class will emphasize three areas of importance. The first is a historical presentation of the use and abuse of addictive substances. The second is the analysis of the controversy between the role of the police and the role of the medical practitioners in the resolution and treatment of the "DRUG" problem in America. The third area of interest deals with the intended and unintended consequences of fighting the great drug wars of the 20th century.

If you think you already understand the depth of the drug problem in America, consider these facts:

- While African Americans represent only 11.8% of our general population they are nearly half (49%) of our prison population and primarily for drug charges.
- The "drug war" in America cost over 70 billion dollars annually.
- According to a U.S. Surgeon General, if it's not smoked, marijuana is the safest drug known to humans.
- Without the drug war the state of Washington would not have a budget deficit
- The United States incarcerates over 720 persons per 100,000 population, more than any other nation in the world.
- In some countries the penalty for the possession of pepper, chocolate, or tobacco, was death.
- The most dangerous drug in America, in terms of the number

- of deaths related to its use and the amount of monetary loss the drug causes to society, is legal to use.
- Most common drugs are potentially more physically damaging to the human body than heroin.
  - Addiction has more to do with your biological composition than will power.
  - One occupational group with a high drug abuse rate is the police.

If you want to understand the "DRUG" problem in America from more than one perspective, attend this class on a regular basis.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS: READ THIS SECTION VERY CAREFULLY**

**PLEASE NOTE-THIS IS A "DISTRIBUTIVE LEARNING" CLASS.**  
This means that the class meets in the classroom only on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During the remainder of the week this class is conducted either "on-line" or with outside class assignments.

During the first two days of class you will be given a web address which you will use to access a class website. Go to the site and click on either the "BULLETIN BOARD" or the "CALENDAR".  
From there you will be able to pick up important class information.

You will be responsible for the reading assignments and contents of all lectures. **REGULAR ATTENDANCE**, since the class only meets two days a week, is critical to the successful completion of this course.

(Since you are smart enough to read this syllabus be sure to ask me about "Big L".)

Students who drop out of this course are urged to take time to officially withdraw. Otherwise, a grade of "F" must be entered on your transcript.

If, at any time, you experience difficulty with the concepts developed in this class please do not hesitate to drop by during office hours (or any time I'm in) or feel free to make an appointment.

**GRADING DETAILS:**

Each of the three examinations will count as one third of your final score. The three scores will be averaged to determine your cumulative average. **The first exam will be on Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup>, the second will on Thursday February 15<sup>th</sup> and the third will held on Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please remember to bring a scantron form and number two pencil to each exam. **IN ADDITION**, you will be required to produce a project paper. The paper will either add or subtract as much as five (5) percentage points to your final

cumulative score. **This process will be extensively discussed in class and on the BULLETIN BOARD from the class website.**

Your project paper is scored according to the following criteria:  
Content - (does it cover the subject matter as directed in class),  
Structure - (grammar, spelling, sentence construction, etc.,) AND  
Timeliness - (papers will NOT be accepted after the day and time of the scheduled last day of regular class.). **The due date for the project paper (as well as other assignments) will be posted on the bulletin board and calendar on the website.**

In addition to the three exams and the project paper you will have the opportunity to do **extra credit** work which will earn you from one to three percentage points toward the construction of your grade. EXTRA CREDIT POINTS WILL BE FULLY EXPLAINED IN CLASS AND ON THE WEBSITE.

IF YOU DO NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTAND HOW THE GRADING IS DETERMINED PLEASE ASK NOW.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS GRADING PROCEDURE PLEASE CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.

**Grading:**

A	=	100-97%	C+	=	80-77%
A-	=	96 -93%	C	=	76-73%
B+	=	92 -89%	C-	=	72-69%
B	=	88 -85%	D+	=	68-65%
B-	=	84 -81%	D	=	64-61%
			F	=	60% or less

Unless you have notified me 24 hours in advance, a missed exam will be scored as a zero and averaged into your score.