Syllabus for SOS-3040

Drugs and Society

Course Description

Drugs and Society examines the impact of substance use and abuse on the individual and on society. The course provides a balanced account of the physiological, psychological, and sociological aspects of this subject, interpreting its complex nature. Among the areas covered are current and historical approaches to treatment and prevention of substance abuse as well as the legal and ethical issues surrounding the topics.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

CO 1 Describe significant historical developments contributing to our current problems with drugs.

CO 2 Identify the nature of prevailing social attitudes and beliefs pertaining to the regulation of drugs.

CO 3 Explain the complex societal forces related to licit as well as illicit drug use.

CO 4 Describe the pharmacological bases of drug actions.

CO 5 Provide evidence of personal insight into ethical issues related to selected aspects of drug use.

CO 6 Analyze the nature and complexity of treatment and rehabilitative approaches.

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CO 7 Identify alternatives to drug use.

Study Materials

You will need the following materials to complete your coursework. Some course materials may be free, open source, or available from other providers. You can access free or open-source materials by clicking the links provided below or in the module details documents. Please visit the following website to purchase course materials: University's textbook supplier.

Required Textbook(s)

- *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior*, 16th ed., by Charles Ksir and Carl L. Hart. (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2015).
  ISBN-13: 978-0078028649

Course Structure

Drugs and Society is a 3-credit online course, consisting of **6** modules. Modules include objectives, study materials, and activities. They consist of weekly readings, six written assignments, one ungraded introduction discussion, and six graded online discussions. In addition, the course requires you to take a proctored midterm examination and to submit a Final Project.

Assessment Methods

You are required to participate in the following for formal work in the course:

- Write online discussion forum posts
- Complete written assignments
- Take a proctored midterm exam
- Finish a final project

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See below for details.

Consult the Course Calendar for due dates.

Promoting Originality

One or more of your course activities may utilize a tool designed to promote original work and evaluate your submissions for plagiarism. More information about this tool is available in this Plagiarism Detection Tool Google document.

Discussion Forums

In addition to posting an introduction to the class in Module 1, you are required to participate in **6** graded online discussions, each focusing on a contemporary drug-related issue.

Communication with the mentor and among fellow students is a critical component of online learning. Participation in online discussions involves two distinct assignments: an initial response to a discussion question and at least two subsequent comments on classmates' responses. Meaningful participation is relevant to the content, adds value, and advances the discussion. Comments such as "I agree" and "ditto" are not considered value-adding participation. Therefore, when you agree or disagree with a classmate, the reading, or your mentor, state ***and support*** your agreement or disagreement. You will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of your participation. Responses and comments should be properly proofread and edited, professional, and respectful.

Written Assignments

You are required to complete **6** written assignments. The written assignments are on a variety of topics associated with the course modules.

Questions are built around textbook readings. The questions are designed to determine

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your understanding of the course material as well as to provide you with an opportunity to present your personal observations and insights into the complex and often controversial nature of drug use in our society.

Carefully read the assignment questions before you begin each study assignment. Your responses should be well developed and cohesive, conveying your thorough understanding of relevant course material. Formulate responses in your own words (do not merely copy answers from your reading materials). Formal footnotes are not necessary. However, you are expected to appropriately cite any text materials used in your response.

Edit your assignment before submitting. Make certain that you have answered **all** required questions and every part of each question. Check your document for spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Make sure that all sentences are complete.

Prepare your written assignments using whatever word processing program you have on your computer. Include your name at the top of the paper, as well as the course name and code and the semester and year in which you are enrolled.

Midterm Examination

For a list of key concepts that may appear on your exam, refer to the study guide available in the Examinations section of the course Web site.

Drugs and Society requires you to take a closed-book, proctored midterm examination. It is two hours long and consists of fifty multiple-choice questions (worth 50 points) and five short essays (worth 50 points). It covers all material assigned in Modules 1-3. To prepare for the examination, review all relevant study assignments as well as material you covered in your relevant written assignments.

You are required to use the University's Online Proctor Service (OPS). Please refer to the "Examinations and Proctors" section of the Online Student Handbook (see Student Handbooks in the General Information area of the course website) for further information about scheduling and taking online exams and for all exam policies and procedures.

You are strongly advised to schedule your exam within the first week of the semester.

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Statement About Cheating

You are on your honor not to cheat during the exam. Cheating means:

- Looking up any answer or part of an answer in an unauthorized textbook or on the Internet, or using any other source to find the answer.
- Copying and pasting or in any way copying responses or parts of responses from any other source into your online test. This includes but is not limited to copying and pasting from other documents or spreadsheets, whether written by yourself or anyone else.
- Plagiarizing answers.
- Asking anyone else to assist you by whatever means available while you take the exam.
- Copying any part of the exam to share with other students.
- Telling your mentor that you need another attempt at the exam because your connection to the Internet was interrupted when that is not true.

The exam will be made invalid and you will fail the course if there is evidence that you have cheated or plagiarized in your exam.

Final Project

You are required to submit a final project in which you will thoroughly discuss and analyze a class of drug covered in this course. The paper is worth 20 percent of your final grade for the course. For specific information about requirements for your paper, see the Final Project area of the course Web site.

For details regarding the due date see the Course Calendar.

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Grading and Evaluation

Your grade in the course will be determined as follows:

- **6 online discussions** are worth **15% of your final grade.**
- **6 written assignments** are worth **35% of your final grade.**
- A proctored **Midterm exam that covers Modules 1 through 3** is worth **30% of your final grade.**
- The **final project** is worth **20% of your final grade.**

All activities will receive a numerical grade of 0–100. You will receive a score of 0 for any work not submitted. Your final grade in the course will be a letter grade. Letter grade equivalents for numerical grades are as follows:

- **A** is **93 to 100.**
- **A minus** is **90 to 92.**
- **B plus** is **88 to 89.**
- **B** is **83 to 87.**
- **B minus** is **80 to 82.**
- **C plus** is **78 to 79.**
- **C** is **73 to 77.**
- **C minus** is **70 to 72.**
- **D** is **60 to 69.**
- **F** is **any grade below a 60.**

To receive credit for the course, you must earn a letter grade of C or better (for an area of study course) or D or better (for a course not in your area of study), based on the weighted average of all assigned course work (e.g., exams, assignments, discussion postings).

Strategies for Success

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First Steps to Success

To succeed in this course, take the following first steps:

- Read carefully the entire syllabus, making sure that all aspects of the course are clear to you and that you have all the materials required for the course.

- Take time to read the entire Student Handbook. The Handbook answers many questions about how to proceed through the course, how to schedule exams, and how to get the most from your educational experience at Thomas Edison State University.

- Arrange to take your examination(s) by following the instructions in this Syllabus and the Student Handbook.

- Familiarize yourself with the learning management systems environment—how to navigate it and what the various course areas contain. If you know what to expect as you navigate the course, you can better pace yourself and complete the work on time.

- If you are not familiar with web-based learning, be sure to review the processes for posting responses online and submitting assignments before class begins.

Study Tips

Consider the following study tips for success:

- To stay on track throughout the course, begin each week by consulting the Course Calendar. The Course Calendar provides an overview of the course and indicates due dates for submitting assignments, posting discussions, and submitting the final project.

- Check Announcements regularly for new course information.

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Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students

TESU's Academic Code of Conduct permits student AI use in support of their writing and research process—not as a replacement for original writing.

Document AI use with an acknowledgment statement at the end of each assignment, noting the tools and prompts used. Cite any AI-generated content on the References page.

Please review Using AI Ethically: A Guide for TESU Students for more detailed information.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Thomas Edison State University recognizes, values, and relies upon the diversity of our community. We strive to provide equitable, inclusive learning experiences that embrace our students' backgrounds, identities, experiences, abilities, and expertise.

Accessibility and Accomodations

Thomas Edison State University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990 and ADAAA, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) oversees requests for academic accommodations related to disabilities, including:

- A student who is pregnant, postpartum, or parenting a newborn who is not the birth parent [as covered under NJSA18A].
- Students requesting academic accommodation for a short-term or temporary illness.
- TESU students requesting academic accommodation for an injury.

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Information can be found on the Office of Student Accessibility Services webpage.

Questions can be sent to ADA@tesu.edu.

Academic Policies

Familiarize yourself with all administrative and academic policies, including those related to the following list, to ensure success in all your academic endeavors and coursework at Thomas Edison State University:

- Academic integrity
- Course late submissions
- Extensions for the course
- Grading policies

For more, see:

- University-wide policies
- Undergraduate academic policies
- Undergraduate course policies
- Graduate academic policies
- Graduate course policies
- Nursing student policies
- Nursing graduate student policies
- International student policies
- Academic code of conduct

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