NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

SOC 442
Sociology of Substance Use and Abuse

COURSE CREDITS:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
(SOC 204 or SOC 204H)

COURSE DESCRIPTION FROM CATALOG
Emphasizes a sociological understanding of drug use, drug problems and drug policy. In order to understand drug use and abuse it is necessary to understand the chemical properties of the substances at issue, the attributes of the people who use and abuse drugs, and the norms and characteristics of the society in which the substance use occurs. PREREQS: (SOC 204 or SOC 204H)

For more information, contact: MCKENZIE HUBER, 306 FAIR, 541-737-5733, mckenzie.huber@oregonstate.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Dr. Scott Akins
Office hours: by appt. Phone: 7-5370
Office: Fairbanks 312 E-mail: sakins@oregonstate.edu
Professor’s webpage: http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/spp/sociology/scott-akins

All students have an email address linked through blackboard. Make sure this is your correct address and check it regularly for any notifications related to class.

For accuracy, please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current information for the instructor of this course each term. You can also search for instructor contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

Required Texts:


- Dr. Akins’ author royalties from book purchases made by OSU students at the OSU bookstore go to a scholarship fund for OSU sociology students.

- At least three copies of the book are placed on reserve in the OSU Valley Library.

**NOTE:** For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the OSU Bookstore website. Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the OSU Beaver Store link associated with the course information in the Ecampus schedule of classes for course textbook information and ordering.

COURSE SPECIFIC MEASURABLE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this class students should be able to:

Discuss the positive and negative effects of a wide variety of drugs.

Contrast the potential harm of specific drugs across a number of indicators of harm.

Articulate empirical generalizations (i.e. trends, patterns) regarding drug use across a number of correlates (i.e. age, race, social class, gender).

Articulate and contrast the key theories employed to understand drug use and abuse.

Articulate the key issues affecting drug prevention and treatment, and discuss what research has concluded about the effectiveness of select prevention and treatment programs.

Articulate the differences major differences in drug policy, particularly contrasting the harm-minimization approach adopted by many countries abroad with the approach currently employed in the United States.

In addition to all the above learning objectives graduate students will be expected to offer theoretical accounts for the patterns of drug use evidenced by distinct groups in society (gender, race, class). Graduate students should also be able to critically evaluate existing drug policy (treatment, prevention and control) and to propose feasible alternatives.

We will examine and contrast a variety of legal and illegal drugs in this class, and one of the most important objectives of the course is for students to recognize that legal and
illegal psychoactive drugs are far more similar than different. As will be shown, the legal status of a drug often has little to do with the capacity of a drug to generate harm to the user and to society.

COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

Overview and Objectives of the Course

The ingestion of chemical substances for purposes of consciousness alteration has been practiced in virtually all human cultures and throughout history. Sometimes this leads to problems, sometimes it does not. How a society defines and deals with drug use has a major impact upon whether drug use will result in abuse and problems. Even how we come to understand the concept of abuse is related to societal definitions. The total social costs of the harm done by a single licit drug such as alcohol or tobacco dwarf the total costs and suffering related to all illicit drugs combined. Yet, we tend to think of alcohol and tobacco use as "normal" (though, interestingly, less so recently) while the use of illicit drugs is automatically stigmatized as "deviant."

This class emphasizes a sociological understanding of drug use, drug problems and drug policy. In order to understand drug use and abuse it is necessary to understand the chemical properties of the substances at issue, the attributes of the people who use and abuse drugs, and the norms and characteristics of the society in which the substance use occurs.

This course is not a "just say no" course, but neither is it a "how to" course. Throughout the course it will be emphasized that the use of all drugs can have positive and negative effects — problems associated with use largely result from how the drug is used and the recreational use of any psychoactive substance is typically harmful.

Learning Resources

(1) Lectures / Key Notes for each Lecture — Make sure to take written notes on all lecture tutorials, pay particular attention to any boxed and/or bolded material.

(2) Readings — The course text and other readings (provided as PDF files via the course blackboard/canvas page) are important learning resources for the course.

(3) Streaming Video Tutorials on Lecture Material — Jing-based streaming video tutorials in the lecture are embedded in the lectures to help students learn the material.

(4) Media Clips and Movies — Media clips and short film clips will be provided to illustrate and reinforce the concepts covered in the class. Pay attention to what is covered as this material may be tested/quizzed on.
(5) **Discussion Board** – Thoughtful, well-reasoned posts will earn credit and enable you to converse on these topics with classmates. You are required to post on every question. You may want to reference the readings, lecture notes and/or course material in your posts. **You should post on these as you reach the material in the lectures, or at the end of that particular lecture. You should not wait and do them all at once.** All the post forums for the material up to the midterm will be 'deactivated' after the midterm so make sure to do them prior to this. The intent is to have a 'conversation' about the course material as it is being covered.

**Course Policies**

**Exam/QZ Deadline Extensions** — Makeup exams and extensions will be given only when approved in advance from the instructor and in extreme situations (e.g. serious health problems; death in the family; military commitment).

**Incompletes** — Take this course only if you plan to finish it in a timely manner (during this term). I assign an "I" or incomplete only when there is a strong and compelling case for doing so (e.g. serious health problems; death in the family; military commitment).

**Communications with Instructor** -- All students have an email address linked through blackboard. Make sure this is your correct address and check it regularly for any notifications related to class.

**Academic Integrity/Student Conduct** — Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty, defined as: An intentional act of deception in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656. More information on this is provided in the paper guidelines below.

Providing false information to me regarding this course is a violation of the student conduct policy regarding academic dishonesty and can result in sanctions ranging from failing this course to being expelled from the University (See Oregon Administrative Rule 576-015-0020(6)).

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards if used, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded themselves. Disrespectful behavior to others (e.g. harassing behavior, personal insults, and inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors in the course (such as persistent and unreasonable demands for time and attention both in and out of the classroom) is unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Oregon Administrative Rules Division 015 Student Conduct Regulations.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Date</th>
<th>Class Material</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Syllabus Overview—Introduction and Overview of Class</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Sociological Perspective on Drug Use &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Preface Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Drug History and Pharmacology I</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (pp.80-112)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Drug History and Pharmacology I</td>
<td>Chapter 3 (pp.112-132)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>QUIZ 1 (Taken online, timed)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>QUIZ 1 (Taken online, timed)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theories of Drug Use and Abuse</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug History and Pharmacology II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Drug History and Pharmacology II</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Drug History and Pharmacology II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM EXAM – Taken with proctor (see details in this syllabus)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Prevalence and Patterns of Drug Use—Race, Class, Gender &amp; Age</td>
<td>Chapters 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Drug Treatment &amp; Prevention</td>
<td>Chapters 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Drug Policy</td>
<td>Drug Policy Film: The House I Live In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Drug Policy</td>
<td>Chapter 11 &amp; 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

Students will complete one midterm exam, one cumulative final exam and two online quizzes. Due dates appear on the course calendar (available on the course site for registered students).

Each class item is weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:  
- A=93%, A-=90%,  
- B+=87%, B=83%, B-=80,  
- C+=77%, C=73%, C-=70%,  
- D+=67%, D=63%, D-=60%,  
- F=below 60%

**Exam and Quiz Information**

The midterm will be 50 questions long (35 multiple choice and 15 true/false). The final is cumulative and will be 100 questions long (70 multiple choice and 30 true/false).

Review sheets will be available on blackboard for both the midterm and final exam and will be posted in the exam folders.

Quizzes are timed and taken online at your personal computer and unsupervised. The intent of the quizzes is to prepare you to take the exams, thus the timer (i.e. you should...
not try to look up answers, but be prepared as you would for a closed book exam. Quizzes will be 15 questions long (10 multiple choice and 5 true/false). You will have 15 minutes to complete the quizzes. Penalties are assigned for going over the allowed time limit, commensurate with time elapsed, up to and including a zero on the quiz. More details on quiz and exam preparation will be emailed and posted in the announcements.

**EXAM PROCTORING**

This course requires that you take two exams under the supervision of an approved proctor. Proctoring guidelines and registration for proctored exams are available online through Ecampus at this link:

http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/

Corvallis on-campus proctoring is offered via Ecampus at no additional charge. If you are an off-campus student the proctoring agency/institution that you use may charge you a fee for their services.

*It is important to submit your proctoring request (via the link above) as early as possible to avoid delays.*

Ecampus representatives arrange all proctoring. Thus you should direct any testing-arrangement related questions to EDP Testing Coordinator (800-667-1465 or 541-737-9281) ecampustesting@oregonstate.edu.

Missing your proctored exam time may force a late exam and as this will result in a minimum grade penalty of 20 points per day.

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**STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our [Getting Started with DAS](http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/) page.

Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations
but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an “F” grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility. Students will be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
- Policy On Disruptive Behavior

PLAGIARISM

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.
TUTORING
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

- Writing Center
- Online Writing Lab

STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING
We encourage you to engage in the course evaluation process each term—online, of course. The evaluation form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions through ONID. You will login to “Online Services/MyOSU” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.