

Prof. Casaleggio

SYLLABUS

Division of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT

Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

COURSE NAME

Drug Abuse in Contemporary Society

COURSE NUMBER

CJL 3106

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A comprehensive understanding of drug abuse requires the integration of information from a number of disciplines: law, medicine, psychology, sociology, history, and criminal justice. This introductory course draws on these disciplines to provide an examination of the social meaning of drug abuse, its history, pharmacology, sociology and psychological explanations for its existence, the medical view of drug abuse, efforts at prevention and treatment, the business of illegal drugs, law enforcement efforts against drug trafficking, and an analysis of policy issues.

PREREQUISITE

None

CREDIT

Three (3) credits

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To critically examine the history of how certain substances came to be defined as illegal while others remain legal

To understand the neuropharmacology of psychoactive substances

To explore biological, psychological, and sociological explanations for drug abuse

To critically examine drug treatment and prevention methods and programs

To understand the nature of the international and domestic trafficking in drugs and law enforcement efforts to combat the problem

A critical examination of policy alternatives from an international perspective

UNITS OF INSTRUCTION

1. An Introduction to Drug Abuse

2. Drug Use and Legislation: A History

3. Drugs and the Nervous System

4. Depressants

5. Stimulants

6. Marijuana and Hallucinogens

7. Sociology of Drug Abuse

8. Psychology of Drug Abuse

9. Drug Abuse Treatment

10. Drug Abuse Prevention

11. The Business of Drugs

12. Drug Laws and Law Enforcement

13. Drug Abuse Policy

14. Drug Maintenance, Decriminalization, and Harm Reduction

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lecture and class discussion

GRADING
The final grade for this course will be determined from a midterm exam worth 25 points, a term paper worth 25 points, and a comprehensive final exam worth 50 points.

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