

# ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROBLEMS

SYP 4550, Sections 1-5  
Florida State University  
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Jim Orcutt ([jorcutt@fsu.edu](mailto:jorcutt@fsu.edu))

Mentors: Melissa Bamford ([mjb08d@fsu.edu](mailto:mjb08d@fsu.edu)) and Lori Moore ([ldm2624@fsu.edu](mailto:ldm2624@fsu.edu))

This distance learning course presents a review and analysis of sociological approaches to the study of alcohol and drug problems. The course objectives are (1) to provide you with a solid foundation in major theoretical perspectives on social factors in deviant drinking and drug use, (2) to introduce you to important empirical methods in the study of alcohol and drug problems, (3) to familiarize you with significant lines of research on alcohol- and drug-related issues, and (4) to strengthen your critical awareness and sociological understanding of contemporary debates over alcohol and drug policy in the U.S. and other societies.

The following books are required texts for the course:

- Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society* (7th Edition), McGraw-Hill, 2008, ISBN: 978-0-07-340149-2;
- James D. Orcutt and David R. Rudy, *Drugs, Alcohol, and Social Problems*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2003, ISBN: 0-7425-2845-6.

Both books can be ordered from the FSU Bookstore, Bill's Bookstore, or from various online booksellers, but *please make sure you get the correct edition of the Goode text*. I will post other required reading material under "Lectures" in the Online Review on Blackboard. Please let me know immediately by e-mail if you have any problems obtaining the required books or using the Blackboard website for the course.

The grade for the course will be based on the *total number of points* you earn out of 125 possible in the following areas:

(1) Completion of "Online Bio" on Blackboard = 5 points

**IMPORTANT:** *You must complete the Online Bio before Midnight on Monday, August 25 to satisfy the FSU "first-day attendance" policy.* If you fail to do so, you may be dropped from the course. Your first task after you finish reading this syllabus should be to complete the Online Bio, a brief survey which is posted in Assignments. You will automatically receive five points for answering several questions that will help me know more about your background and interests.

(2) Three one-hour exams, each consisting of five short-essay questions = 30 points possible

The three exams will cover material from the text, the reader, and from reading material posted on Blackboard. Each exam will cover a third of the course and will include five "open-ended" (short-essay) questions, worth two points each, for a total of ten points. The questions will ask you to write a paragraph or two about important theories, concepts, research findings, criticisms, controversies, or other points discussed in assigned readings and online material. Each exam will be scheduled on a specific day and will be available to students during a five-hour window, from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Once you begin taking an exam, *you must complete it within one hour*. We will grade each question on a two-point scale, where a good, complete answer is worth two points, a partially correct answer is worth one point, and an incorrect answer earns zero points.

(3) Two short papers = 30 points possible

One of these papers will require you to conduct "research" on alcohol and drug problems using online resources, whereas the other paper will ask you to write a brief essay about a controversial issue in the field of alcohol and drug studies. Each paper will be graded on a 15-point scale and will

be submitted in electronic form on Blackboard. Be sure to keep copies of your papers.

**(4) Six open-book quizzes, each consisting of five questions = 30 points**

These multiple-choice quizzes will be posted in Assignments on Monday at two week intervals throughout the semester. You will be able to find the answers to each of the five questions on these quizzes in the assigned readings or online material for the current and previous week. Not only will these quizzes be “open-book,” but you will be given the questions *before* you begin taking the quiz. You will have a five-day window (Monday to Friday) to take each quiz.

**(5) Three group discussions on the Discussion Board = 30 points**

At three points in the semester, a discussion topic will be posted on Monday in the Groups folder on Blackboard. The class will be divided into four groups, and you will participate in a discussion with other members of your group. Each student will be expected to post a 150 word response to the discussion topic by Wednesday of that week and to post two 75 word replies to other students’ responses by Friday. Based on the quality of your posts, you can earn a possible ten points for your contribution to each group discussion. No credit will be given for late postings on the discussion board or for “flaming” and other inappropriate responses.

At the end of the course, I will sum the points earned by each student on all of these requirements and use the empirical distribution of total points to determine letter grades for the course. NOTE: I do *not* base letter grades on arbitrary percentage cut-points (such as 95% = A, 85% = B, etc.). Instead, I take the actual performance of the class and difficulty of exams into account by using the frequency distribution of total points to determine letter grades (this is similar to “grading on a curve”). I try to set the cut-offs for letter grades where there are clear and meaningful breaks in the distribution of scores. I will calculate *preliminary* letter grade distributions at several times throughout the course to give students an indication of their performance on assignments they have completed. However, keep in mind that final grades for the course will be determined empirically by the observed distribution of *total points* on all course requirements rather than by an average of letter grades or by pre-set percentage cut-points. I will not use the plus/minus grading scale in this class. Scores on exams and other assignments will be available after grading in Student Tools.

Students must take exams (and complete other assignments) during the times indicated on the syllabus except by making prior arrangement with the instructor *at least one week in advance*. If you are severely ill or otherwise unable to complete a requirement as scheduled, you must contact the mentor or the instructor as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Any missed work will receive a score of zero, except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Missing work is not a sufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (“I”). You are expected to ensure that your computer and internet connection are functioning properly prior to exams or other online exercises. If necessary, please seek technical assistance from ACNS or other online resources listed on the Bulletin Board under “Help with FSU Procedures and Technology.”

Students with a disability or some other special reason for modification of course procedures should contact me within the first week of the semester and should register with the Student Disability Resource Center. I expect students to uphold the Academic Honor Policy published in the *FSU Bulletin* and to agree to the Policy on Student Conduct posted on Blackboard and on the following website: <http://www.e-soc.net>. This policy prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid from anyone, including tutors or other students. Exams, papers, and other written assignments *must be your own original work*. Similarly, you must not “share” material for written assignments with other students. Violations of the Honor Code will be grounds for a grade of F for the course as well as any additional university action that might be warranted.

Again, please let me or your mentor know if you have any problems obtaining the texts, understanding assignments, or using the website. I hope you enjoy the course!

## Course Calendar for SYP 4550 – Fall 2008

All times are Eastern time. Updates to this calendar will be indicated **in red**.

<i>Readings</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Exams, Papers, and Discussions</i>
<b>Week 1 (Aug. 25-Aug. 29): Perspectives on Alcohol and Drug Problems</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 1 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 1</li> </ul>		<b>Online Bio: Complete by Midnight on Monday, 8/25 to verify first day attendance</b>
<b>Week 2 (Sep. 1-5) Psychopharmacology and Drug Effects</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 2 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 2</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #1; Due 9/5, 8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 3 (Sep. 8-12): Normative Theories of Drug-Related Deviance</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 3 Lectures, “Normative Theories of Deviance” (section on Durkheim not required)</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 3</li> </ul>		
<b>Week 4 (Sep. 15-19): Relativistic Theories of Drug-Related Deviance</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 3 Lectures, “Relativistic Theories of Deviance”</li> <li>▪ Orcutt, “Deviance as a Situated Phenomenon: Variations in the Social Interpretation of Marijuana and Alcohol Use,” in Course Library</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #2; Due 9/19, 8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 5 (Sep. 22-26): Epidemiology of Alcohol and Drug Use</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 4 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 6 and Ch. 7</li> <li>▪ Orcutt and Rudy (O&amp;R): Ch. 7 (Wallace and Bachman) and Ch. 9 (Barr et al.)</li> </ul>		<b>Group Discussion #1: “What are the three leading causes of drug problems in the U.S.?”; Board open from Monday, 9/22, 5:00 p.m. to 9/26, 11:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 6 (Sep. 29-Oct. 3): Social Construction of Alcohol and Drug Problems</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 5 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 4 and Ch. 5</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 1 (Gusfield), Ch. 3 (Orcutt and Turner), and Ch. 5 (Beckett)</li> </ul>		<b>Exam #1: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 1-5; Online Tuesday, 9/30, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b>

## Course Calendar for SYP 4550 – Fall 2008

All times are Eastern time. Updates to this calendar will be indicated **in red**.

Readings	Quizzes	Exams, Papers, and Discussions
<b>Week 7 (Oct. 6-10): Alcohol and Deviant Drinking</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 6 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 8, pp. 205-216</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 2 (Schneider) and Ch. 12 (Kantor and Straus)</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #3;</b> <b>Due</b> <b>10/10,</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 8 (Oct. 13-17) : Marijuana and Tobacco</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 7 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 7 Resources, Video (<i>Grass</i>)</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 8, pp. 216-222; Ch. 9</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 10 (Zimmerman and Weider)</li> </ul>		<b>Paper #1: “Girls and Drugs,”</b> 2-4 pages; Due Wednesday, 10/15, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Week 9 (Oct. 20-24): Stimulants and Hallucinogens</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 8 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 10</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #4;</b> <b>Due</b> <b>10/24,</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Group Discussion #2: “Grass: History or Propaganda?”;</b> Board open from Monday, 10/20, 5:00 p.m. to 10/24, 11:00 p.m.
<b>Week 10 (Oct. 27-Oct. 31): Heroin and Other Narcotics</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 9 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 9 Resources, NIDA Research Report, “Heroin Abuse and Addiction”</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 11</li> </ul>		<b>Exam #2: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 6-9;</b> Online Wednesday, 10/29, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
<b>Week 11 (Nov. 3-7): Drugs, Alcohol, and Crime</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 12</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 13 (Faupel and Klockars)</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #5;</b> <b>Due 11/7,</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 12 (Nov. 10-14): Psychotherapeutic Drugs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 10 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 8, pp. 222-233</li> <li>▪ Conrad and Potter, “From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults,” in Course Library</li> </ul>		

## Course Calendar for SYP 4550 – Fall 2008

All times are Eastern time. Updates to this calendar will be indicated **in red**.

<i>Readings</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Exams, Papers, and Discussions</i>
<b>Week 13 (Nov. 17-21): Drug Industries, Legal and Illegal</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 11 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 11 Resources, Video (<i>Big Bucks, Big Pharma</i>)</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 13</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 11 (Adler and Adler)</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #6; Due 11/21, 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Group Discussion #3: “The Rising Cost of Prescription Drugs: What Should Be Done?; Board open from Monday, 11/17, 5:00 p.m. to 11/21, 11:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 14 (Nov. 24-Nov. 28): Treatment and Prevention</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 12 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 14</li> <li>▪ O&amp;R, Ch. 6 (Wysong et al.) and Ch. 14 (Bourgois et al.)</li> </ul>		
<b>Week 15 (Dec. 1-5): Social Control of Deviant Drinking and Drug Use</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 13 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 13 Resources, Video (<i>America’s Drug Forum: Prohibition</i>)</li> <li>▪ Goode, Ch. 15</li> </ul>		<b>Paper #2: Topic TBA; Due Wednesday, 12/3, 8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 16 (Dec. 8-12): Finals Week</b>		
		<b>Exam #3: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 10-15; Online Tuesday, 12/9, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b>