

# ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROBLEMS - SYP 4550

## Florida State University - Summer 2009

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Natalie Armstrong  
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and Erica Toothman ([elt03c@fsu.edu](mailto:elt03c@fsu.edu))

### Required Text

1. Erich Goode "Drugs in American Society" (7th Edition), McGraw-Hill, 2008  
**ISBN:** 978-0-07-340149-2
2. 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. 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. Additional supplemental readings will be provided via Blackboard under "Lectures" in the Online Review.

### Other Requirements

This class requires that you be able to access the internet for the Blackboard site. All students should activate and check daily their FSU email account. This account will be used through the blackboard system to notify you of syllabus changes, send reminders, and transmit course information. If there is a problem logging on to Blackboard or to access the email account, please notify ACNS to resolve the situation.

[help@campus.fsu.edu](mailto:help@campus.fsu.edu)

### Course Objectives

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 grade for this course will be based on the *total number of points* you earn out of 120 possible points in the following areas:**

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

**IMPORTANT:** *You must complete the Online Bio before Midnight on Monday, May 11th 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, will be submitted in electronic form on Blackboard. Be sure to keep copies of your papers. Safeassign will be used to detect plagiarism.

(4) Five open-book quizzes, each consisting of five questions = 25 points

These multiple-choice quizzes will be posted in Assignments on Monday at two week intervals throughout the summer. 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 summer session, 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.

### **Completing Assignments:**

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.”

### **Grading Scale**

Letter grades will be assigned according to the standard 100 percentage point scale in which the A range is 90%-100%, the B range is 80% to 89%, etc. FSU does not allow an “A+” grade. Please allow one week for grades to be posted for exams, quizzes, and homework assignments.

\*\*\*I do not change grades. If you feel you have a legitimate complaint, you must write up your rationale for wanting a grade change, give me this rationale, and we’ll discuss it. If you are having problems in the class or are worried about your grades, you should email me. DO NOT wait until the last week of classes!

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	← 59

### **Academic Honor Policy**

This course will conform to all of the standards set forth in the Honor Policy. This means that all students will avoid any violations of academic integrity such as cheating, plagiarism, hiring others to do work, etc. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” You can find Florida State University Academic Honor Policy at

<http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf>. Please take the time to read the Honor Policy so that you will be in accordance with it. Any student that engages in academic dishonesty may be reported to Florida State University. Consequences may include but are not limited to receiving an “F” or zero for the assignment or course at the instructor’s discretion. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If there are uncertainties, consult the instructor before any questionable work begins.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. *This should be done during the first week of class.* For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: Student Disability Resource Center, 108 Student Services Bldg., Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850)644-9566 (voice), (850)644-8504 (TDD)  
 E-mail: [SDRC@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:SDRC@admin.fsu.edu)  
 Website: <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

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!

<b>Course Calendar for SYP 4550 – Summer 2009</b>		
<b>All times are Eastern Standard time. Updates to this calendar will be indicated in red.</b>		
<i>Readings</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Exams, Papers, and Discussions</i>
<b>Week 1 (May 11-15): Perspectives on Alcohol and Drug Problems</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 1 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 1 lectures</li> </ul>		<b>Online Bio: Complete by Midnight on Monday, 5/11, to verify first day attendance.</b>
<b>Week 2 (May 18-22) Psychopharmacology and Drug Effects</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 2 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 2 Lectures</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #1; Due 5/22, 8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 3 (May 25-29): Normative vs. Relativistic Theories of Drug-Related Deviance</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 3 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Orcutt, “Deviance as a Situated Phenomenon: Variations in the Social Interpretation of Marijuana and Alcohol Use,” in Course Library</li> </ul>		

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 3 Lectures: Read subsections on Anomie (Merton only), Social Learning, Conflict (Gusfield only), and Labeling Theory.</li> </ul>		
<b>Week 4 (June 1-5): Epidemiology of Alcohol and Drug Use</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 6 and 7 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 7 and 9 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 4 Lectures</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #2;</b> <b>Due 6/5,</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Group Discussion #1: “What are the three leading causes of drug problems in the U.S.?”</b> Board open from Monday, 6/1, 5:00 p.m. to Friday, 6/5, 11:00 p.m.
<b>Week 5 (June 8-12): Social Construction of Alcohol and Drug Problems</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 4 and 5 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 3 and 5 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 5 lectures</li> </ul>		<b>Exam #1: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 1-4; Online Wednesday, 6/10, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 6 (June 15-19): Alcohol and Deviant Drinking</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 8—pg. 205-216 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 2, 8, and 12 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 6 Lectures</li> </ul>	<b>Quiz #3;</b> <b>Due 6/19,</b> <b>8:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>Week 7 (June 22-26): Marijuana and Tobacco</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 8—pg. 216-222 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 9—pg. 237-256 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 7 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 7 Resources, Video (<i>Grass</i>)</li> </ul>		<b>Paper #1: “Girls and Drugs,”</b> 2-4 pages; Due Friday, 6/26, 8:00 p.m.
<b>Week 8 (June 29-July 3): Stimulants and Hallucinogens</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 10 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 8 Lectures</li> </ul>		<b>Group Discussion #2: “Grass: History or Propaganda?”;</b> Board open from Monday, 6/29, 5:00 p.m. to Friday, 7/3, 11:00 p.m.
<b>Week 9 (July 6-10): Heroin and Other Narcotics</b>		

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<i>Readings</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Exams, Papers, and Discussions</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 11 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 9 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 9 Resources, NIDA Research Report (“Heroin Abuse and Addiction”)</li> </ul>		<p><b>Exam #2: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 5-8; Online Wednesday, 7/8, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b></p>
<b>Week 10 (July 13-17): Psychotherapeutic Drugs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 8—pg. 222-233 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Conrad and Potter, “From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults,” in Course Library</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 10 Lectures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #4; Due 7/17, 8:00 p.m.</b></p>	
<b>Week 11 (July 20-24): Drug Industries, Legal and Illegal</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 13 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 11 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 11 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 11 Resources, Video (Big Bucks, Big Pharma)</li> </ul>		<p><b>Group Discussion #3: “The Rising Cost of Prescription Drugs: What Should Be Done?; Board open from Monday, 7/20, 5:00 p.m. to Friday, 7/24, 11:00 p.m.</b></p>
<b>Week 12 (July 27-31): Treatment and Prevention</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 14 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 6 and 14 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 12 Lectures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz #5; Due 7/31, 8:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Paper #2: “Dear Mr. President”: Changing U.S. Drug Policy; Due Wednesday, 7/29, 8:00 p.m.</b></p>
<b>Week 13 (August 3-7): Social Control of Deviant Drinking and Drug Use</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chapter 15 (Goode)</li> <li>▪ Chapter 6 and 14 (O&amp;R reader)</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 13 Lectures</li> <li>▪ Online Review, Unit 13 Resources</li> </ul>		<p><b>Exam #3: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 10-13; Online Friday, 8/7, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</b></p>