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ANTY 435.01: Drugs, Culture and Society

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Instructor Information

Instructor: Gilbert Quintero, Ph.D.

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Office hours: TR 8:00-8:30am, 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment

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Course Description

This course examines drug use as a reflection of social processes and cultural expressions. People in different geographic and historical settings have set aside specific substances for special uses and have developed elaborate social and cultural systems for their production, distribution, consumption and control. Throughout this course we will investigate how drug use is conceptualized and socially patterned in different cultures in several time periods. Major topics will include: The prehistory of drug use, drug use in non-Western societies, drug use epidemics, the use of drugs for religious purposes, pharmaceutical use, and recreational drug use. This course will cover the use of a variety of drugs and a range of sociocultural contexts. There will be a special emphasis on the application of anthropological methods and concepts to drug use problems in contemporary Western social and cultural settings. After taking this course students will understand how drug use is influenced by social and cultural factors, and how different societies manage both licit and illicit drug use.

Goals and Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course I hope that students:

1. Understand how drug use is related to human cultural meanings, social institutions and interactions, and material factors.
2. Recognize and evaluate various anthropological concepts, methodologies, and data sources and what they contribute to our understandings of drug use.
3. Develop an anthropological understanding of important social and cultural issues related to drug use.

Course Requirements

Undergraduates

- Exams (best 3 of 4) (60%) (**Exam dates: 2/22, 3/22, 5/1, 5/11**)
- Book review (40%) (**Due 5/3**)

Graduates

- Exams (best 3 of 4) (30%) (**Exam dates: 2/22, 3/22, 5/1, 5/11**)
- Book review (30%) (**Due 5/3**)
- Research paper (40%) (**Due 5/3**)

Final cumulative grades will be based upon the point totals for each of the requirements outlined above. Plus/minus grades for this course may be given at the discretion of the instructor.

In-class assignments

Students are responsible for attending class on a regular basis and contributing to in-class assignments. If a student does not attend class or participate in an assignment they generally will not receive points. Students are allowed to miss one in-class assignment without penalty. There will be approximately five of these assignments. They are unannounced.

Exams

A portion of each student's grade will be based upon the best scores from three out of four exams. This means that the last exam is optional, based on your satisfaction with the scores on the previous exams. Exams will consist of objective, multiple choice questions and will cover material from lectures and readings.

Book review

Students are required to write a single, integrated critical review of two books, "The Hold Life Has" (Allen) and "In Search of Respect" (Bourgeois). This review must be approximately 3000 words in length, excluding the bibliography. **No late papers will be accepted.** Details regarding the structure and content of the review will be provided.

Research paper and presentation

Graduate students will be required to complete a 20-25 page research paper. More detailed guidelines for this paper will be provided. Please note that this course requirement constitutes the graduate increment for this class. According to Graduate School policy, the graduate increment is work required of graduate students to distinguish their learning from that of undergraduates in a course that is co-convened. The graduate increment should be different in scope and depth from the undergraduate education experience. In general, this requires a higher level of sophistication from the graduate student and should prepare her/him to work as an independent researcher or professional.

Policies

Make-up exams

All students must take three exams. If an exam is missed, the student will receive no points. The only exceptions to this are those situations falling under University policy which states that a make-up will be allowed in circumstances where a student can provide documentation that they are missing a scheduled exam because of their participation in a University sponsored activity, which includes field trips, ASUM service, music or drama performances, and intercollegiate athletic events. Individuals missing a scheduled exam because of military service or mandatory public service may also petition for a make-up. Any student requiring a make-up must notify the instructor via email no less than a week before the scheduled exam and must provide official documentation regarding the reason for the absence in advance. If a make-up exam is approved it must be completed within one week of the original exam.

Adds, drops, grade changes

University policies on drops, adds, changes of grade option, or change to audit status will be strictly enforced. These policies are described in the current catalog. This is a traditional letter grade course. No Pass\Fail option is allowed.

Electronic devices

Cell phones should be turned off and out of sight for the duration of class. Laptop users please sit in the front two rows of the classroom.

Professional courtesy

Please be on time for class and notify me if you intend to leave early. Irregular attendance and lack of timeliness will result in a lower course grade.

Extra credit

There are no extra credit assignments offered in this course.

Class notes and slides

If you miss class ask a classmate for notes. The instructor will not provide slides or notes.

Students with disabilities

University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations. Please contact DSS (243-2373) for more information.

Email

Please conduct any class related email communications with the instructor through your official UM account.

Code of conduct

All students should abide by the Student Conduct Code available on the UM website.

Hard copies and paper formats

Unless explicitly noted, all written assignments must be turned in as hard copies – electronic submissions will not be accepted. All written assignments should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times font with 1 inch margins.

Return of course materials

Course assignments including research papers will not be returned. If you want copies of these materials please make yourself duplicates before turning them in.

Course Supplement

A web-based supplement (and associated technical support) for this class is available on Moodle:
<http://umonline.umd.edu/>.

Required Texts

- Allen, Catherine J. 2002. *The Hold Life Has: Coca and Cultural Identity in an Andean Community* (second edition). Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- Bourgois, Philippe I. 2003. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* (second edition). New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Goodman, Jordan, Paul E. Lovejoy, & Andrew Sherratt (editors). 2007. *Consuming Habits: Global and Historical Perspectives on How Cultures Define Drugs* (second edition). New York: Routledge. [Hereafter referred to as CH.]
- Schultes, R. E., A. Hofmann, & C. Ratsch. 1998. *Plants of the Gods: Their Sacred, Healing and Hallucinogenic Powers* (revised and expanded edition). Rochester, VT: Healing Arts Press. [Hereafter referred to as PG.]
- Other assigned materials as detailed in class.

Course Schedule and Assignments

1/Jan 23: Introduction to the course; key concepts

- PG: Pp. 7-30
- CH: Preface, Introduction
- Derrida, "The rhetoric of drugs"
- Lenson, "Pharmaka and pharmakos"

2/Jan 30: The prehistory of drug use & altered states of consciousness; beer & the origins of civilization

- PG: Pp. 62-64; 81-123
- Sullivan & Hagen, "Psychotropic substance-seeking"
- Sherratt, "Cups that cheered"
- Schmandt-Besserat, "Feasting in the Ancient Near East"

3/Feb 6: Wine & opium in the ancient world

- CH: Chapter 1
- Valamoti et al., "Grape-pressings"
- Merlin, "Archaeological evidence"

4/Feb 13: Tobacco in traditional non-Western societies; hallucinogens

- CH: Chapter 3
- PG: Pp.124-143; 156-183
- Wilbert, "Tobacco and shamanistic ecstasy"
- Winter, "From Earth Mother"

5/Feb 20: Tobacco & coffee in early modern Europe

- **Exam 1 2/22**
- CH: Chapter 6-8, Afterword

6/Feb 27: Drug epidemics; drugs, labor & colonial expansion

- Nicholls, "Gin Lane"
- Jankowiak & Bradburd, "Using drug foods"

7/Mar 6: Cannabis & colonialism

- CH: Chapter 9
- Mills, "Among the India papers"

8/Mar 13: The "peyote cult"

- PG: Pp. 144-155
- Stewart, "The plant"
- Myerhoff, "The peyote hunt as an event"

9/Mar 20: The Native American Church & the Navajo

- Quintero (1995), "Gender, discord"
- Calabrese, "The Supreme Court"
- **Exam 2 3/22**

10/Mar 27: Spring Break

11/Apr 3: Medical cannabis

- Grinspoon, "Medical marijuana in a time of prohibition"
- Chapkis, "Cannabis, consciousness, and healing"
- Taylor, "Medicalizing cannabis"

12/Apr 10: Drug use dynamics; methamphetamine

- Agar & Reisinger, "A tale of two policies"
- McKenna, "We're supposed to be asleep?"

13/Apr 17: Anthropology of addiction, treatment, and policy

- Bourgois, "Disciplining addictions"
- Quintero (2000), "The lizard"

14/Apr 24: Pharmaceutical use

- Bardhi, et al. "Pills, thrills and bellyaches"
- Quintero (2009), "Rx for a party"

15/May 1: The future of drug use

- Gutierrez, "Drugs and illicit practices"
- Quintero & Nichter, "Generation Rx"
- Sanchez & Bouso, "Ayahuasca"
- **Exam 3 5/3**
- **Book reviews due 5/3**
- **Graduate research papers due 5/3**

16/May 8: Final exam

- **Final exam** 8:00-10:00am, Friday, May 11th

Note: This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced in class.