

Minnesota State University Moorhead

CJ 545: Drug Abuse Control Policy

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

This course aims to understand the personal and societal impacts of drug use and abuse in late-modern societies and the systems and policies governments have implemented in response. It will include a sociological assessment of the societal construction of drug use as a social problem, and the complex interplay between moral panics around drug use/abuse and the creation of laws and social policy in response to the public's outrage. This course studies drug policies in the United States and drug policies from other nation-states, including the global south, to see what lessons we can learn from other societies and cultures. It considers how drug laws/policies have differentially affected some communities especially BIPOC ones. The connection between drug abuse and crime, and the criminal justice response to this relationship, is a salient theme of the course. Finally, this course reflects on the medicalization of addiction and how the shift away from criminalizing drug use/abuse affects public policy and law enforcement practices.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/05/2022 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Framing Drug Abuse/Use as a Social Problem
2. The History & Sociology of Drug Use, Abuse, and Control
3. The Harms of Drug Use/Abuse and Control Policies (for Individuals and Society)
4. Drug Policy Efficacy and Shortfalls (Political Responses to Drug Abuse/Use)
5. Decriminalization and Criminalization of Drug Use/Abuse
6. Drug Control Policies Abroad (Lessons from Other Societies)
7. Drug Use/Abuse and Violence
8. Drug Treatment and Harm Reduction Policies
9. Narratives from the Experiences of Drug Users
10. Drug Control Policies and BIPOC Communities
11. Opiates and Death (Rational Policies to Address a National Crises)
12. Women and Drug Use/Abuse
13. Moral Panic and Drug Control Policy Responses

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Evaluate and discuss key social developments and outcomes in society's attempts to regulate drug use and abuse.
2. Leave with an appreciation of the impacts of drug use and abuse on the individual, the immediate community, and society.
3. Understand the criminal justice responses to drug use and abuse historically and now, and to know the deleterious impact that some laws and enforcement practices have imposed on individuals and communities nationwide.
4. Understand how drug use/abuse came to be constructed as a social problem for society.
5. Assess the efficacy of medicalization responses to the drug use/abuse and addiction problems.
6. Assess the efficacy of drug control and interdiction policies in the United States and globally, and to learn which specific responses work best.
7. Apply key theories explaining drug use/abuse and addiction.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted