

## Course Outline

**COURSE:** LAWS 4303 B – Drugs, the User and the State

**TERM:** Winter 2007-08

**PREREQUISITES:** Fourth year Honours standing

**CLASS:**           **Day & Time:** Tuesday – 2:30-5:30  
                          **Room:** 415 SA (Southam Hall)

**INSTRUCTOR:**           **Yavar Hameed**  
**(CONTRACT)**

**CONTACT:**           **Office:** 43 Florence Street, Ottawa, ON  
                          **Office Hrs:** By appointment only  
                          **Telephone:** 613-232-2688 x. 228  
                          **Email:** [yhameed@hfo-law.ca](mailto:yhameed@hfo-law.ca)

---

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations in this course are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangement. Please note the deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations is March 14, 2008 for April examinations. For further information, please see, [http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accm\\_policy.html](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/accm_policy.html)

---

**COURSE SYNOPSIS**

A single mother below the poverty line is incarcerated for possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking. A student, as part of a marijuana compassion club, is charged for illegal possession of a controlled substance. A black man driving an SUV is stopped by Ontario Provincial Police on the suspicion that he is a drug dealer simply because he is driving an expensive car. Record profits are reaped by a pharmaceutical company from marketing a controversial psychotropic drug. Canada is engaged in a war to restore law and order in Afghanistan and yet the flow of the illegal opium trade internationally has reached levels far exceeding that under the Taliban regime. What do these occurrences have in common?

In this course we attempt to make sense of the Canadian state's historical and contemporary efforts to control drugs and drug users by exploring different aspects of drug control through ideological and institutional state apparatuses. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to think critically about the Canadian experience of drug control. We explore different forms of drug control, looking at the role of both criminal and administrative law in attempts to regulate substances. Students will be encouraged to challenge common discourses around drugs by thinking through developments in drug control from social, cultural, legal, political, economic and international standpoints.

**EVALUATION SCHEME**

Outline for Term Paper	10% (due Tuesday February 5, 2008)
Final Take Home Exam	60% (due Tuesday April 8, 2008)
In Class Facilitation	10% (date to be assigned in class)
Class Participation	20%

**Explanation of Evaluation Methodology:****Class Participation - Value: 20%**

This course is founded upon participation. The more you participate, the more marks you will likely get. Higher participation and meaningful interventions by all students in in-class discussions and presentations will also increase the level of discussion and its relevance to participants. Students are encouraged to ground their comments in a critical approach to the readings. Personal and political opinions are relevant in this course, but such opinion must engage with the specific themes of the course being explored. There is no "right" view of the course material, but whatever approach students take must be justified.

**Outline for Term Paper - Value: 10% (due Tuesday February 5, 2008)**

To make sure that students develop a considered and coherent strategy for their term papers, they will submit a three to five page abstract including a bibliographical list of sources. The abstract should contain a clear thesis statement and one or several paragraphs describing the topic and approach to be taken, followed by a skeleton or point form outline of the essay. The bibliography need not be annotated; however, points will be deducted where it appears that the sources cited are not specifically related to the topic in question or would not otherwise advance the agenda of research.

**Term Paper/ Project - Value: 60% (due Tuesday April 8, 2008)**

You are to submit a 15 to 20 page term paper or research project that demonstrates your analysis of the course content and its themes. A list of topics for the term paper will be distributed during the second seminar on Tuesday January 15, 2008. If you wish to pursue your own topic, this must be preapproved with the instructor.

**In Class Facilitation - Value: 10%**

Throughout the term, students will lead and facilitate discussion based on the course readings. Facilitation may be done independently or in groups. Students will prepare several questions to help guide the general discussion. Avoid power point presentations and prepared lectures or reading from notes. The facilitator's job is to raise questions for discussion and provide a framework for same – not to present the readings, which it is assumed that all of the students have already done.

While participation of all students will be assessed throughout the term, the facilitators will be evaluated on the basis of their questions, quality of discussion and analysis during their chosen facilitation day. In addition to the assigned readings, the facilitators are encouraged to introduce one external reading of their choice into the discussion.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

**NB: course pack for required readings will be available at octopus books**

**All further or recommended readings will be kept on reserve at the Chet Mitchell Reading Room**

**LECTURE SCHEDULE****WEEK 1: JANUARY 8, 2007 - INTRODUCTION**

The introductory seminar will address the rationale and history of having a regulatory framework of drugs in Canada. What constitutes a drug? Why are certain substances regulated in Canada?

**Readings:**

Althusser, Louis, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes Towards an Investigation" in *Lenin and Philosophy* (London: New Left Books, 1971), pp. 127-186

Mitchell, C.N. (Chapter 1) *The Drug Solution: Regulating Drugs According to Principles of Efficiency, Justice and Democracy* (Carleton University Press, 1990). pp 5 - 31.

**Further Readings (Chet Mitchell Reading Room):**

Riley, Diane, "Drugs and Drug Policy in Canada: A Brief Review and Commentary" Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy, 1998 **[This study was prepared for Senator Pierre Claude Nolin as a background document for his June 1999 motion to have Canada's Senate conduct a thorough review of Canadian drug law and policy - Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy]**

See: <http://www.cfdp.ca/sen1841.htm>

*Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, SC 1996, C. 16 <http://www.canlii.org/ca/sta/c-38.8/>  
**PART ONE: THE CANADIAN STATE & DRUGS**

**WEEK 2: JANUARY 15 , 2008 – ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES AND PROHIBITION OF RACE: A BRIEF HISTORY OF DRUGS IN CANADA**

The current systems of regulating drugs in Canada find their origins in social, economic and political conditions, which have variously defined the nature of what constitutes a drug, the public need for drug regulation and the permissible scope of drug usage. This seminar will explore the history of drug regulation and its relationship to treatment of Canada's First Nations and diverse ethnic and cultural immigrant communities.

**Readings:**

Giffen, P.J. et al. (1991). *Panic and Indifference: The Politics of Canada's Drug Laws*. Ch 2 - Social Origins of Narcotic Prohibition.

Carstairs, Catherine. (1999). "Deporting 'Ah Sin' to Save the White Race: Moral Panic, Racialization and the Extension of Canadian Drug Laws in the 1920s." in CBMH.

**Further Readings:**

Murphy, Emily F., *The Black Candle* (Toronto: T. Allen, 1922)

See: <http://cannabislink.ca/papers/murphy/menace.htm>

Mawani, R., "Mixed-Race Identity, Liquor and the Law in British Columbia, 1850-1913" in *Race, Space and the Law: Unmapping a White Settler Society*, S. Razack ed. (Toronto: Between the Lines, 2002) at pp. 47-62.

Provine, Doris M., "Negro Cocaine Fiends, Mexican Marijuana Smokers, and Chinese Opium Adicts" (Chapter 3) in *Unequal Under Law: Race in the War on Drugs* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007) at pp. 63-90.

**WEEK 3: JANUARY 22, 2008 - THE WAR ON DRUGS**

The War on Drugs in Canada has institutionalized an essentialist state view of a prohibition only strategy towards drug control. What does this approach mean for the poorest and most chronically affected drug users in Canada? Is Canada's war on drugs a product of American hegemony? Who are the direct or implicit targets of the War on Drugs? Who benefits from this so called "war"?

**Guest Speaker: TBA**

**Readings:**

Jensen, Eric & Jurg Gerber. (1993). "State Efforts to Construct a Social Problem: The 1986 War on Drugs in Canada."

Jensen, Eric et al. (1999). "Social Consequences of the War on Drugs: The Legacy of a Failed Policy." Criminal Justice Policy Review.

Oscapella, Eugene, "Moving Beyond "the War on Drugs": Drug Policy in the Shadow of the Elephant" (Prepared for the James Baker Institute, April 2002)

See: [http://www.bakerinstitute.org/Pubs/wp\\_dp\\_oscapella.pdf](http://www.bakerinstitute.org/Pubs/wp_dp_oscapella.pdf)

**WEEK 4: JANUARY 29, 2008 – POLICING AND DRUGS**

**Guest Speakers - TBA**

Is there a systemic bias in policing which targets certain racial and/or socio-economic groups in the investigation of drug crimes? How are the public policy objectives of policing determined and for whose benefit? Are current methods of policing effective in reaching their objectives?

Film Excerpt: "Scanner Darkly" (2006) – directed by Richard Linklater

**Readings:**

Sheptycki, Jim. (2000). "The 'Drug War': Learning from the Paradigm Example of Transnational Policing." in Sheptycki (ed) Issues in Transnational Policing.

Moore, Dawn & Kevin Haggerty. (2001). "Bring it on Home: The Relocation of the War on Drugs." in Social and Legal Studies.

*R v. Curry* (2005) 206 CCC (3d) 100 (Ont. C.A.)

*R v. Khan* (2004) 189 CCC (3d) 49 (Ont. SCJ)

**WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 5, 2008 – INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL  
(Outline Due)**

**Guest Speakers - TBA**

What are Canada's obligations under international conventions with respect to drug control and how do these obligations translate into domestic policy? What is Canada's commitment to fighting the War on Drugs in its foreign policy? The case study of Afghanistan will be specifically considered.

**Readings:**

Boyd, Susan, "U.S. International Policy and the War in Colombia" in *Witches to Crack Moms: Women Drug Law and Policy*. (Chapter 6) Carolina Academic Press (2004).

"Destruction or Development?: The War on Drugs in Afghanistan" – *The Dominion* (January 27, 2005);

See: [http://dominionpaper.ca/international\\_news/2005/01/27/destructio.html](http://dominionpaper.ca/international_news/2005/01/27/destructio.html)

**Further References:**

Fazey, Cindy. (2003). "The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme: Politics, Policies and Prospect for Change." in *The International Journal of Drug Policy*. 14.

*Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (Single Convention, 1961)*

*The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971*

*The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 (Vienna Convention)*

**WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 12, 2008 – THE REGULATION OF PHARMACEUTICALS, THE DRUG CORPORATION AND HUMAN HEALTH**

What determines whether a drug will be regulated as a pharmaceutical? What role do pharmaceutical corporations play in controlling the supply and demand for pharmaceutical drugs? Is Health Canada a reliable and effective regulator for control of drugs in Canada?

**Film Excerpt: *The Corporation* (2003), Directed by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott**

**Reading:**

Clarke, Juane N., "The Medical-Industrial Complex" (Chapter 16) in *Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2004) pages 370-397.

**Further Reading :**

Crisler, Greg. The End of the Great Buffer (Chapter Four), *Generation RX: How Prescription Drugs are Altering American Lives, Minds and Bodies* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books, 2005).

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2008 – READING WEEK – NO CLASS**

*PART TWO: SOCIAL REGULATION THROUGH DRUG CONTROL*

**WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 26, 2008 – HARM REDUCTION**

Is harm reduction a desirable and feasible approach to the issue of drug use in Canadian society? This seminar will focus upon the challenges and successes of harm reduction in different contexts looking at the pilot project of the Safe Injection Facility (SIF) known as InSite in Vancouver's Downtown East Side as well as the Safe Inhalation Project (also referred to as the "Crack Pipe" program) in Ottawa. Guest speakers will present views on the social, political and ideological controversies surrounding these harm reduction initiatives.

**Film: *Fix: The Story of an Addicted City* (Canada Wild Productions, 2002) - (excerpt)**

**Guest Presentation: TBA**

**Readings:**

Other Readings on the Safe Injection Site in Vancouver at Chet Mitchell Reserve Reading Room City of Ottawa, "Safer Crack Use Initiative"- Evaluation Report (October 2006)

**See: <http://www.medicine.uottawa.ca/epid/pdf/Crack%20Report.pdf>**

**WEEK 8: MARCH 4, 2008 – DRUG USERS**

What are the social, economic and personal factors, which influence drug use in society? What is the explanation for the moral panic that surrounds dominant ideas about drug use and drug users? How are these moral attitudes reflected in drug policy?

**Readings:**

Bourgois, Phillippe. (2003). "Crack and the Political Economy of Social Suffering." in *Addiction and Research Theory*. 11(1). 31 - 7.

Logan, Enid. (1999). "The Wrong Race, Committing Crime, Doing Drugs and Maladjusted for Motherhood: The Nation's Fury Over Crack Babies." in *Social Justice*.

**WEEK 9: MARCH 11, 2008 – DISABILITY AND THE NORMATIVE USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

People take drugs for different reasons. The manner of dispensation of drugs has a direct bearing upon the perceived legitimacy of drug use in society. Can the use of illicit drugs be morally justified for the treatment of disability? What are the limits of moral justification? Are the public policy reasons, which define the regulatory control of prescription drugs and exceptional use of controlled substances responsive to the needs of disabled persons?

**Reading:**

Clarke, Juane N., "Medicalization: The Medical-Moral Mix" (Chapter 16) in *Health, Illness and Medicine in Canada* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.) (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2004) pages 220-238.

*R. v. Parker* 2000 O.J. 2787 (C.A.)

**Further Reading (Chet Mitchell Reserve):**

Mollow, Anna. "When Black Women Start Going on Prozac" in *The Disability Studies Reader*, L. J. Davis ed. (New York: Routledge, 2006).

**PART THREE: CRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG USE****WEEK 10: MARCH 18, 2008 – DRUGS AND CRIME**

Is there a positive and necessary correlation between the use of drugs and crime? Does drug use make users violent? Is prohibition the safest and most effective method of reducing crime? How does the Canadian state react to drug crimes?

**Reading:**

Martin, Susan et al (2004). Trends in Alcohol Use, Cocaine Use and Crime." in *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

"Proportions of Crimes Associated with Alcohol and Other Drugs in Canada" Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (April 2002) (parts 1-3, pages 1- 58)

see:

<http://www.ccsa.ca/NR/rdonlyres/2322ADF8-AF1E-4298-B05DE5247D465F11/0/ccsa0091052002.pdf>

**WEEK 11: MARCH 25, 2008 – SENTENCING IN DRUG OFFENCES**

When a person accused of a drug crime is convicted, he or she is then subjected to a judicial sentence. What factors determine the gravity of this sentence? Are the dynamics of sentencing principles consistent with the social, economic and political realities of drug use in Canada? Should sentencing principles be reassessed?

**Readings:**

Fisher, Benedikt et al. (2002). "Compulsory Drug Treatment in Canada: Historical Origins and Recent Developments." in *Addiction Research*.

Chiodo, Anida. (2002). "Sentencing Drug-Addicted Offenders and the Toronto Drug Treatment Court." in *Criminal Law Quarterly* (45).

**WEEK 12: APRIL 1, 2008 – DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA****Guest Speaker: John Akpata, Marijuana Party of Canada**

Two hundred years ago, the production of cannabis sativa was encouraged in North America and promoted as a rotational crop. With the advent of Mexican immigration to the United States in the 1920s, attitudes towards marijuana changed throughout North America and its use and possession became criminalized. Is the criminalization of marijuana historically justifiable? Are current laws prohibiting marijuana in Canada effective and necessary? What is the status of marijuana laws in Canada? Should marijuana be decriminalized in Canada?

**Readings:**

*R. v. Clay* [2003] 3 SCR 735

*R. v. Long* [2007] O.J. No. 2916