The History of Alcohol

Historically, alcohol has been praised as a gift of the gods and as diabolical; as a healthy drink and dangerous to health; as an aid to sociability and harmful to social order. This lecture series will put modern attitudes and practices in context by exploring how ancient societies treated alcohol. We’ll discuss alcohol in terms of production, consumption, and regulation, and in relationship to social class, gender, and power.

Dr. Rod Phillips teaches at Carleton University and has published several books on the history of alcohol. He also writes about modern wine and judges in wine competitions around the world.

Mondays, March 9 - April 20 (no class April 13 )
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Leeds House Building (main campus)
Cost: $150.00 (HST included)
Parking available
Adults of all ages welcome.
Classes offered through the Learning in Retirement Program (LinR).
Details and registration available via our website

A drunken party with men smoking, sleeping and falling to the floor. Engraving after W. Hogarth.. Credit: Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)