

**Carleton University
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
SOCI 3055B
Studies in Addictions
Winter 2023**

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Office Hours: By appointment
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Office: Loeb A701
Method of Delivery: In-person course
Class Time: Thursdays 2:35 – 5:25 p.m.
Location: Mackenzie Building 4499

Teaching Assistant: TBA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

What is addiction? Why do people get high? Why are certain drugs outlawed? Is illicit drug use a form of deviance or defiant consumption? Is addiction a form of criminality or a disease or something else? This course will explore these and other questions concerning the patterns and practices of licit and illicit drug use in North America and abroad, with particular attention to how socio-cultural forces influence drug effects by using a wide array of sociological tools, concepts and theories. Although research concerning drugs is fairly widespread in the academic literature, it tends to focus either on the psychopharmacological properties and effects of psychoactive substances, or on the associated problems with the use of drugs, such as addiction, crime, risk and social disruption. As a consequence drugs are framed only in terms of a social problem. The aim of this course is to approach the topic of drugs, addiction, and the experience of intoxication from a critical evidence-based perspective in three ways. Firstly, we will consider drugs as symbolic objects. Secondly, we will consider the content and social factors involved in the construction of drug effects and drug users, across cultures and throughout time. Thirdly, we will approach intoxication as a normal social practice that is governed by norms and rules, just like any other human activity. In so doing, we will situate these topics within a larger sociological framework that cannot be reduced to the pharmacological properties of intoxicants alone but one that is instead equally shaped by culture, environment, and the individual characteristics and expectations of users. The first part of the course will develop these issues by focusing on the concept of addiction. We will explore various theories of addiction and discuss the uses and merits of different forms of drug control by examining the history of prohibition, the social construction of the addict, and the socio-political implications of the War on Drugs. The second part of the course will focus on the relationship between psychoactive drugs and larger cultural, social, political, and historical forces. The overall intent of the course is to provide the student with a broad critical introduction to the main issues and current debates in the areas of addiction research and critical drug studies.

PREREQUISITES:

One of the following: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002, or ANTH 1003 [1.0] AND third year standing.

CLASS FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to attend class regularly and be prepared to participate and talk during class. **This means having read the required readings** for the week **before** the class begins. This point cannot be stressed enough: **you must read the required material!** If you do not read the required texts you will not do well in the course. You are also expected to **actively participate and contribute to group discussions** both in meetings and the online forum. You are also expected to complete all assignments on time.

Additionally, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

REQUIRED READINGS:

There is no required textbook for this class. All required readings will be made available through links found in this course outline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Student assessment will be based on the following components:

1. Class participation (10%)
2. Online Discussion Forum (10%)
3. Quizzes (20%)
4. Group Assignment (20%)

Week 6 and 11
March 23, 2023

Commented [CN1]: Week 11 falls on March 30. The last day for tests or exams greater than 15% is March 29. See: <https://carleton.ca/FASS-FPA-teaching-regulations/assignments-and-exams/>

Commented [AB2R1]: The quizzes are 10% each, 20% total for the two.

Commented [3R1]: That is ok

5. Final Essay (40%)

April 6, 2023

Class Participation: Attendance during class meetings and keeping up with the readings is essential to achieving a good grade in this course. As part of the class participation grade students will be required to **actively engage** with the course material on a weekly basis by contributing to the in-class group discussions. During every class we will dedicate a portion of the class to group discussions where you will be asked to think about and discuss various theories, ideas, or problems concerning addictions and drug use amongst your group. Each group will then be responsible for handing in a short summary (one page) of what was discussed through Brightspace. The class participation mark is worth a total of 10% of the final grade.

Online Discussion Forum: There will be an on-going general discussion forum on Brightspace for the duration of the semester. Since there is so much to talk about concerning drugs and addiction, you are expected to contribute at least 20 posts throughout the semester at your own leisure. You are free to start your own discussion threads or add to existing discussion threads that others have posted. Online discussion forum participation is worth an overall total of 10% so for every 2 posts you make you will receive 1%. In other words, contributing 20 well-formed posts will earn you the full 10% for discussion forum participation.

Quizzes: There will be 2 short quizzes totaling 20% of the overall grade (each quiz is worth 10%). The quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions. Quizzes will be made available through Brightspace, and you can complete them at any time during a two-day window on Week 6 and Week 12.

Group Assignment: There is one group assignment (8-10 pages) worth 20% of the overall grade. **Your attendance is required on March 16.** We will dedicate part of this class to outlining the specific details for the group assignment (guidelines will also be posted on Brightspace). During our meeting you will have time to form groups of 4-5 people, begin the assignment, and allocate different sections of the project to each member of the group who will in turn be responsible for writing that specific section of the paper. If you cannot be present for our meeting, then you may need to carry out the assignment on your own. **The written portion of the assignment will be due on March 23, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.** To be fair to groups who submit assignments on time, late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. It is expected that your assignments will be readable at a third-year level and hence **you will be penalized 1% for each spelling and grammar mistake** (up to a maximum of 10%). **Group papers should be submitted as a Word document through the drop box in Brightspace.** The names (first and last name) of all group members should appear on the title page.

Term paper: The final assignment is a research paper (10-12 double-spaced pages, excluding title page and bibliography) worth 40% of the overall grade based on a topic of your choosing related to addictions or drug studies. Detailed guidelines for the paper will be posted on Brightspace. **Papers are due on Thursday, April 6, at 11:59 p.m. You should submit papers as a Word document through the drop box on Brightspace.** It

is expected that your essay will be readable at a third-year level and hence **you will be penalized 1% for each spelling and grammar mistake** (up to a maximum of 10%). To be fair to those students who submit papers on time, late papers will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day.

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50	WDN = Withdrawn from the course	DEF = Deferred	

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/>

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

For students with disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for April examinations (Winter) is **March 15, 2023**.

For pregnancy: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

For religious obligations: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

For survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

For student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Student Mental Health

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off campus resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Plagiarism

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This

includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

Pandemic Measures

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back

proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

Winter 2023 Dates and Deadlines

January 2, 2023	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 4, 2023	University reopens.
January 9, 2023	Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.
January 20-22, 27-29, 2023	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.
January 31, 2023	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
February 17, 2023	April examination schedule available online.
February 20, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
February 20-24, 2023	Winter break, no classes.
March 15, 2023	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses. Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 29, 2023	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

April 7, 2023	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 12, 2023	Winter term ends. Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule (full winter and late winter courses). Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for full winter and late winter courses.
April 13-14, 2023	No classes or examinations take place.
April 15-27, 2023	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 27, 2023	All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
May 19-31, 2023	Full winter, late winter, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.
