

COURSE TITLE: Environments, Bodies, and the Climate Crisis

COURSE NUMBER: SOCL 3998.07

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 1420-1550

INSTRUCTOR: Rachel Washburn

CORE AREA:

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

This course will use the concepts of vulnerability and resilience to orient our examination of the relationships between bodies and environments within the context of the current climate crisis. We will look at how we have understood this relationship over time, geographies of risk, inequitable patterning of health and disease, and how communities are working to curb climate change and promote racial justice. The course draws on scholarship from a variety of fields and areas, including sociology of the body, environmental justice, science studies, and biopolitics.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

COURSE TITLE: Drugs and Society

COURSE NUMBER: SOCL 3998.06

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR 0940-1110

INSTRUCTOR: Stacy Burns

CORE AREA:

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

From nineteenth-century opium dens, to twentieth-century bootleggers, to powder and "crack" cocaine use in the late twentieth century, to twenty-first century "pill mills" and the currently expanding opioid epidemic, this course investigates the impact of drugs on American society. Focusing on the social control of drug and alcohol use, particularly legal forms of social control, the course analyzes such historical developments as the rise and fall of Prohibition; the early twentieth century criminalization of narcotics; the development of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and other self-help groups; the emergence of drug courts; and the recent advent of medicalization and legalization of marijuana in some states. The course will not only address the evaluation of drugs typically classified as "illicit," such as heroin, cocaine, opium and morphine, but also tobacco and alcohol and the recent increase in popularity of psycho-pharmaceutical anti-depressants like Prozac and "performance enhancing" drugs such as steroids and Ritalin. Grounded in sociological perspectives, the course reviews different theoretical explanations of drug and alcohol consumption and the various strategies that have been employed to define and regulate drug use in America, including consideration of the racial and social class disparities in Prohibitionist movements and drug criminalization and enforcement throughout US history.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will acquire an understanding of the sociological perspectives, issues, concepts, and findings relating to substance use and abuse, its definition and social control. Students will become familiar with the history of drug and alcohol use and be able to describe the drugs commonly used in society, their methods of ingestion, effects and side effects. The course will expose students to the inequities of the "drug war" and will consider the social and political factors that may impact drug policies. The course will also examine drug prevention initiatives and introduce students to some innovative responses to drug abuse, including drug courts and self-help groups. Students will conduct original research and write and present individual and group reports on the substantive topics covered in the course, including an individual analysis of a current event and a group movie presentation related to issues of substance use and abuse.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

--Hanson, Venturelli & Fleckenstein, Drugs and Society, 13th ed. (Jones & Bartlett, 2018).

--Emailed Readings: **CHECK YOUR LMU EMAIL ACCOUNT DAILY!!**

****All readings and assignments are subject to change. You will be notified of any such changes in class. There will also be many hand-outs distributed in class.****

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

This 4-unit course requires substantial work outside of class. Please be prepared to spend an average of at least 9 hours every week on class-related learning activities. This includes reading, preparation for class and exams, independent research, internet research, preparation and writing of drafts, and/or engaged learning activities.

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Social Work

COURSE NUMBER: SOCL 3998.03

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T 1620-1920

INSTRUCTOR: Andrea Plate

CORE AREA:

FLAGGED:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

Drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, sexual assault, veterans' rights, mental illness...this is what social work, and this course, is about. The central theme: How do social workers help America's disadvantaged populations overcome societal ills and lead productive lives? The course, based on the professor's 15 years of practice as a licensed clinical social worker at the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs working with homeless, drug addicted and chronically ill wounded warriors (Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam), will invite discussion of social justice themes centered around real-world case studies and solutions, practice models and ethical versus institutional clashes. In addition, students will learn: What, exactly, do social workers do? How does a career in social work differ from other helping professions such as psychology?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To develop a social science, social work perspective for examining societal ills (homelessness; drug and alcohol addiction; mental health; vocational rehabilitation, etc.). To enhance empathic understanding of the underprivileged and how to better serve them. To enhance critical thinking skills by working through case studies based on real-world social work situations. To gain a fuller understanding as to the differences between social work and other areas of mental health work, such as psychology and marriage/family therapy, as well as an understanding of various career paths. To instill key social service concepts and verbiage of the so-called "helping professions." To learn how political administrations and systems affect social work practice and policy, whether budget cuts, Republican versus Democratic strategies, etc.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Madness: In the Trenches of America's Troubled Department of Veterans Affairs, Marshall Cavendish Intl., June 2019. The book will be posted on Brightspace. Also, scholarly articles in the field (the Rand Corporation; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; "American Scholar") will be posted periodically.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS: