

COURSE SYLLABUS
HLS 300 – Spring 2008

Drugs and Behavior

Distance Education from Las Cruces Extension

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Course Overview:

This course is a multi-dimensional approach to examining drugs in society: pharmacology, cultural, legal applications and psychosocial influences on the individual and the environment. The course is self-paced. The lectures are available from the course WebCT homepage. Quizzes, exams, and assignments are taken or turned in using WebCT (<http://salsa.nmsu.edu>). Additional information regarding course assignments, and tips on using the course website, can be found below, and by logging into WebCT and selecting the various icons.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the Spring 2008 semester, the student will have a broad understanding of the various categories of drugs and their use in modern society. This includes being familiar with the possible root causes of individual and social drug use and multi-dimensional approaches to drug prevention. Students successfully completing HLS 300 will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss the major categories of drugs.
2. Define the term drug abuse.
3. Identify and discuss the legal and illegal use of:
 - a. at least 3 types of stimulants and how they affect the body
 - b. at least 3 types of depressants and how they affect the body
 - c. at least 2 types of hallucinogens and how they affect the body
 - d. at least 2 types of narcotics and how they affect the body
 - e. at least 5 products used as inhalants and how they affect the body
4. List a minimum of five reasons why individuals use drugs
5. Discuss the role the media plays in drug promotion.
6. Discuss the role the media plays in drug prevention.
7. Describe a support group meeting and its treatment theory/foundation
8. Identify at least 2 community organizations/agencies that seek to prevent substance abuse

Textbook (required):

There is only one textbook required for this course: **Carroll, Charles R. Drugs in Modern Society (5th edition). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.**

There are two versions of this textbook, one with an on-line update service called PowerWeb (ISBN: 0072484012) and one that is just the textbook (ISBN: 069729448X). Either is fine for meeting the requirements of this course.

Special Requirements:

Each student must be able to use a computer with access to the internet. This can be at on-campus computer labs, or off-campus computers. WebCT can be accessed at salsa.nmsu.edu. In addition, students must use a word processing program that can save files in the Microsoft Word Document (.doc) format.

Course Organization:

This is a self-paced course, with students starting and ending their coursework at their own pace throughout the semester. As a result, there are only two deadlines, imposed by the end of the semester. All course assignments and the midterm examination must be completed and turned in by the last regular day of classes (May 2, 2008), and the final examination must be completed by the end of exam week (May 9, 2008). However, students are strongly encouraged to complete at least half of the course work prior to the mid-point of the semester (March 7, 2008) in order to avoid having a large amount of work to do at the end. Also, assignments turned in after April 25 may not have grades posted until May 12 due to the large numbers of papers turned at the end.

This course is designed around 11 “lessons”. Each of these lessons requires the reading of a “lecture”, the reading of a chapter(s) from the required textbook, and completion of one or two quizzes. In addition, students must complete three discussion postings, as well as choose three assignments/projects (out of six choices) that must be completed and submitted by the end of the semester. Details on these follow, with detailed descriptions of the assignments on the course homepage on WebCT.

Assignments / Projects:

Students must pick and complete 3 out of 6 possible assignments listed below. Each is worth 30 points. Detailed requirements for each assignment are contained on the course homepage on WebCT. Requirements (such as page length, attachments, and sources) vary between assignments, so students should check the requirements closely. All assignments must be submitted as e-mail attachments using WebCT. NOTE: Points are deducted for poor spelling, grammar, failure to follow assignment requirements, and for papers that are too long or too short.

Alcohol Advertisement Report: Using a popular magazine publication, the student must identify the number of alcohol advertisements contained therein, the target audience, and the approach(es) being used by the advertisers.

Journal Article Review: The student must find a professional journal article dealing with one of the topics covered in the class and write an article review.

Community Agency Paper: The student must identify a community agency involved in substance use/abuse treatment and describe how it provides services to the community.

Support Group Paper: The student must attend one drug-related support group meeting (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.). The student must write a paper describing how the meeting was organized, major themes discussed at the meeting, and the student’s perspective on the meeting.

Legalization Paper: Students must write a paper responding to a marijuana legalization position paper that is posted on WebCT.

Website Review Paper: The student must log onto the website www.alcohol101plus.org and review the material contained therein. A paper must then be written that examines the information presented therein.

Lessons:

The following shows the subject matter and contents of each lesson:

| <u>Lesson #</u> | <u>Topic(s) Covered</u> | <u>Readings:</u> | <u>Quizzes & Discussions:</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | Introduction; What is a “Model”? | None | <i>Lecture</i> |
| 2 | Drugs, Definitions, Concepts | Chapters 1 & 2 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 3 | Pharmacology | Chapter 3 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 4 | Alcohol, Abuse, Alcoholism | Chapters 4 & 5 | <i>Readings & lecture Discussion Item #1</i> |
| 5 | Narcotics & Sedative-hypnotics | Chapters 6 & 7 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 6 | Tobacco; Cocaine; Stimulants | Chapters 8 & 9 | <i>Readings & lecture Discussion Item #2</i> |
| MID-TERM EXAM | | ----- | |
| 7 | Psychedelics & Phencyclidine | Chapter 10 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 8 | Marijuana and Legalization | Chapter 11 | <i>Readings & lecture Discussion Item #3</i> |
| 9 | Over-the-Counter & Prescription Drugs | Chapters 12 & 13 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 10 | Alcohol in special populations | Chapters 14 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| 11 | Drug Abuse Prevention | Chapter 15 & 16 | <i>Readings & lecture</i> |
| FINAL EXAM | | | |

Quizzes:

There are quizzes covering the chapter readings and the lectures. A password is at the end of each lecture that allows entry into the appropriate quiz. The quizzes are not graded, but rather are designed as an aide in mastering of the material prior to moving on. As such, students will be able to re-take the quizzes. Students must pass the quizzes with a 100% (demonstrating mastery of the concepts) prior to being allowed to take the mid-term and final exams.

Exams:

There are two (2) exams, a mid-term and a final. The mid-term will cover material presented during the first half of the semester, and the final will cover material presented during the second half of the semester. Each is worth 50 points and consists of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Both exams are taken utilizing WebCT. In order to gain access to an exam, students must pass all of the preceding quizzes with a 100%. This may require taking some quizzes more than once. This allows the instructor the opportunity to make sure the students understand the appropriate material before proceeding. It also affords students the opportunity to review the material prior to taking the examinations.

Discussions:

There are three discussions that must be completed. Each is based on watching a short video segment and then commenting on a discussion board. These discussions are part of Lesson #4, Lesson #6, and Lesson #8.

Grading Policy:

Grades are assigned based on the points earned by each student. The following are the points possible and the corresponding grades:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Quizzes on Readings and Lectures: | Not graded, but required |
| Assignments (3 out of 6 required, 30 points each): | 90 points |
| <i>Alcohol Advertisement Report</i> | |
| <i>Journal Article Review</i> | |
| <i>Community Agency Paper</i> | |
| <i>Support Group Paper</i> | |
| <i>Legalization Paper</i> | |
| <i>Website Review Paper</i> | |
| Discussion Participation: | 10 points |
| Mid-Term Exam: | 50 points |
| Final Exam: | <u>50 points</u> |
| TOTAL POINTS: | 200 points |
| A = 180 – 200 points | |
| B = 160 – 179 points | |
| C = 140 – 159 points | |
| D = 120 – 139 points | |
| F = 119 points and below | |

NOTE: Due to students having an option on which assignments are completed, WebCT must add each column possible together. This will result in the “totals” columns showing more points possible than the grading scale above. Grades will be issued based on the 200-point scale above, and not on the total possible shown by WebCT.

Attendance Policy:

As this is a distance education course, students are not required to be physically present for any classes.

Late/Incomplete/Make-up Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due no later than May 2, 2008 so there is sufficient time to grade them. Exams may be completed through May 9, 2008 (the last day of exam week) at 5:00 pm.

Course Etiquette:

All course participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all postings and discussions. It is completely acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, and to challenge and debate them with research, citations, and/or personal experiences. This is both appropriate for learning and encouraged. However, personal attacks (e.g., references to the other person's intelligence, ancestry, etc.) will not be tolerated.

Students With Disabilities:

If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office located at Garcia Annex (phone: 646- 6840). If you have already registered, please make sure that your instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from SSD within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or SSD representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs.

If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, you are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor and/or Mr. Michael Armendariz, SSD Coordinator. Feel free to call Mr. Gerard Nevarez (EEO/ADA and Employee Relations Director) at 646-3635 with any questions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All medical information will be treated confidentially.