



# RCJU301 – Drugs and Crime

## Master Course Syllabus

### Course Overview (QM Standards 1.2)

#### Course description:

**CRIM 3365**

#### Drugs and Crime:

This course examines the history and consequences of mind-altering drugs and criminal behavior as it is affected by drugs, the legal response to substance abuse, treatment and prevention of substance abuse. Students will learn about drug use, drug misuse and drug abuse and control from a criminal justice perspective.

#### Course Goals and Objectives:

- Describe drug-taking behavior and the drug problem in America from both a historical and contemporary perspective
- Identify the history of drug use and drug-control policy and programs to reduce drug supply and demand
- Review theoretical perspectives on drug use and abuse
- Describe and discuss each of the different types of drugs covered in the class in regards to their effects on users and society
- Discuss the various types of prevention and treatment methods
- Identify and discuss the mysteries and miseries of intoxication and addiction
- Describe the production and trafficking of the different types of drugs

- Evaluate the effectiveness of various methods of drug control policy
- Unravel and discuss the drugs-crime connection
- Describe how the various components of the criminal justice system handles drug offenders from arrest to court disposition
- Discuss and understand the great debate of successes and failures of the war on drugs
- Discuss current methods of drug enforcement utilized in Miami-Dade County by various agencies

### **Pre-Requisites (QM Standard 1.6)**

None

No pre-requisites are required for this course.

### **Minimum Technical Requirements and Online Resources (QM Standards 1.5 & 1.7)**

In addition to a web browser (preferable Firefox) that is Blackboard compatible, you will need the following software in order to complete the activities in this class:

1. Word processing package capable of reading and creating .doc, .docx or rich text formatted (rtf) documents.
2. *Adobe Acrobat Reader*: If you do not have *Adobe Acrobat Reader*, you can download it free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>
3. PDF Creator Software: If you are using a MAC or do not have software capable of saving a file as a .doc or .docx file and do not have the capability on your campus to print files to PDF, you can download a free version of *CutePDF* at <http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp> This software installs a virtual printer on your PC that allows you to print files to the PDF format.
4. Virus Protection Software: This course requires you to download and upload files from your PC. Virus protection software protects your computer and my computer.

**Online Resources:** This course makes use of many online resources. I have made every effort to make sure the links I have are up-to-date. However, due to the changing nature of the web, you may find that a resource is temporarily unavailable or has been removed. If this should

happen, please send me an email and I will find an alternative resource or modify the assignment accordingly.

## **Instructor Information (QM Standards 1.8 & 5.3)**

Individual instructors complete this information.

### **Virtual Office Hours**

I am available in my virtual office by appointment only. Send me an email to set up an appointment.

### **Personal Commitment**

My personal commitments to you as a participant include:

I will reply to course mail messages within 24 hours;

I will read all discussion postings and will reply where appropriate within 3 days

I will acknowledge my receipt of every course mail message immediately upon reading it. If I am unable to respond to the request or concern at the time of initial reply, I will give you an estimated time for my next reply.

If I am going to be away from the course space for more than a day or two, I will send a message to you indicating the length of my absence.

I will regularly update information regarding due dates in the course announcements.

## **Optional/Required Course Materials (QM Standard 4.6)**

You will find your required textbook information in the course catalog at <http://ilearn-wv.rocks.wvnet.edu>. All other required readings and videos are included in each of the modules.

## **Grading Policy (QM Standard 3.2)**

Each module consists of a series of assignments, discussions and/or quizzes, each having specific point values. For each assignment or discussion you will be given the rubric or grading criteria from which you will be evaluated.

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Discussions   | 33 1/3%    |
| Exam 1        | 33 1/3%    |
| Exam 2        | 33 1/3%    |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>100</b> |

The grading scale is as follows:

**A** = 90-100

**B** = 80-89

**C** = 70-79

**D** = 60-69

**F** = < 60

## **Module Objectives and Assessments (QM Standard 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.4, 3.5, 5.1)**

### **Module 1**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify basic drug pharmacology. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Discuss drug taking behavior in society. [M1S1: Self-assessment, M1A1: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]
- Discuss the nature of drug toxicity. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Judge drug toxicity and drug related deaths. [M1S2: Self-assessment, M1A2: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]

### **Module 2**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify the origins and history of drugs and drug taking behavior. [M2S1: Self-assessment, M2A1: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]
- Discuss the implication of drug related legislation from 1970-2000. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Identify risk factors for drug use and abuse. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Identify protective factors for drug use and abuse. [M2S2: Self-assessment, M2A2: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]
- Analyze and discuss sociological perspectives on drug use and abuse. [M4A1: Midterm]

### **Module 3**

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Discuss the relationship between drugs and crime. [M3S1: Self-assessment, M3A1: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]
- Identify terminology associated with drugs and crime. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Discuss issues related to the production and trafficking of cocaine and marijuana. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Define the role of law enforcement in illicit drug interdiction. [M3S2: Self-assessment, M3A2: Discussion, M4A1: Midterm]
- Identify assess forfeiture. [M4A1: Midterm]
- Define and discuss the federal RICO statute. [M4A1: Midterm]

### **Module 4 - MIDTERM**

## Module 5

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Discuss the history of opium and opium derived drugs. [M5S1: Self-assessment, M5A1: Discussion, M8A1]
- Discuss the effects of narcotic drugs on the mind and body. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the impact narcotic drugs have on society and the criminal justice system. [M8A1: Final]
- Identify patterns of cocaine abuse. [M8A1: Final]
- Identify how amphetamines affect the brain. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the effects of amphetamines on the brain. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the impact of cocaine and other amphetamines have on society and the criminal justice system. [M5S2: Self-assessment, M5A2: Discussion, M8A1: Final]

## Module 6

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify prominent hallucinogens other than LSD. [M6S1: Self-assessment, M6A1: Discussion, M8A1: Final]
- Describe the special dangers of MDMA (Ecstasy), phencyclidine, (PCP), and Ketamine. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the impact prominent hallucinogens have on society and the criminal justice system. [M8A1: Final]
- Identify the acute effects of marijuana. [M6S2: Self-assessment, M6A2: Discussion, M8A1: Final]
- Identify the patters of marijuana smoking. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the impact marijuana has on society and the criminal justice system. [M8A1: Final]

## Module 7

After you have complete the readings and content for this module you will be able to:

- Identify acute and chronic effects of barbiturates as sedative hypnotic drugs. [M8A1: Final]
- Identify patterns of inhalant abuse. [M8A1: Final]
- Identify the acute effects and dangers of solvent abuse. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss the impact solvents, inhalants, and barbiturate use has on society and the criminal justice system. [M7S1: Self-assessment, M7A1: Discussion, M8A1: Final]
- Identify patterns of steroid abuse. [M8A1: Final]
- Discuss present day drug testing in amateur and professional sports and current drug testing techniques. [M7S2: Discussion: Self-assessment, M7A2, M8A1: Final]

## Module 8 - Final

