

HLTH AGE 2L03: DRUGS, SEX, AND ALCOHOL: SOCIETY AND ITS ADDICTIONS

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Mat Savelli
Email: savellm@mcmaster.ca
Lecture: Tues Wed Fri 3:30-4:20pm

Office: Kenneth Taylor Hall Rm 230
Office Hours: Tues, 1-3pm / Wed 4:30-5:30pm

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Course Description

This course analyzes the place of addiction in modern society. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective, it examines both the social factors that help shape addictive behaviours, as well as those that construct our notions of addiction and dependency. Additionally, the course considers the historical origins of the addiction concept as well as the diversity of contemporary perspectives related to it. Finally, the course includes several substantial case studies to provide students with a broad perspective of the social uses (and abuses) of addiction.

Course Objectives

After the course, students should have a basic understanding of the historical evolution of addiction as a concept. They should be able to explain major theories as to what causes addiction, including concepts drawn from psychology, psychiatry, and sociology. They should also develop and demonstrate a firm understanding of how the idea of addiction has been put to use by governments, medical practitioners, corporate entities, and the public more widely. In the process, students should come to realize the complex nature of addiction as an explanatory mechanism for human behaviour. In completing the course, students should gain an appreciation for the major debates that characterize discussions on the relationship between addiction and society.

Required Materials and Texts

- All required readings are available on [Avenue to Learn](#).

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Class Policies Quiz – 2%, due Sept 19
2. Online Discussion – 8%, due Oct 3
3. Midterm – 25%, held over both days on Oct 23/24
4. Essay – 32%, due November 7/14
5. Final Exam – 33%

Course Evaluation – Details

Class Policies Quiz (2%), due Sep 19

Students must complete a short multiple choice quiz about class policies. The quiz is based on the syllabus and what is discussed in the introductory lecture.

Essay (32%), due Nov 7/14

Students are required to write a 5-6 page essay on one of the topics that will be assigned during class. Students must use a minimum of SIX peer reviewed sources. Papers should be cited in full using APA referencing style. All papers should include a title page with the question clearly stated, as well as a bibliography.

Optional Essay Extension

Students may opt for a short essay extension, however, you will not receive any comments or feedback on your paper. Your grade will be posted on Avenue, but you will not receive the essay back. Neither the TAs nor the professor will meet with you to discuss your paper or your grade in any fashion – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Midterm (25%, Oct 23/24) and Final Exams (33%)

Both the midterm and final exam will include (a) 10-15 multiple choice questions that cover both the readings and lecture material, and (b) written components that could include short answer or long answer essay questions. Students will have two hours to complete the midterm and final exam. Both the midterm and final are cumulative. Students will be expected to have studied material from the whole of the course.

Online Discussion (8%), due Oct 3

Students will be divided up into groups and must participate in an online discussion hosted on Avenue to Learn. Students will be assigned FOUR different question based on readings or online videos. Each student is expected to post a response consisting of roughly 200 words to each question. You may comment in reference to your fellow students' postings, or you may post your own thoughts. There is no need to use formal referencing, but if you are taking ideas or quotes from a source, we need to know where you got it.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Sept 4/5)

Perspectives on Addiction

Readings:

- May, "Pathology, Identity, and the Social Construction of Alcohol Dependence"

Week 2 (Sept 11/12)

Historical Roots of the Addiction Concept

Readings:

- Campbell, "Medicalization and Biomedicalization"

Week 3 (Sept 18/19)

Addressing Addiction

Readings:

- Vrecko, "Civilizing Technologies"

Notes:

- **Class Policies Quiz due on Avenue**

Week 4 (Sept 25/26)

Alcohol: Mass Production and Social Regulation

Readings:

- Williamson, "Destigmatizing Alcohol Dependence"

Week 5 (Oct 2/3)

Caffeine: Undiagnosed Addiction?

Readings:

- Ruzich, "For the Love of Joe"

Notes:

- **DISCUSSIONS DUE**

Week 6 (Oct 9/10)

Reading Week

Week 7 (Oct 16/17)

Nicotine: Corporate Obfuscation and Public Power

Readings:

- White, Oliffe, and Bottorff, "Tobacco and the Invention of Quitting"

Week 8 (Oct 23/24)

MIDTERM

Week 9 (Oct 30/31)

Narcotics: Racialization and Spatialization

Readings:

- Mackenzie, "Feeling Good"

Week 10 (Nov 6/7)

Pills: Hillbillies & Wall Street

Readings:

- De Souza, "Trust Me"

Notes:

- **ESSAY DUE**

Week 11 (Nov 13/14)

Sex: from Vibrators to Pornhub

Readings:

- Clarkson & Kopaczewski, "Pornography Addiction and the Medicalization of Free Speech"

Notes:

- **OPTIONAL ESSAY EXTENSION**

Week 12 (Nov 20/21)

Addiction on Film

Week 13 (Nov 27/28)

Digital Media: Major Problem or Moral Panic?

Readings:

- Hasinoff, "Blaming Sexualization for Sexting"

Week 14 (Dec 4/5)

Are We Addicted to Addiction?

Readings:

- Alexander, "The Globalization of Addiction"

Course Policies

Email

Do not email the course instructor or TAs via Avenue to Learn. Direct all communication to our McMaster email addresses from your McMaster address.

Submission of Assignments

There will be absolutely no leniency on plagiarism. Don't copy and paste anything directly into your essay...even if you cite it!

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day, weekends included.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Students making use of MSAFs will have to complete all assignments at a later date. In other words, there is no chance that the grade for missed assignments or tests will be tacked onto the final exam.

Avenue to Learn

Course material will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Please check the site often to keep informed of important course information or announcements.

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic

accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

If you require this course outline in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.