

**HLTH AGE 2L03: Drugs, Sex, and Alcohol: Society and Its Addictions
Summer 2018**

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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 Texts:

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

Lectures:

Mon Apr 30 – Perspectives on Addiction

Reading: May, “Pathology, Identity, and the Social Construction of Alcohol Dependence”

Wed May 2 – Historical Roots of the Addiction Concept

Reading: Campbell, “Medicalization and Biomedicalization”

Mon May 7 – Addressing Addiction

Reading: Vrecko, “Civilizing Technologies”

Wed May 9 - Alcohol: Mass Production and Social Regulation

Reading: Williamson, “Destigmatizing Alcohol Dependence”

Mon May 14 – Caffeine: Cultural Ritual or Undiagnosed Addiction?

DISCUSSIONS DUE

Reading: Ruzich, “For the Love of Joe”

Wed May 16 – Nicotine: Corporate Obfuscation and Public Power

Reading: White, Oliffe, and Bottorff, “Tobacco and the Invention of Quitting”

Mon May 21 – Holiday (University Closed)

Wed May 23 - MIDTERM

Mon May 28 – Narcotics: Racialization and Spatialization

Reading: Mackenzie, “Feeling Good”

Wed May 30 – Pills: Hillbillies & Wall Street ESSAY DUE

Reading: De Souza, “Trust Me”

Mon June 4 – Sex: from Victorian Masturbation to Pornhub OPTIONAL ESSAY EXTENSION

Reading: Clarkson & Kopaczewski, “Pornography Addiction and the Medicalization of Free Speech”

Wed June 6 – Digital Media: Major Problem or Moral Panic?

Reading: Hasinoff, “Blaming Sexualization for Sexting”

Mon June 11 – Are We Addicted to Addiction?

Reading: Alexander, “The Globalization of Addiction”

Wed June 13 – FINAL EXAM

Grade breakdown:

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 4% per day.

1. Online Discussion: 10%
2. Essay: 32%
3. Midterm: 25%
4. Final Exam: 33%

Essay:

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 and Final Exams:

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:

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.

Other Crucial Course Notes

1. Do not email the course instructor or TAs via Avenue to Learn. Direct all communication to our McMaster email addresses from your McMaster address.
2. 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.
3. There will be absolutely no leniency on plagiarism. Don't copy and paste anything directly into your essay...even if you cite it!

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society at 905.525.9140 ext. 27227 or hasdept@mcmaster.ca.

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.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:

Students who require academic accommodations 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 at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652, or by email at sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

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 |

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.

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.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour 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 behaviour 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 <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>

he 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 other credit has been obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.