

## HLTH AGE 2L03: SOCIETY AND ITS ADDICTIONS

### Winter 2020

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**Lecture:** Mon/Wed 11:30-12:20,  
occasional Fridays 1:30-2:20 in PGCLL  
B138.

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### Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts .....	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview .....	3
Course Evaluation – Details.....	3
Class Policies Quiz (2%), due online by Jan 22 .....	3
Writing Tips Quiz (2%), due online by Jan 22.....	4
Sample Questions Quiz (1%), due online by Jan 22.....	4
Midterm (25%, held over two days on Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> – not MSAFable).....	4
Essay (35%), due March 9 <sup>th</sup> (or 16 <sup>th</sup> ).....	4
Final Exam (35%) .....	4
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings .....	5
Topic 1 (Jan 6 / 8).....	5
Topic 2 (Jan 13 / 15).....	5
Topic 3 (Jan 20 / 22).....	5
Topic 4 (Jan 27 / 29).....	5
Topic 5 (Feb 3 / 5) .....	5
Midterm (Feb 10 / 12) .....	5
Reading Week (Feb 17 / 19).....	5
Topic 6 (Feb 24 / 26) .....	5
Topic 7 (Mar 2 / 4) .....	6
Topic 8 (Mar 9 / 11) .....	6
Topic 9 (Mar 16 / 18) .....	6
Sex: from Victorian Masturbation to Pornhub .....	6

Topic 10 (Mar 23 / 25) .....	6
Digital Media: Major Problem or Moral Panic?.....	6
Topic 11 (Mar 30 / Apr 1).....	6
Topic 12 (April 6) .....	6
Course Policies .....	6
Email.....	6
Grades.....	6
Attending Class.....	7
Submitting Assignments .....	7
Late Assignments .....	7
Absences, Missed Work, Illness .....	7
Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work .....	8
Avenue to Learn .....	8
Course Modification.....	8
Essential Requirements.....	8
University Policies .....	8
Academic Integrity Statement.....	8
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	9
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO) .....	9
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy .....	9
Extreme Circumstances.....	10

## **Course Description**

This course analyzes the evolution of the addiction concept and its place 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 as an idea.

## **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](#).

## **Class Format**

Lectures are held Mondays, Wednesdays, and *some* Fridays.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Class Policies Quiz – 2% (online), due by Jan 22
2. Writing Quiz – 2% (online), due by Jan 22
3. Sample Questions Quiz – 1% (online), due by Jan 22
4. Midterm – 25% (over two days in class), Feb 10 *and* Feb 12
5. Essay – 35%, due in class *and* online, Mar 9 or 16 (see below)
6. Final Exam – 35%

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Class Policies Quiz (2%), due online by Jan 22**

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.

### **Writing Tips Quiz (2%), due online by Jan 22**

This short online quiz can be completed on Avenue to Learn. Students are required to read a description of common writing problems and then complete the subsequent quiz.

### **Sample Questions Quiz (1%), due online by Jan 22**

This short online quiz can be completed on Avenue to Learn. This quiz will help students prepare for the sorts of questions that will be asked on the tests and exam.

### **Midterm (25%, held over two days on Feb 10th and 12<sup>th</sup> – not MSAFable)**

The midterm includes 15-20 multiple choice questions that cover both the readings and lecture material, as well as a long answer essay section. For the essay section, students will have some choice in the question they answer. Students will have 45 minutes to complete each section. Students will be expected to have studied material from the whole of the course, with a particular emphasis on depth of understanding rather than solely simple memorization. It is NOT possible to MSAF individual components of the midterm.

### **Essay (35%), due March 9<sup>th</sup> (or 16<sup>th</sup>)**

The essay (5-6 pages in length, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font – please don't mess about with the margins) requires students to select and answer a question on topics that will be listed in class. The essay is due both as a hard copy in class and an electronic copy (on Avenue to Learn) at the beginning of lecture on November 5<sup>th</sup> (except for those who opt for the extension). 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 until Mar 16th. If you opt for this 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. It is not necessary to request this extension, as it will be automatically granted.

### **Final Exam (35%)**

The final exam is cumulative, covering both readings and lecture material. It consists of two sections, including a short multiple choice section (15-20 questions) and a long answer essay question. For the long answer section, students will have some choice in the question they answer. Once again, the primary focus will be on demonstrating a strong and in depth understanding of the course material rather than simply on memorizing key terms. The final examination will encourage students to demonstrate their critical thinking skills and the ability to tie together disparate course components.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Topic 1 (Jan 6 / 8)**

#### **Perspectives on Addiction**

Reading:

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

### **Topic 2 (Jan 13 / 15)**

#### **Historical Roots of the Addiction Concept**

Reading:

- Campbell, "Medicalization and Biomedicalization"

### **Topic 3 (Jan 20 / 22)**

#### **Addressing Addiction**

Reading:

- Vrecko, "Civilizing Technologies"

Notes:

- CLASS POLICIES QUIZ due by Jan 22

### **Topic 4 (Jan 27 / 29)**

#### **Alcohol: Mass Production and Social Regulation**

Reading:

- Williamson, "Destigmatizing Alcohol Dependence"

### **Topic 5 (Feb 3 / 5)**

#### **Caffeine: Cultural Ritual or Undiagnosed Addiction?**

Reading:

- Ruzich, "For the Love of Joe"

### **Midterm (Feb 10 / 12)**

- Multiple choice on Feb 10, long answer on Feb 12.

### **Reading Week (Feb 17 / 19)**

### **Topic 6 (Feb 24 / 26)**

#### **Nicotine: Corporate Obfuscation and Public Power**

Reading:

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

### **Topic 7 (Mar 2 / 4)**

#### **Narcotics: Racialization and Spatialization**

Reading:

- Mackenzie, "Feeling Good"

### **Topic 8 (Mar 9 / 11)**

#### **Pills: Hillbillies & Wall Street Bankers**

Reading:

- De Souza, "Trust Me"

Notes:

- ESSAY DUE on Mar 9

### **Topic 9 (Mar 16 / 18)**

#### **Sex: from Victorian Masturbation to Pornhub**

Reading:

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

Notes:

- OPTIONAL ESSAY EXTENSION to Mar 16

### **Topic 10 (Mar 23 / 25)**

#### **Digital Media: Major Problem or Moral Panic?**

Reading:

- Hasinoff, "Blaming Sexualization for Sexting"

### **Topic 11 (Mar 30 / Apr 1)**

#### **Are We Addicted to Addiction?**

Reading:

- Alexander, "The Globalization of Addiction"

### **Topic 12 (April 6)**

#### **Revisiting 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. Questions that can be easily answered by looking at the syllabus will be ignored.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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

### **Attending Class**

Regular attendance is vital to building an academic community and enhancing learning so it's important to come to class. Consequently, lectures will not be podcasted.

Announcements, including changes to the syllabus, may be made in lecture and might not be communicated online. The lecture slides that get posted do not cover all of the material discussed in class.

### **Submitting Assignments**

Assignments must be submitted in class (as hard copies) and online to the Avenue to Learn dropbox. Both copies are officially due at the beginning of lecture on the due date, after which point late penalties will apply. Failing to submit both copies by this point will result in a late penalty. "Being off campus," "watchin' the Raps," "living in Mississauga," "really getting into macramé," and "being stuck in traffic," will not be accepted as reasons for late submission.

### **Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day, including weekends. These should be submitted to the Department of Health, Aging, and Society (KTH 226) or to the physical dropbox located just outside that office. You should also submit an online copy of the assignment at the same time.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

Students using MSAFs will have to complete all assignments at a later date - the grade for missed assignments or tests will NOT be tacked onto any other assignment or test. MSAFs must be filed on the day that the assignment is due, triggering an automatic 3 day extension. Without exceptional permission granted officially by your faculty, extensions beyond 72 hours will not be given.

## **Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work**

### **McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

### **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.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any 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.

### **Essential Requirements**

This course has been carefully designed and all of its constituent components are considered essential requirements. Attending lecture regularly is essential as these classes will include discussions, material, and information that will not be posted on Avenue to Learn. In other words, successfully completing this course does not merely involve submitting the required work, but fundamentally taking part in the community of the classroom.

## **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](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:hasdept@mcmaster.ca)).

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### **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.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.