

## HLTH AGE 2L03: SOCIETY AND ITS ADDICTIONS Winter 2023

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**Office Hours:** Tues (12:30-1:30), Thurs  
(4:30-5:30), KTH 220.

**Lectures:** MDCL 1305  
Tuesdays, Thursdays (2:30-3:20).  
Fridays (2:30-3:20) used only as  
needed.

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## **Course Description**

This course explores the history of drug use and the evolution of the addiction concept, as well as its place in modern society. It explores the relationship between society and many objects of addiction, especially those labelled as drugs. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective, it examines both the social factors that help shape addictive behaviours, as well as the forces underpinning the social construction of both “drugs” and “addiction.” Finally, it explores the ways in which these concepts have been mobilized to highlight social dangers, police social activity, and promote social change.

## **Course Objectives**

After the course, students should have a basic understanding of the historical evolution of addiction as a concept. 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**

This is a fully in-person course. Beyond the required lectures, students are expected to attend five tutorials during the term on specifically assigned dates, which will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Your tutorials will be held during the timeslot you selected on Mosaic. For tutorials, students are expected to come prepared to participate and discuss the assigned readings from that week, so it’s important that you read them in advance. Without an MSAF, students who miss a tutorial will not have the opportunity to make up lost grades, so attendance and active, in-classroom participation are critical.

### *Independent Work*

Students are required to complete all work independently.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Class Policies Quiz – 1% (A2L) [Bonus, due by Jan 20<sup>th</sup>]
2. Tutorials: 15% (5 x 3% each).
3. Midterms – 2 x 25% (Feb 7/9 and Mar 21/23).
4. Final Exam– 35%, scheduled during exam period.

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Course Policy Quiz: 1% (Bonus), due Jan 20**

For bonus marks, students may complete a short quiz about course policies on Avenue to Learn. The quiz can be completed using the syllabus and the material drawn from the first week of material.

### **Tutorials: 15% (5 x 3%)**

Students are required to complete five tutorial sessions on assigned dates. For tutorials, students should come prepared to participate and discuss that week's readings. Without an MSAF, students who miss a tutorial will not have the opportunity to make up the lost grades, so it's crucial that you attend on your assigned dates.

### **Midterms: 50% (2 x 25%), Feb 7/9 and Mar 21/23**

Each midterm will consist of two parts, each held over two days: a multiple-choice section and a single long-answer essay question based on readings and lectures. They will be held during class time. All tests are cumulative.

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

The final exam will consist of **two** long-answer essay questions based on readings and lectures. It will be scheduled during the exam season by the Office of the Registrar. It will be cumulative, covering readings and lecture material from the whole of the course.

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

### **Topic 1 (Jan 9 – 13)**

#### **Introduction: What is a Drug? What is Addiction?**

Reading:

- Hugh-Jones, "Coca, Beer, Cigars, and Yagé"

### **Topic 2 (Jan 16 - 20)**

#### **Drugs as Sacred and Commercial Objects**

Reading:

- Breen, "The Failed Globalization of Psychedelic Drugs in the Early Modern World"
- Notes: Class Policies Quiz due on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.

### **Topic 3 (Jan 23 - 27)**

#### **The Invention of Addiction**

Reading:

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

**Topic 4 (Jan 30 – Feb 3)**

**The Drug Menace**

Reading:

- Carstairs, “Deporting ‘Ah Sin’ to Save the White Race”

**Topic 5 (Feb 6 – 10)**

**Midterm**

Reading:

- Herzberg, “Entitled to Addiction?”

**Topic 6 (Feb 13 – 17)**

**The War on Drugs in North America**

Reading:

- Lassiter, “Impossible Criminals”

**Holiday (Feb 20 - 24) – Reading Week, No Classes**

No Readings

**Topic 7 (Feb 27 – Mar 3)**

**The War on Drugs Goes Global**

Reading:

- Karam, “Phantasmal Commodities”

**Topic 8 (Mar 6 - 10)**

**The Birth of Behavioural Addictions**

Reading:

- Vrecko, “Civilizing Technologies”

**Topic 9 (Mar 13 - 17)**

**The Business of Addiction**

Reading:

- Bhargava and Velasquez, “Ethics of the Attention Economy”

**Topic 10 (Mar 20 - 24)**

**Midterm II**

Reading:

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

**Topic 11 (Mar 27- Mar 31)**

**Drugs and the Modern World**

Reading:

- O’Malley and Valverde, “Pleasure, Freedom, and Drugs”

## **Topic 12 (April 3 - 7)**

### **Managing Addiction**

Reading:

- Gowan, Whetstone, and Andic, "Addiction, Agency, and the Politics of Self-Control" and Stoljar, "Disgust or Dignity? The Moral Basis of Harm Reduction.

## **Topic 13 (April 11)**

### **An Addicted World**

Reading:

- 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. 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

### **Submitting Assignments**

Assignments must be submitted online to the Avenue to Learn dropbox by 11:59pm on the due date posted. Failing to submit a copy by this point will result in a late penalty. "Really getting into macramé", "Watching the Raps," "Burning banana bread", and "Having to sign for a package" 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 Avenue to Learn dropbox.

## **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. The MSAF policy is that nothing worth more than 24% can be MSAFed.

## **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".

## **Copyright And Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **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. Similarly, live participation in tutorials is considered an essential requirement. 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**

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

### **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.