

AMS 3702018931230

American Studies 370/ History 350 L: American Cultural History of Alcohol and Drugs

Fall 2018

Tuesday/Thursday 11-12:15

BUR 436B

31320/39232

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Course Description: Most scholars of alcohol and drug use have concentrated upon its physiological aspects. It is clear that addiction and craving have a physical and perhaps even a genetic basis. Yet, as many anthropologists, sociologists, and historians have pointed out, cultures directly affect the types of drugs used, how they are used, and for what purposes. In addition, one can examine a culture's drug use and attitude toward it and often discover a great deal about the functioning and values of that society. One can also note the changes over time within a culture. Thus, drug use is not only a cultural product but also a very useful social and historical descriptor. In this course, we will study both how American culture affected the use of drugs and attitudes toward them and how these serve as keys to the changing American intellectual, social, and political landscape. Our prime goal here is to determine what use of a certain drug at a certain time tells us about the culture.

The study of drug use and attitudes toward it is particularly appropriate to the United States because of its pluralism. Its settlement was roughly contemporaneous with the first widespread European use and abuse of distilled spirits, and different racial, ethnic, and religious groups brought their different drug habits and attitudes with them. As each group insisted upon its own traditional approach, the issue became one of power, control, and eventually politics. Racial, ethnic, and class prejudices enter directly into almost every one of the discussed issues.

This course, and the instructor in particular, is not particularly interested in the individual drug experience. What it is interested in why certain societies turn to certain types of drugs at particular times and how that society responds to this behavior. Why are opiates accepted in late 19th century America and then demonized by the turn of the century? How can traditional societies like India

incorporate marijuana into their culture with little apparent difficulties and powerful elites in the United States label it as a gateway drug and the basis of American criminality? Aren't they the same drug? Don't they have the same chemical properties in different cultures and different times?

As we go through the course, the relevance to the present War on Drugs will be obvious. I worked as an alcohol and drug counselor and have seen the lives of many decent people shredded by the ravages of drug abuse and/or an out-of-control legal system. While fearing both, I fear the War on Drugs more. I believe the present policy on drugs is intellectually and ethically bankrupt and won't hide my beliefs. You, of course, are certainly welcome to your own and absolutely to express them.

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Required texts:

Philippe Bourgois and Jeff Shonberg Righteous Dopefiend

Michael Lerner Dry Manhattan: Prohibition in New York City

Don Lattin The Harvard Psychedelic Club: How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America

Article Packet from Jenn's Copying 2518 Guadalupe • 2518@jennscopies.com
•512-482-0779

Films:

We will use a number of documentary films in the course. Most of them can be seen outside of class either in Netflix or YouTube. Two will be seen in class.

Ken Burns/ PBS, "Prohibition" Three Episodes—1. "A Nation of Drunkards"; 2. "A Nation of Scofflaws"; 3. "A Nation of Hypocrites" (Netflix)

HBO/Addiction Project, "Addiction Why Can't They Just Stop?" (in-class)

Hoffman's Potion (LSD Documentary) (YouTube)

PBS Frontline "The Meth Epidemic" www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/meth
Internet

PBS Evening News "America Addicted" (via instructor)

Heroin(e) (Netflix)

Heroin Cape Cod USA (Kanopy)

Dope(Netflix)

Best Websites

While there is a remarkable number of websites available on the topic of alcohol and drugs, a majority seem to be of the Just Say No variety which can't get it right in the present or even admit of use in the past. Even more disturbing because of their potential danger are the amateur sites that tout various drugs as free from all dangers. As we will see in this course, all drugs have some potential danger.

These are the number of sites I use most and mark on my computer.

1. Schaffer Library of Drug Policy

(www.druglibrary.org/schaeffer/misc/driving/contents.htm)

2. Drug War Chronicle (www.stopthedrugwar.org/index.shtml)

3. Erowid-Documenting the Complex Relationship Between Humans and Psychoactives (www.erowid.org)

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This class will be conducted on a seminar basis. My idea of hell is listening to anyone (especially myself) for anything over 15 minutes. This requires regular and on-time attendance, up-to-date reading, and informed discussion. There are too many people in this seminar so it will be more tempting to lay back and do nothing. That will not be acceptable. Class participation will count 25% of your grade, and you will receive a grade for that at the end of the course. I keep track of participation on a weekly basis and can give you an idea of your performance. I reserve the right to give anyone who misses five or more classes without acceptable excuses will receive an automatic F for the entire course.

Course Requirements:

Class Format: This is a seminar course and will be In addition to class participation, your final grade will consist of two reading exams based almost exclusively on reading and films worth 25% together—10% on the first and 15%

on the second. The exams will consist of matching and mostly short identification. The matching will be 30% of your grade and you will have 7 out of 10 identifications. The reading exams will be held on October 11th and on the course's final class day of December 4th. I will provide sample questions of matching and identification before the first exam. I reserve the right to give short pop quizzes if I feel the class is not doing the reading, although I would prefer not to do so. If I do so, the grades of these pop quizzes will be folded into these grades.

Writing Assignments: This is a writing component class and half your grade will derive from your papers.

The first assignment will be a short, class-designed project very early in the semester. Much of this class will depend on an understanding of the theory of social construction and anthropology/ethnology. I will ask you to write a short four page paper on the social construction of a non-drug. That is, how does social perception of a phenomena, person, or event cause or at least influence members of that society to respond in a certain way. You may take a comparative approach. For example, how do western countries' monogamous marital relationships differ from, for example, African societies' polygamous relations. Or there are actually many polyandrous societies (one woman takes two or more husbands). How do they make sense? If the woman marries all brothers, they keep the family land. If more than one man is recognized as the father of a child, there is a greater chance of the child living to adulthood.

The paper will be due September 18th. This paper will hopefully not only provide you with a clear understanding of the key theoretical concept of the class but a quick understanding of my personal expectations for your writing. The paper will count only 5% toward your final grade.

The 2nd paper will be a paper that integrates class work and some outside research. The topic of the paper is why was there a movement to prohibit alcohol or, indeed, why was there a successful movement to abolish alcohol when drugs that are seen by many today as more dangerous—tobacco, opiates,

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cocaine, marijuana, etc.—were still widely used. While you should have most of the material for alcohol from your reading, you will have to use outside readings to make your comparison(s). You must have a minimum of three outside sources although things like Wikipedia don't count. This paper is a combination of thought and research while the first paper is primarily thought. The length

should be from 5 to 10 pages. Longer papers aren't, of course, always better but they often show more thought. It will count 15% of your final grade and will be due October 23rd.

The third paper will be a more traditional research paper. You will examine a particular drug during a particular time and show how its use is impacted by the culture. For example, you might study marihuana as it came into the United States in about 1910 through the 1920s. You would be writing about Mexican-American use on the Mexican border and its spread into port areas like Galveston and New Orleans and then from there to the urban north with jazz musicians. Another well-used topic is the rise of steroid use among bodybuilders beginning in the late 1980s and then perhaps its infiltration to athletes and other adolescents. By October 30th a topic of a drug and a historical period or culture. You can change these later especially the time or culture but not at the last minute. This is the most important grade with 30% of the final grade. It is due in my box in the American Studies office/ Burdine 432A on December 13th by 5 p.m. I will also accept final papers by e-mail.

Cultural Diversity Flag

The cultural diversity flag refers to the various multicultural aspects of a culture, in this case that of the United States. Drugs and alcohol are excellent examples of this as different ethnic, gender, racial, and economic groups select one drug over another. Any drug that has ever been prohibited in the US has been associated with a minority cultural group. Ethnic workers and alcohol led to Prohibition. Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the 1930s for marijuana is another example. Then there are hallucinogenics and the hippies of the 1960s.

U.S. HISTORY REQUIREMENT (Core Component 060)

This course may be used to fulfill three hours of the U.S. history component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility.

Writing Flag

This course like all AMS 370s and HIS 350Ls requires a writing component. One half of this class' final grade will come from three writing assignments, most from the final writing paper. But it will also satisfy the writing component itself.

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Students With Disabilities

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6257.

Plagiarism

Like my colleagues, I absolutely despise plagiarism and cheating of any type. I will be understanding of almost anything except this. If I find you plagiarizing, the best that can happen to you is an F in the class. The worst is recommending to your Dean that you be dismissed from the university. I am grateful that I have had so few cases of cheating in my career. Trying not to sound preachy, it seems to me that this is about respect—respect in yourself, for your fellow students, and between you and I. And, yes, I did catch someone plagiarising recently.

One element that has emerged lately in seminars has affected me. An occasional student tends to be on the Internet all class. It's a bloody seminar. Don't take a seminar if that's what you feel about the knowledge of your fellow students, your own, and mine. If this continues, I'll pull the computers. No one needs it for a seminar.

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Course Calendar

August 30 Introduction

September 4 Where Are We Now?

Stop the Drug War "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Top 10 US Drug Policy Stories of 2017"

Stop the Drug War "From Bloody Drug War to Legal Pot: The Top Global Policy Highlights"

Stop the Drug War "looking Back: The Biggest Domestic Drug Stories of the Past 20 Years"

Stop the Drug Wars, "Four Reasons Black Incarceration Rates Are Going Down While White Rates Are Going Up"

6 Social Construction Theory

Howard S. Becker "Deviance and the Response of Others";

Rudi Matthee "Exotic Substances: The Introduction and Global Spread of Tobacco, Coffee, Cocoa, Tea and Distilled Liquor, 16th to 18th Centuries,"

Jerri A. Husch "Culture and US Drug Control Policy: Toward a New Conceptual Framework"

11 Cultural/Anthropological Construction of Drugs

Ruth Benedict "Psychological Types in the American Southwest,"

George Carstairs "Bhang and Alcohol: Cultural Factors in the Choice of Intoxicants

Dwight Heath "Drinking Patterns of the Bolivian Camba"

James Nason "Sardines and Other Fried Fish: Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on a Micronesian Island,"

13 Interpretation of Addiction

Bourgeois and Shonberg Righteous Dopefiend, intro and chapters 1-3

18 Homelessness and Addiction

Dopefiend, chpters 4-6

First person due

20 Addiction and Oral History

Dopefiend chap 7-9

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25 The Beginning of Temperance

Rorabaugh, chap. 7

William Coggshall, "Little Peleg, the Drunkard's Son"

Neil Dow "History of a Neighborhood"

J. T. Crane "A True Story"

Ian Tyrell "Temperance and Economic Change in the Antebellum North"

27 The Movement toward National Prohibition

Ken Burns "Prohibition" "A Nation of Drunkards" Part 1

Jon M. Kingsdale "The Poor Man's Club"

Madelon Powers "Decay from Within: The Inevitable Doom of the American Saloon"

October 2 National Prohibition and the Big Apple

Lerner, Manhattan, chap 1-4

4 Prohibition and Its Ills

Lerner, chap 5-8

Burns Prohibition "A Nation of Scofflaws" part 2

9 The End of Prohibition

Ken Burns, Prohibition, "A Nation of Hypocrites" part 3
Lerner, Manhattan, chap 9-12

11 **FIRST QUIZ**

**Bourgeois and Schoenberg, Lerner Packet Stop the Drug War to
Powers, Ken Burns "Prohibition"**

16 History of Marijuana Policy

Harry Anslinger "Marihuana: Assassin of Youth" American
Magazine (1937)
"Marijuana and Mexican Americans: An Overview"

18 The Triumph of the Medical Model

HBO film "Addiction" (In-class film)

23 The Chinese and Opium

Jacob Riis "Chinatown"
David Courtwright "Chinatown"
Second Paper due

25 Psychedelics and the Drug War

Lattin, Harvard Psychedelic Club, introduction and chapters 1-3

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30 Psychedelics and the Generation War

Lattin, chapters 4-6
Film "Hoffman's Potion"

November 1 LSD and the Class War
finish Lattin

6 Drugs, Media and Race in the Drug War

William Finnegan "Deep East Texas"
Craig Reinarmann and Harry Levine, "The Crack Attack:
Politics and Media in the Crack Scare"

James Orcutt and J. Blake Turner "Shocking Numbers and Graphic Accounts"

8 Gender and the Bill of Rights

Maria Keire. "Dope Fiends and Degenerates: Gendering of Addiction in the Early 20th Century"

Loren Siegel "the Pregnancy Police Fight the War on Drugs"
Newsbrief, "Texas DA Says Doctors Must Turn in Drug Using Women"

Libby Copeland "Oxybots: Instead of Learning from Unfounded Hysteria of the Crack Baby Era"

13 The Origins of Methamphetamines

see "The Meth Epidemic"

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/meth/>

15 Legalization of Marihuana

Michael Thomsen "Legalizing Weed Isn't Enough" (2015)

Bruce Barcott and Michael Scherer "The Great Pot Experiment" (2015)

Patrick Radden Keefe "Buzzkill" New Yorker (November 2013)

20 The Most Dangerous Drug Rises Again

"America Addicted" (2017)

Katherine Seelye, "In Heroin Crisis, White Families Seek Gentler War on Drugs"

Katherine West Savali "Gentler War on Drugs Is a Smack in Black America's Face"

27 Heroin and the Heartland

"Heroin(e)"

Margaret Talbot "The Addicts Next Door"

29 Rise of the Middle Class Junkie

"Heroin Cape Cod"

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December 4 Violence and the Continuing Drug War
"Dope"

Danielle Allen "How the Drug War Creates Violence"

6 SECOND QUIZ

LATTIN, PACKET, ANSLINGER TO ALLEN

11 No Class

**13 THIRD AND FINAL PAPER-- A DRUG AND IT HISTORICAL
PERIOD AND/OR CULTURE DUE**

Paper is due either in my mailbox or via e-mail. You are responsible for insuring the e-mail arrives.

AMS 370/HIS 350L CULTURAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. Stop the Drug War "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Top 10 US Drug Policy Stories of 2017" (December 28, 2017)
2. Stop the Drug War "From Bloody Drug War to Legal Pot: The Top Global Policy Highlights"(December 28, 2017)
3. Stop the Drug War, "Looking Back: The Biggest Domestic Drug Stories of the Past 20 Years"(December 6. 2017)
4. Stop the Drug War, "Four Reasons Black Incarceration Rates Are Going Down While White Rates are Going Up" (December 28, 2017)
5. Howard S. Becker : Deviance and the Response of Others" Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance (1963)
6. Rudi Matthee "Exotic Substances: The Introduction and Global Spread of Tobacco, Coffee, Cocoa, Tea, and Distilled Liquor. 16th to 18th Centuries," Drugs and Narcotics in History, ed. Roy Porter and Mikulas Teich (1995)
7. Jerri Husch "Culture and US Drug Policy: Toward a New Conceptual Framework" Daedalus 121 (Summer 1992)
8. Ruth Benedict "Psychological Types in the American Southwest," Proceedings (1930)
9. George Carstairs "Bhang and Alcohol: Cultural Factors in the Choice of Intoxicants" Marihuana Papers (1966)
10. Dwight Heath "Drinking Patterns of the Bolivian Camba" Quarterly Journal (1958)
11. James Nason "Sardines and Other Fried Fish: Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on a Micronesian Island," Beliefs, Behaviors, and Alcoholic Beverages (1979)
12. W.J. Rorabaugh The Alcoholic Republic, chapter 7, Oxford Press, 1979

13. William Coggshall, "Little Peleg, the Drunkard's Son," American Temperance Magazine (1854)
14. Neal Dow "The Story of a Neighborhood" ibid.
15. J.T. Crane "A True Story" ibid.
16. Ian Tyrell "Temperance and Economic Change in the Ante-bellum North," Alcohol, Reform and Society: The Liquor Issue in Social Context, ed. Jack Blocker (1979)
17. Jon Kingsdale "The Poor Man's Club: Social Functions of the Urban Working Class Saloon," The American Man, ed. Elizabeth and Joseph Pleck (1980)
18. Madelon Powers "Decay from Within: The Inevitable Doom of the American Saloon," Drinking, ed. Barrows and Room (1991)
19. Harry Anslinger "Marihuana: Assassin of Youth" American Magazine (1937)
20. "Marijuana and Mexican Americans: An Overview" (unpublished)
21. Jacob Riis "Chinatown" (1890)
22. David Courtwright "Chinatown" Violent Land (2005)
23. William Finnegan "Deep East Texas" New Yorker (1994)
24. Craig Reinarmann and Harry Levine "The Crack Attack: Politics and Media in the Crack Scare" Reinarmann and Levine Crack in America 18-50
25. James Orcutt and J. Blake Turner "Shocking Numbers and Graphic Accounts: Quantified Images of Drug Problems in the Print Media" Social Problems (May 1993)
26. Maria Keire. "Dope Fiends and Degenerates: Gendering of Addiction in the Early 20th Century"
27. Loren Siegel "The Pregnancy Police Fight the War on Drugs," Reinarmann and Levine Crack in America, 249-

28. Newbrief: "Texas DA Says Doctors Must Turn in Pregnant Women"
29. Libby Copeland "Oxytots: Instead of Learning from the Unfounded Hysteria of the Crack Era, We're Repeating It" Slate (December 7, 2014)
30. Michael Thomsen "Legalizing Weed Isn't Enough" Slate (December 2015)
31. Bruce Barcott and Michael Scherer "The Great Pot Experiment" Time (2015)
32. Patrick Radden Keefe "Buzzkill" New Yorker (November 2013)
33. Katherine Seelye "In Heroin Crisis, White Families Seek Gentler War on Drugs" New York Times (2015)
34. Kristen West Savali "Gentler War on Drugs for Whites Is a Smack in Black America's Face" The Root (November 8, 2015)
35. Margaret Talbot "The Addicts Next Door," New Yorker (June 5, 2017)
36. Danielle Allen "How the War on Drugs Creates Violence" Washington Post October 16, 2015