INSTRUCTOR & CONTACT INFORMATION
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OFFICE HOURS:  Tuesday 1pm-2:30pm
Please feel free to stop by if you have any questions or concerns about the course. I am also happy to help brainstorm topics for your paper, or talk about your areas of interest.

CLASS SCHEDULE
The course meets on Tuesdays from 9:00am-11:30am in Room 206, 574 Boston Ave.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Substance abuse is a growing public health concern in the United States. This course will provide an overview of the research on substance use disorders (tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs), including the epidemiology and consequences of addiction, prevention and treatment approaches, and policies surrounding substance use. Special attention will be paid to how social inequalities, substance use, and its consequences are interrelated, particularly as they relate to race/ethnicity, sexual identity, and socio-economic position.

We will consider questions such as: When and which substances have been considered problematic historically, and why? What groups suffer disproportionate consequences for using or abusing substances and why? What are the pathways to access treatment, and what obstacles and barriers, including policies, make access to treatment difficult? What policies have been implemented to manage substance use, and what has been their impact and unintended consequences? We will also discuss current policy issues such as marijuana legalization and efforts to address the increase in prescription drug abuse.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students will:

- Summarize the prevalence and the impact of substance use and substance use disorders in the United States

- Describe preventive and treatment approaches for substance use disorders and explain the controversies with some of the approaches

- Understand how social inequalities are related to substance use, the impact of substance use, and access to treatment for substance use disorders

- Evaluate currently implemented or proposed policies to address substance use

GRADING & EVALUATION

Final grades for this course will be determined by the following assessments:

1. Class Participation 20%
2. Reading reflections/Brief assignments 25%
3. Research Paper: 50%
   a. Topic selection (0 points)
   b. Part 1: Topic paragraph, outline for background, policy ideas, initial references: 5%
   c. Part 2: Background section: 10%
   d. Part 3: Policy section: 10%
   e. Final paper: 25%
4. Presentation—5%

Active Participation (20%)

This course is a Community Health seminar, and thus you are expected to fully participate in the class discussions. Participation will enhance everyone’s learning, and responsibility for class discussion is shared. Class participation includes attendance and coming to class on time, being prepared to discuss readings and assignments, asking relevant questions, contributing to small group discussions, facilitating the participation of other students, and engaging with the instructor and guest speakers. Class participation also includes actively contributing to in-class activities. You will also be asked to lead the discussion for one of the class sessions.

Reading Reflections/Brief Assignments (20%)

These will be short reflections on the readings or brief assignments to answer a prompt. Sometimes you will be asked to develop questions for discussions, or to do additional readings. Most will be about 1-2 pages long (double-spaced). Instructions will be given before each one is due. These assignments are due on Sundays by 11:55pm before class.
Research Paper (50% total)
The paper will be an in-depth look at substance use or a substance use disorder, focusing on a particular population group. The paper will also include the policy context and a critique of related policies that attempt to address substance use or the SUD, with your policy recommendations. Sections of the paper will be submitted throughout the semester and the final paper is due at the end of the semester. The final paper will be 15-20 pages. The detailed instructions for the paper will be discussed during Session 2.

Presentation (5%)
You will be required to make a 10 minute presentation of your paper to your classmates.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & TEXTS

There are no textbooks for this course. Most of the readings you will be able to find online. Others will be available at the course website on Trunk (trunk.tufts.edu) or distributed in class. You are responsible for reading all assigned material before the class date for which the readings are assigned.

COURSE POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

Attendance: Attendance is critical to promoting a learning community within the class. You are expected to attend all class sessions unless you have a medical excuse or a serious, unexpected situation. If you cannot attend a class session, you must email me. Participation grade for that day will not be able to be made up unless you have a medical note or I am contacted by your Dean.

Submitting Written Assignments: All assignments are to be submitted through Trunk by the due date and time.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will receive a 10% reduction in grade for each 24 hour period for which it is late. Late begins at 1 minute past the deadline. If your assignment is late, you will not be able to submit the assignment via Trunk. Therefore, submit the assignment to the instructor directly via email.

Guidelines for Discussions:
Together, we will develop specific guidelines for discussion on the first day of class and revise as needed. I will update the syllabus with our guidelines.

Cellphones and Laptops:
No cell phone use during class.
You may use a laptop/tablet in class for taking notes, or during specified class related activities. I trust that you will be respectful of your peers and the instructor and will not use laptops for things that are not related to the course. However, if this happens, we will revise the laptop policy. Laptops are not allowed when we have an outside speaker.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Tufts holds its students strictly accountable for adherence to academic integrity. The consequences for violations can be severe. It is critical that you understand the requirements of ethical behavior and academic work as described in Tufts’ Academic Integrity handbook. If you ever have a question about the expectations concerning a particular assignment or project in this course, be sure to ask for clarification. The Faculty of the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering are required to report suspected cases of academic integrity violations to the Dean of Student Affairs Office. If cheating or plagiarism is suspected, this must be reported to the Dean. More information is available at: http://uss.tufts.edu/studentAffairs/documents/HandbookAcademicIntegrity.pdf

STUDENT SERVICES
Tufts is committed to providing support and equal access for all students so that they may fully realize their academic potential. If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please contact the course director early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. All discussions will remain confidential. More information can be found at the Tufts University Student Accessibility Services website: https://students.tufts.edu/student-accessibility-services

Accommodations: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present documentation from the Academic Resource Center. All discussions remain confidential.

Additional Resources:
• Tisch Library: For research assistance- http://www.library.tufts.edu/tisch/subjectLib.html
• Academic Resource Center (ARC): For writing and other academic assistance: http://uss.tufts.edu/arc/
• The Tufts University Counseling and Mental Health Service (CMHS). For personal and academic concerns— Sawyer House at 120 Curtis Street. 617.627.3360. http://ase.tufts.edu/counseling/
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment (in addition to reading)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; Epidemiology</td>
<td>No reading reflection due on this day.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Historical Perspectives / Drugs and the Brain</td>
<td>Reading reflection due by Sunday, September 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; 11:55pm</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Social Epidemiology of Substance Use</td>
<td>Reading reflection due by Sunday, September 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Paper Topic (bring to class)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>Societal Impact / Substance use in the media</td>
<td>Due on Sunday September 24th by 11:55pm: Paper outline (see detailed instructions in Trunk)</td>
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<td>Paper copy of newspaper article due in class Tuesday, September 26th</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>Brief assignment due October 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; by 11:55pm</td>
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<td>Speaker: Penelope Bruce</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Intro to treatment and support groups</td>
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<td>Speakers: AA of greater Boston (confirmed)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 17</td>
<td>Treatment – Cont’d Harm Reduction</td>
<td>Due on Sunday October 15th by 11:55pm: Background section of the paper</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Access to and Quality of Treatment / ACA</td>
<td>Reflection due on Sunday October 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; @ 11:55pm</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>Visit to State House</td>
<td>Bring questions!</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
<td>NO CLASS: Friday schedule</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>National and state drug control policies, including tobacco</td>
<td>Reflection due on Sunday, Nov. 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; @ 11:55pm</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 21</td>
<td>Policies related to prescription drug abuse/ Marijuana legalization</td>
<td>Due on Sunday, November 19th at 11:55pm: Policy section of Paper.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Drug Control Policies in Other Countries</td>
<td>Student Presentations (Part 1)</td>
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<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Class presentations, wrap-up and evaluation</td>
<td>Student Presentations (Part 2)</td>
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**Final Paper Due on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by 11:55pm**
Below is the list of topics and related readings. Readings may be added or substituted for pedagogical reasons, based on current news, and/or student interest. I am also waiting to hear about one more speaker, so that might shift the schedule a bit.

Definitions, History, Epidemiology, & Impact

Session 1: Tuesday 09/05/17 Introduction, Definitions, and General Epidemiology

Readings:


Session 2: Tuesday 09/12/17 Historical perspectives / Drugs and the Brain

Readings:

History


- The Mysterious History of “Marijuana”
  http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/07/14/201981025/the-mysterious-history-of-marijuana

Addiction and the Brain

- Understanding Addiction: How Addiction Hijacks the Brain
Session 3: Tuesday 09/19/17 Social Epidemiology

Due: Paper Topic


- Marijuana Use Gender Gap Widens

Session 4: Tuesday 09/26/17 Societal Impact / Discussion of substance use in the media / Advertisements


Policy Statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics—Children, Adolescents, Substance Abuse, and the Media
Prevention and Treatment

Session 5: Tuesday 10/03/17  Prevention approaches

Speaker: Penelope Bruce


Editorials:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/raise-the-smoking-age-to-21/2015/03/23/c9c2a42-cc1f-11e4-8c54-fb5b6f2f69_story.html?tid=a_inl&utm_term=.5373f6b66e

Session 6: Tuesday 10/10/17  Intro to Treatment and Support Groups

Speakers (to be confirmed): Alcoholics Anonymous


Session 7: Tuesday 10/17/17 Treatment (Con’t): Psychoactive Therapies & Medications / Harm Reduction

Surgeon General’s Report—Chapter 4. Early intervention, treatment, and management of substance use disorders
https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/chapter-4-treatment.pdf

Redding, B. LGBT Substance Use: Beyond Statistics. Social Work Today

Session 8: Tuesday 10/24/17 Access to and Quality of Treatment / ACA

Readings


Readings on the ACA—TBD based on current events

Policy

Session 9: Tuesday 10/31/17 Visit to State House

Meeting with:
State Senator John F. Keenan (D, Norfolk/Plymouth), Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, and his Chief of Staff, Alejandro Alves

Session 10: Tuesday 11/14/17 National Drug Control Policies


Newer Drug Control Strategy (not out yet)

Hannah LF Cooper (2015) War on Drugs, Policing, and Police Brutality, Substance Use & Misuse, 50:8-9, 1188-1194

Watch: *The House I Live In*

**Session 11: Tuesday 11/21/17 Policies related to Prescription Drug Abuse / Marijuana Legalization – Other Policies?**


Other readings TBD based on student interest…

**Session 12: Tues 11/28/17 Drug Control Policies in Other Countries / Student Topic Presentations (1/3 of Students)**

Readings TBD

Student presentations

**Session 13: Tues 12/05/17 Student Presentations (Remainder Students) & Wrap-Up**

- Student presentations (continued)
- Class evaluations
- Wrap up