

RACE, ETHNICITY, AND DRUG POLICIES – PAST AND PRESENT
SPRING 2019 SYLLABUS

CJ: 01:202:388:02 (14038) | LCS: 01: 595:312:01 (12794)

ADMIN INFO

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND LEARNING GOALS

This course examines the legal, sociological, and historical forces that influence the relationships between race, ethnicity, and drug policies. The course is divided into four areas of emphasis, with exams corresponding to each thematic section, which are:

1. Fundamentals of Race, Ethnicity, and Drugs
2. Before the War on Drugs: Colonial and Imperial Histories and Legacies
3. Drugs and Formal Social Control: Domestic Dilemmas
4. Drugs, Race, and Capital in the 21st Century

Part 1 – *Fundamentals of Race, Ethnicity, and Drugs* begins with an introduction to key concepts in studying race, drugs, and society. We will emphasize the ways in which everyday observations and experiences can serve as conceptual and empirical reference points for connecting drugs, race, and power to broader structural features of our society.

Part 2 – *Before the War on Drugs: Colonial and Imperial Histories and Legacies*, turns our focus to the historical evolution of drug regulatory regimes, with a particular emphasis on state-corporate interests in U.S. foreign policy and the embeddedness of racial, classist, and gendered processes.

Part 3 – *Drugs and Formal Social Control: Domestic Dilemmas*, emphasizes historical eras where drugs were part of domestic social control regimes, including Prohibition and the “War on Drugs”.

Part 4 – *Drugs, Race, and Capital in the 21st Century*, concludes the course with a focus on current developments, ongoing dilemmas, and structural contradictions in contemporary drug policy, with a focus on race, class, gender, and the carceral state.

This is a **reading- and discussion-intensive course**, limited to juniors and seniors in the Latino & Caribbean Studies major/minor and the Criminal Justice major. As a supplemental resource, consider the following reading guide from Dr. Miriam Sweeney:

<https://miriamsweeney.net/2012/06/20/readforgradschool/>

Welcome to the course.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will directly advance the learning goals of both the [Latino & Caribbean Studies](#) major and the [Criminal Justice](#) major. Students who take this course can expect to learn about:

- The basic principles, key terms, and concepts related to studying the relationship between drugs and society;
- The social, cultural, and moral underpinnings of how addiction is conceptualized and treated;
- The influences of race, class, gender, and ideology in shaping drug policies;
- The role of drug policies in advancing instrumental forms of social control;
- The role that drugs have in the broader medicalization and racialization of deviance;
- The xenophobic origins of major drug-related legislation;
- The historical and contemporary challenges for calibrating effective harm reduction policy;
- How drug policy offers a platform for studying race- and class conflict.

REQUIRED TEXTS

In addition to the required texts, **supplemental readings and multimedia** (e.g., news articles, infographics) will be made available via Canvas. Course texts are also available via the Rutgers Course Reserves system at the Carr Library – Livingston Campus and in PDF format via Canvas.

Adler, Patricia A., Peter Adler, and Patrick O'Brien. (eds.) 2012. *Drugs and the American Dream – An Anthology*. Wiley-Blackwell. (<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Drugs+and+the+American+Dream%3A+An+Anthology-p-9780470670279>)

Bhopal, Raj. 1998. "Spectre of Racism in Health and Health Care: Lessons from History and the United States." *BMJ* 316(7149):1970–73.

Block, Walter E. and Violet Obioha. 2012. "War on Black Men: Arguments for the Legalization of Drugs." *Criminal Justice Ethics* 31(2):106–20.

Brown, Marilyn. 2003. "'Āina under the Influence: The Criminalization of Alcohol in 19th-Century Hawai 'I." *Theoretical Criminology* 7(1):89–110.

Bullington, Bruce and Alan A. Block. 1990. "A Trojan Horse - Anti-Communism and the War on Drugs." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 14(1):39–55.

Falco, Mathea. 1998. "America's Drug Problem and Its Policy of Denial." *Current History; Philadelphia*, April, 145–49.

Feagin, Joe. 2017. "Systemic Racism and 'Race' Categorization in U.S. Medical Research and Practice." *The American Journal of Bioethics* 17(9):54–56.

Gutin, Iliya. 2018. "Essential(Ist) Medicine: Promoting Social Explanations for Racial Variation in Biomedical Research." *Medical Humanities* medhum-2017-011432.

- Herzberg, David. 2017. "Entitled to Addiction?: Pharmaceuticals, Race, and America's First Drug War." *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 91(3):586–623.
- Lewis, R. 2001. "Opium Past, Opioid Futures: Imperialism, Insurgency and Pacification in a Global Commodity Market." *The International Journal on Drug Policy* 12(1):107–12.
- Marion, Nancy E. and Joshua B. Hill, eds. 2018. *More on Legalizing Marijuana – Ongoing Shifts in American Policies*. Carolina Academic Press. (<https://cap-press.com/books/isbn/9781531007560/More-on-Legalizing-Marijuana>)
- Muhammad, Khalil Gibran. 2011. "Where Did All the White Criminals Go?: Reconfiguring Race and Crime on the Road to Mass Incarceration." *Souls* 13(1):72–90.
- Provine, Doris Marie. 2011. "Race and Inequality in the War on Drugs." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 7(1):41–60.
- Reiss, Suzanna. 2014. *We Sell Drugs – The Alchemy of U.S. Empire*. University of California Press. (<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520280786/we-sell-drugs>)
- Sharpe, Kenneth. 2006. "Realpolitik or Imperial Hubris: The Latin American Drug War and U.S. Foreign Policy in Iraq." *Orbis* 50(3):481–99.
- Schack, Todd. 2011. "Twenty-First-Century Drug Warriors: The Press, Privateers and the for-Profit Waging of the War on Drugs." *Media, War & Conflict* 4(2):142–61.
- Twine, France Winddance and Charles Gallagher. 2008. "The Future of Whiteness: A Map of the 'Third Wave.'" *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 31(1):4–24.

REQUIRED MULTIMEDIA

The House I Live In. Charlotte Street Films.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsBDvxy5qQY>)

Take Your Pills. Netflix. (<https://www.netflix.com/title/80117831>)

IMPORTANT DATES

First Class Meeting	Jan. 23
Add/Drop Deadline	Jan. 29
EXAM 1	Feb. 13
FILM	Feb. 18 Film: <i>The House I Live In</i>
EXAM 2 (Midterm)	March 13
Spring Break	March 18-22
FILM	March 27 Film: <i>Take Your Pills</i>
EXAM 3	April 17
Last Class Meeting	May 6
EXAM 4 (Final)	May 10, 4p-7p