



Course Syllabus Spring 2026

CRJU 6383 Seminar on Drugs, Society, Policy Issues

Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Attapol Kuanliang

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Wednesday 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Thursday 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Monday and Friday by appointment

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Webpage: [Faculty Profile](#)

Text: Hanson, G. R., Venturelli, P. J. & Fleckenstein, A. E. (2021). Drugs and society (14th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett. ISBN 9781284197860

Class Description:

(Catalog) This course will focus on issues and problems surrounding the problem of illicit drugs in society. Particular emphasis will be placed on policy related issues.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

Identify and discuss the different categories of illicit drugs, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores on related essay-based assignments.*

Evaluate the regulations, laws, and treatment responses used with substance abuse, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores on related essay-based assignments, examinations & research projects.*

Demonstrate how drugs work and the detriment that is caused to the human body, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores on related essay-based assignments, examinations & research projects.*

Evaluate qualitative and quantitative research pertaining to drug use and abuse , *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores on related essay-based assignments, examinations, & research projects.*

Synthesize sociological, psychological, and biological orientations in explaining substance abuse, *demonstrated by obtaining passing scores on related essay-based assignments, examinations, & research projects.*

Course Format:

The class is 100% online; there are no class meetings. All homework, assignments, and examinations are to be completed online no later than the final due dates for each assignment stated in the course schedule. If you have questions regarding the reading materials, quizzes, and exams, you have to post your questions each week in the D2L forum. If you would like to chat live on the phone with me, you can do so during my office hours by using Zoom. You can download Zoom at <https://msutexas-edu.zoom.us/>. Note: Meetings, official university business, and other situations may necessitate a change in or cancellation of office hours. I will e-mail you through the school account. Therefore, it's your responsibility to check your school account and log in to the class regularly.

Course Requirements:

1) Introduction: Due the internet course format, the personal introduction is intended help students to get acquainted with each other. The student's introduction should include information that the student is willing to share about him or herself, for example, hometown, major, classification, your goal or objective of life. Photo is encouraged to be included in the introduction. Each of you has a responsibility to post and welcome each other to this online class.

2) Examinations: There will be 4 exams, which will be composed of 50 multiple choice or true/false questions. Each exam will be conducted online. Each student has to take and finish within the timeline requirement. *Due to the flexibility regarding the time to take the exams, make up exams will not be allowed.*

3) Assignment: Each week a number of questions will be posted by the instructor. Each student has to answer the questions and turn in by using the D2L by mid-night of each assignment due date. A student who posts after the deadline will not receive any credit for his or her assignment. The due dates are presented in the tentative course schedule.

4) Paper: There are two paper in this class. Please see D2L for paper requirement and instruction.

Course Grade:

Topic	Point
Profile/Introduction	10 points
Assignment	180 points
Paper I	100 points
Paper II	100 points
Exam I (Chapter 1-5)	100 points
Exam II (Chapter 6-10)	100 points
Exam III (Chapter 11-14)	100 points
Exam IV (Chapter 15-18)	100 points
Total	790 points

Grading:

Grades are figured as follows:

Grade	Percent
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and unethical practices will be handled according to university policy.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where

attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. **HOWEVER**, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with

disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [disability support services website](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog

Student Services:

Students who need special services should contact the instructor directly or visit [student support services website](#).

Class policies and Procedures:

Other class policies and procedures follow [MWSU Student Policy Manual & Organizational Handbook](#).

Tentative Course Schedule due date:

Month	Due Date	Topic
January	19	Class Starts/ Introduction
	25	Chapter 1: Introduction to Drugs and Society
February	1	Chapter 2: Explaining Drug Use and Abuse
		Chapter 3: Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law
	8	Chapter 4: Homeostatic Systems and Drugs
		Chapter 5: How and Why Drugs Work
	15	Exam I (Chapter 1-5)
		Chapter 6: CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics
	22	Chapter 7: Alcohol: Pharmacological Effects
		Chapter 8: Alcohol: A Behavioral Perspective
March	1	Chapter 9: Narcotics (Opioids)
		Chapter 10: Stimulants
	8	Exam II (Chapter 6-10)
		Chapter 11: Tobacco
	22	Paper I
	29	Chapter 12: Hallucinogens (Psychedelics)
		Chapter 13: Marijuana
April	12	Chapter 14: Inhalants
		Exam III (Chapter 11-14)
	19	Chapter 15: Over-the-Counter (OTC), Prescription, and Herbal Drugs
		Chapter 16: Drug Use in Subcultures of Special Populations
	26	Chapter 17: Drug Abuse Prevention
		Chapter 18: Treating Drug Dependence
May	3	Paper II
	8	Exam IV (Chapter 15- 18)

The instructor reserves the right to adjust and change the syllabus and course schedule as needed.