

## HSCI 336-- HEALTH ASPECTS OF DRUG USE

Please print this and read thoroughly

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** An in-depth analysis of the history, factors and problems related to the **use and abuse** of drugs. Impacts on the health and welfare of the individual, family, and society are explored. This course is designed to increase the student's knowledge and awareness regarding the physical, psychological, and sociological implications of legal and illegal drugs to stimulate thought and behavior change regarding drug use.

**This is a totally online course! However there are TWO MANDATORY TEST times. You must be online (anywhere in the world) for both the midterm and final exam. Check the course schedule for the dates this semester, and if you cannot make these times, you need to drop the course.**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

1. Discuss various effects of drug use on the individual, family and society.
2. Identify the hidden costs of drug use/abuse on society.
3. Critically assess media presentations of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use.
4. Discuss the legal consequences for illegal drug activity.
5. Identify the characteristics of a "gateway drug."
6. Describe the relationship between various drugs and specific health responses.
7. Identify treatment sources for drug abuse.
8. Discuss strategies for prevention and education of drug use.
9. Discuss the health aspects of drug use.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

1. Drug Use in Modern Society
2. How Drugs Work
3. Uppers and Downers
4. Alcohol
5. Familiar Drugs (tobacco, caffeine, dietary supplements)
6. Restricted Drugs
7. Prevention and Treatment

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

Ray, O. & Ksir, C., (2007). *Drugs, Society and Human Behavior*. Boston: McGraw Hill. (12th Edition)

### **EVALUATION:**

Discussions and Chapter Tests .....	25%
Midterm exam.....	25%
Final exam.....	25%
AA Meeting attendance & Formal paper.....	25%

## **GRADING SCALE:**

A = 93-100%	C+ = 76-79%	D- = 61-62%
A- = 90-92%	C = 73-75%	F = 60% & below
B+ = 86-89%	C- = 70-72%	
B = 83-85%	D+ = 67-69%	
B- = 80-82%	D = 63-66%	

## **CLASS POLICIES:**

Please review the CSUN catalog section on academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating. **Anything that is not your own idea that is not properly credited, falls within the definition of plagiarism. It is expected that all work is the student's own work. I do use Internet software to check for plagiarism. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in an F in the course and a report to the VP for student affairs.**

## **COURSE METHODOLOGY:**

This is a totally on line course. Assignments, discussions, chats and exams will be in our WebCT HSCI 336 course page. **You must master the WebCT program for discussions, chats and test submissions in order to continue in this course.** Go to: <http://www.csun.edu/~webteach/studentcomputing.html> for WebCT instructions and login information, or go to my website for HSCI 336 and click on "getting started". **Only students enrolled in the course can login to WebCT.**

**You should be online everyday submitting chapter tests, submitting discussion postings and checking email.**

**Check the WebCT course calendar for the assignments and the due dates. Compile and Print up the calendar for a complete due date assignment schedule!**

## **CHAPTER TESTS AND DISCUSSIONS (25% OF THE GRADE)**

**Chapter Tests:** You will be working through the book, and doing chapter tests for each chapter, which will be graded. Chapter tests can be found at the "Chapter Test, Midterm and Final" icon link on the homepage of the WebCT course. Because you only have one chance to take these Chapter Tests, you must study the chapter, the key terms and the chapter review questions **before entering the WebCT Chapter Tests.** You will have plenty of time (45 min.) to complete 10-12 multiple-choice questions and one or two short-answer questions.

The first two chapter tests open before the semester begins to give the student an opportunity to get used to the system (see WebCT calendar). **After the semester begins, one or two chapters will open on a Tuesday morning at 7 am and will be due for**

**potentially full credit two weeks later on Wednesday at 10 pm. If you submit the chapter test after the Wednesday's due date at 10 pm, it is considered a late submission. You have until that following Saturday at noon to submit for 50% credit. After Saturday at noon, the chapter will close completely.**

**Please go to the WebCT Chapter test icon and take the practice test. This will introduce you to the test format and the WebCT test program.**

**Discussions-** There will be two class discussions. The student will provide both a thoughtful response to the original problem/question posed by me, and a response to two other student responses *for each discussion*. Your answers will be graded on their depth and thoughtfulness. **Discussions will not be accepted late.** Check the WebCT calendar for due dates and stay on time.

**Please go to the WebCT discussion page and submit a posting to the practice discussion so you become familiar with the program. The Discussion icon can be found on the course's WebCT homepage for this class.**

### **Discussion Rules.**

#### **DO:**

RESPECT each other's point of view.  
Maintain CONFIDENTIALITY.  
Consider how those who disagree may interpret your comments.  
SPEAK PROFESSIONALLY.  
Respond thoughtfully and professionally.  
FOLLOW ETHICAL STANDARDS as explained in the CSUN catalog.

#### **DO NOT:**

SHOUT (ALL CAPS).  
Take offense if someone critiques your ideas.  
Use profanity.  
Put down someone else or someone else's ideas.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Information obtained both in class discussion and at the AA meeting is considered confidential. Because of the sensitive nature of the content, it is essential that any self-disclosures made by fellow students in class discussion and information obtained at the AA meetings be held confidential. **If you want to refer to individuals you observed at the AA meeting or in your life use pseudonyms. Do not reveal location or other information that can identify people or sites.**

### **THE MIDTERM AND FINAL (each 25% of the Grade)**

Both the midterm and final are on dates that cannot be changed because I will be online with you to answer any questions or problem solve if you have trouble with the test

program. There will be no make up exams in order to ensure test security. Though the Midterm and Final are open book and at home tests, you are expected to take these tests on your own. There will not be enough time to look up answers as there will be during your weekly chapter tests, so you must study as if it were an in class test!

**Center on Disabilities: Students who are registered with the Center on Disabilities and who will be requesting accommodations for this class should contact me ASAP.**

Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approved accommodations. Students who are approved for test taking accommodations must provide an Alternative Testing Form to their faculty member, signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities, prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at 818.677.2684.

### **ALCOHOLISM PAPER AND AA MEETING ATTENDANCE (25% OF THE GRADE)**

**All students will attend at least one Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting.**

The purpose of the observation of a program/treatment meeting assignment is to experience the concepts of AA at an open meeting and to apply these experiences to the concepts that the student has researched for their alcoholism paper. The meeting must be attended during the semester you are enrolled and must be independent of your work situation. The meeting is to be an **off-campus** AA meeting.

Selection of a meeting to attend requires careful planning. It is expected that you will complete reading assignments prior to selecting and attending the meeting and research procedures and protocols for attendance. Some meetings are closed, so you will need to research the location of meetings and the plausibility of your attendance. Professional conduct and confidentiality are essential. It is expected that you will be respectful, sensitive, objective and discreet in accomplishing this assignment. If asked why you are there, I suggest you say that you want to learn more about AA. You do not have to be an alcoholic to attend.

**Verification of Attendance-** *you must attend the AA meeting in order to get a grade in the class.* The original Verification of Attendance must be dropped off by my mailbox in the CSUN Health Science Department office or US mailed to me at CSUN before the last day of class at: Prof ASlechta - CSUN-Health Science Dept - 18111 Nordhoff St - Northridge CA 91330-8285

**Obtaining a Verification of attendance of an AA meeting** can be accomplished in the following manner. Call your local AA meeting facility. Ask for the schedule of all OPEN meetings. You must attend the meeting during the semester you are enrolled in the course. When you attend a meeting, be on time **and take a 3 X 5 card with you that has the following information:**

1. **Your name**
2. **The location of the facility**
3. **The date and time of the meeting**
4. **And an area for a signature of the Secretary or treasure of that AA facility.**

When the basket or hat is passed for donations or verifications put your card in the basket and after the meeting -it will be available for pick up from the meeting secretary after the meeting.

**If asked, why you are attending, you are just visiting to learn more about AA and the 12 steps or any other answer you are comfortable giving. In reality, the purpose of the observation of a program/treatment meeting is to learn more about AA and match your experiences with the research you do for your Alcoholism paper.**

**(This Original, signed Verification Document must be sent through US mail and received by me before the end of the semester for a student to receive a grade in the course.)**

### **Alcoholism paper:**

**HSCI 336** is an upper division general education university course. Critical thinking and oral/written communication skills are basic expectations of a university graduate. Written assignments will be evaluated according to evidence of critical thinking, communication skills, and will also include writing style, grammar, use of current references (no more than five years old) and the appropriate documentation of references. Wikipedia is NEVER an appropriate college-level resource.

You are to research Alcoholism, the disease or some aspect of the disease. You need at least two external peer reviewed journals sited in your paper (less than 5 years old) and you should relate the focus of your paper to some experience you had at the AA meeting. The paper will be 3 to 5 pages in length (not including the cover page and reference list), typed and double-spaced. Font should be no larger than 12, and should be using guidelines listed below. **The paper will be sent via email to the instructor as an attachment in a WORD or WORDPERFECT format.** The email must be sent before 5 pm on the due date for potentially full credit. ALL times are CSUN (PST).

### **ALCOHOLISM PAPER Grading Scheme.**

The AA papers will be graded according to the following grading scheme. Basically a/an: -"A" paper (90 and above) is a well-written, well-constructed paper, with several recent scholarly journal citations or valid references used in footnoting facts throughout the paper. The paper relates the research on alcoholism to the AA meeting you attended in some manner and your thesis is supported by your conclusion. A/an "B" (80 -89) paper is missing one of the above and there were some grammar edits. A "C" paper had weak writing

mechanics and grammar, with little research or little relation to your AA meeting. "D" papers are poorly written with many errors and misspellings, weak paper structure and little content. Only late papers received 50%.

**When writing a paper remember these items are important:**

1. Organization: Clarity, logical flow and sequence of ideas
2. Content: Relevance, completeness, comprehensiveness,  
At least two current references from an **appropriate scholarly journal**, in the last 5 years. (No newsletters, popular magazines, pamphlets, etc.)
3. Format: Sentence structure, grammar, references  
(Use APA, Turabian or MLA style format.)

**PAPER ASSIGNMENT due date:** The Alcoholism paper's due date is on the WebCT course calendar. **Please note that there is also an early submission date that can earn the student 5% extra credit on the paper grade if submitted by this earlier date. All times are CSUN (PST)**

**Late submission of the Alcoholism paper will result in a loss of 50% of the grade.**

**REMEMBER:** the late submission policies of an online class require strict adherence so that the rest of the students can continue through the content in a timely manner.