COURSE DESCRIPTION: An in-depth analysis of the history, factors and problems related to the use and abuse of drugs. The impact on the health and welfare of the individual, family, and society is 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.

If you are a CSUN athlete, your exams must be proctored. Please contact your athletic advisor for more information.

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 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: Overview
   - Historical Perspective
   - Drug Use: An Overview
   - Addictions
   - Prevention
   - Drug Regulation

2. Drug Use as a Social Problem

3. Drug Products and their Regulation

4. The Nervous System
   - Nervous System
   - Chemical Messengers
• The Brain
5. Actions of Drugs
  • Effects
  • Physiology: Getting to the Brain
  • Tolerance and Physical Dependence
6. Stimulants
7. Depressants and Inhalants
8. Medications for Mental Disorders
9. Alcohol
10 Tobacco
11. Caffeine
12. Over-the-counter Drugs
13. Opioids
14. Hallucinogens
15. Marijuana
16. Performance-Enhancing Drugs
17. Preventing Substance Abuse
18. Treating Substance abuse and Dependence

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. The WebCT course will open two weeks before the beginning of the semester so you may become familiar with the program. **Look form more on this in the course overview.

REQUIRED TEXT:


EVALUATION:

Mid-term exam……………………………………… 25%
Final exam…………………………………………… 25%
Discussions and On-line assignments……………… 25%
Meeting attendance & Formal paper……………… 25%

LATE SUBMISSIONS—This is a highly accelerated course –late submissions are not acceptable -- ALL times are CSUN (PST):
Chapter tests may not be submitted late. No discussions will be accepted late. The AA paper that is submitted after the due date will be docked 50% of the available points for
that grade. AN ONLINE CLASS REQUIRES STRICT ADHERANCE TO THIS POLICY, SO THAT THE REST OF THE STUDENTS CAN CONTINUE THROUGH THE CONTENT IN A TIMELY MANNER.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS. If you are a CSUN athlete, your exams must be proctored. Please contact your athletic advisor for more information.

GRADING:

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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.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

INFORMATION OBTAINED BOTH IN CLASS DISCUSSION AND AT THE ASSIGNED MEETINGS 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 MEETINGS BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. EXCEPT IN THE CLASS DISCUSSIONS, USE PSEUDONYMS FOR ACTUAL PEOPLE. DO NOT REVEAL LOCATION OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT CAN IDENTIFY PEOPLE OR SITES.

HSci. 336 is an upper division general education university course. Critical thinking and oral/written communication skills are basic expectation 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 5 years old) and the appropriate documentation of references.

THIS COURSE IS COMPLETELY ON-LINE. Check the WebCT course calendar for the assignments and the due dates. Compile and Print up the calendar for a complete course schedule! You will be working through the book, and doing chapter tests for each chapter, which will be graded. The 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 at these Chapter Tests, you must study the chapter, the key terms and the chapter review questions and take the practice Multiple Choice Quiz before entering the WebCT Chapter Tests. (These multiple-choice chapter quizzes can be found under the “Course Content” icon on the WebCT homepage for each chapter.)

You should be online everyday submitting chapter tests, taking chapter practice quizzes and checking email. This is an extremely intense course that is covering in 4 weeks what is normally covered in 15 weeks.

THE MIDTERM AND FINAL WILL BE LIVE ON-LINE as I will be online at the same time to answer any questions or problem solve if you have trouble with the test program.

There will be one discussion with a minimum of three postings by each student. Please go to the practice discussion page 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.

GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVATION OF A PROGRAM/TREATMENT MEETING

All students will attend and report on at least one Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meeting.
The purpose of the observation of a program/treatment meeting assignment is to apply concepts from class and reading assignments to reality situations. 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 & attending the meeting and research procedures and protocols for attendance. Some meetings are closed, so you will need to research 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.

You will report on your observations through: (1) an informal discussion of your 
reactions with classmates through the discussion assignment on-line and (2) the written, 
formal paper described in the HSCI 336 syllabus where you will demonstrate critical 
thinking and written communication skills.

Do not use names of participants at the meeting. The reports are to provide an analysis of 
your experience both as it relates to theory and your response to the observation. The 
Discussion assignment is more of a “gut level” reaction whereas the formal paper is an 
in-depth analysis.

Evaluation of your paper will be according to the depth of the analysis of alcoholism and 
the correlations made to your experiences at the AA meeting observation experience. In 
other words… you are researching alcoholism and them relating that research to some 
experience you had at the AA meeting.

The report/discussion on-line will focus more on your reflection on the experience. This 
portion of the assignment counts toward online discussion homework. A lack of 
participation in the discussion assignments will be reflected in deduction of points from 
your homework grade.

MEETING VERIFICATION AND PAPER ASSIGNMENT: The AA/Alcoholism 
paper is due January 22nd 5 pm for potentially full credit. If the student turns the 
paper in 6 days early by January 16th they will earn an additional 5% points toward 
the grade on their paper. ALL times are CSUN (PST)

The Paper
Each student will write a formal paper on Alcoholism and their related 
experiences at the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting. This paper is an essay 
of factors, problems, physical, psychological, and sociological implications 
related to the abuse. The essay 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 essay 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).

Meeting Attendance Verification: (The original document of Verification of 
AA meeting attendance must be received by me at CSUN before the final 
exam for a student to receive a grade in the course.)

PAPER GUIDELINES:

1. Name of Organization: Procedure for locating the meeting
2. Address, Date, Time, Contact Person
3. Verification of Attendance snail mail this to the instructor at:
   Prof A.Slechta
   CSUN - Health Science
   Northridge CA 91330-8285

AA Paper/essay: 25% of grade

1. Organization: Clarity, logical flow and sequence of ideas, grammar and argument construction 35%

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.) 55%

3. Format: Sentence structure, grammar, references
   (Use APA, Turabian or MLA style format.) 10%