

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
College of Health Science
Health Science Program
CRN 21209 - HSCI 3305 - Substance Abuse
Course Credits: 3.0
(Last revised: 1-16-2016)

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Office hours: Friday, 8:30 – 12:00
Class period: Thursday from 9:00 – 11:50 AM
Location: Health Sciences & Nursing Building 206

PURPOSE:

This syllabus is considered a contract between you and the professor. It is an agreement that includes the "rules" to be observed during the course, both by students and the instructor. Although this syllabus can change, no changes will be made without notice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide the student relevant information on drugs and the role they play in human behavior and society. Students interested or considering being involved on public health education, promotion, social sciences and community service should enroll in this course. There are no restrictions to register for this course. The teaching method is based on Problem based learning (PBL), which can include, but not be limited to:

1. Introductory lectures
2. Problem solving group work
3. Student discussions, presentations and exercises
4. Movies and other visual media materials
5. Possible guest lecturers (to be announced)

Using this technique will enable the student to apply the gained knowledge to solve common and practical problems related to the research process. In this regard, the course will emphasize a critical thinking approach to learning. A critical thinking approach takes the view that a student's knowledge is not passively absorbed from an instructor's lectures. In contrast, critical thinking assumes students will create knowledge in their own mind by actively thinking about the material. It is going to be crucial that you prepare for each lesson, reading and reviewing the material before coming to class. Your instructor will use class time to overview the assignment, clarify difficult concepts, expand your knowledge of selected topics, and to **challenge you intellectually**. This means that very possibly more material will be covered in class. Not necessarily your instructor will teach straight out of the book. Instead, the readings will be used as a springboard for classroom activities and discussions. In addition to your readings, in-class lectures will provide additional information that will be testable. Handouts and other additional reference materials will be posted and made available through Blackboard.

RESTRICTIONS:

There are no restrictions to register for this course except for instructor's authorization. For authorization, send an email with your general information to: gabmejia@utep.edu.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After completing the course, the student will:

1. Identify different types of drugs and drug uses, its actions, and their effects on human health
2. Understand individual problems and social conflicts related to substance use and abuse focusing on prevention.
3. Practice his/her ability to critically review research-based materials related to substance abuse issues.
4. Practice and increase his/hers oral and public presentation abilities necessary in future health care professionals.

COURSE OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Assess needs, assets and capacity for health education by accessing and collecting existing health-related data; identifying factors that foster or hinder the process of health education, and infer needs for health from obtained data (Objectives 1, 2 & 3).
2. Conduct evaluation and research related to health education by developing plans for evaluation and research, review research and evaluation procedures, carry out evaluation and research plans, and interpret results from evaluation and research (Objectives 2, 3 & 4).
3. Serve as health education resource person by using health-related information resources, selecting resource materials for dissemination, and apply a variety of communication methods and techniques (Objectives 3 & 4).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You will need the following required textbook:

Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior
By Charles Ksir, Carl L. Hart, Oakley Ray
Publisher: McGraw Hill, (Latest edition)

All chapters will be covered, and students will be required to complete read all of them; additionally, students will be required to go over all posted materials.

Group work will be an integral part of the course. Groups will be formed during the first week of the course. During this time period students will be given the option of freely assembling and joining one until a set deadline; however, if a student does not join a group by the set date, the instructor will assign the student at random to a group. More details on group work can be found in the **Grading Criteria** section.

Additionally, all students are required to:

- Have access to a computer that connects to the Internet and a working e-mail account (miners.edu account). Other e-mail systems should not be used for this course. If you do not own a computer, you can make use of several computer labs on campus.
- Have access to a broadband internet connection with a “speed” that is capable accessing, downloading, playing, etc. several types of programs and files. Follow this URL to tests your system’s speed capability: <http://www.speedtest.net/>
- Be able and have the means of accessing the online course by way of Blackboard. The course is only accessible online by logging in to your “My UTEP” portal at <http://my.utep.edu> and accessing the Blackboard tab that will show your entire course list. For information on how to log in you can contact the UTEP Help Desk at (915) 747-5257, or check their information page at <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402>
- Have some abilities in using a mouse and keyboarding, and how to use a Web browser to access the internet, email and Blackboard.
- Be able to perform Internet searches, use e-mail, chat, and discussion boards.
- Be able to study independently, be self-disciplined, and have good study and time management skills.
- Have knowledge of how to use word processing, spreadsheet, visual media software, as well as capability to open pdf-type files. Usually, on-campus computers will provide the necessary software and connectivity. However, if you plan not to work on campus, it is your responsibility to make sure you have the software and connectivity requirements.
- Have the means to store all assignments and if necessary turn them in electronically (disks, flash drives, etc.).

GRADING CRITERIA:

Completion of course will require that the student fulfills the following:

- a) Attendance (see correspondent sections for details).
- b) Completing one main writing assignment and oral presentation on it (see correspondent sections for details):
- c) Online examinations: Three (3): 1 mid-term, second partial & 1 final (optional; comprehensive).
- d) Active participation (Instructor’s prerogative points)
- e) Extra credit assignment (s)

Attendance

The student must comply with at a minimum of 80% attendance translated as weekly participation in asynchronous online discussion. Refer to the attendance criteria on “COURSE POLICIES” section for details.

Online examinations

Two (2) two-and-a-half hour midterm examination, and **one** (1) final comprehensive examination will be given for the spring 2016 Semester. **All examinations will be online through UTEP’s Blackboard platform, and available only during the specified day and time.** Examinations will consist of combination of multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. The exams can also be conceptual in nature. They are designed to test your ability to think about the material, not your memory. Midterm examination is worth **100 points**. The final comprehensive examination is also worth **100 points** and it will be scheduled during final’s week. There is no re-scheduling of the final test.

Examination Schedule		
Examination type	Point value	Date
Midterm online examination	100	3/3
Final online examination	100	5/12
Total	200	

Group project writing and presentation assignment:

Systematic Review

For this project, you and your colleagues will be writing a short *systematic review* paper, which will be worth 0-100 points. You will present your results two ways: as a written report and in-class presentation. Refer to “Writing Assignment #1: Systematic Review” section for further instructions and deadlines.

Oral presentation

Additionally, each team will be required to deliver a **15-20 minute oral presentation** on their project:

- a. Presentations will be scheduled for the last class meetings. Dates will be set by the instructor according to the number of groups. However, if a group feels prepared and the writing assignment has been finished, they may opt to present at an earlier date. The presentation can be scheduled to be held at any date after the Spring Break.
- b. The total amount of possible points for oral presentation is 100 points.
- c. Presentation score considers two types of scoring: group and individual. The total score points are the sum of these. Check for the parameters and values to be considered for scoring oral presentations in the “Oral/visual Scoring Rubric section.

Instructor Prerogative (IP) and Extra-credit Points

A maximum of 25 IP extra points can be awarded based on class preparation, class participation, and professional behavior (e.g., attitude and teamwork) throughout the semester **at the instructor’s discretion**. A student can be awarded additional extra points for turning in correct and complete assignments. The amount of extra points to be awarded will be notified by the instructor once the assignment is given.

Active participation

Students are encouraged to actively participate in the learning process. This includes attentive listening when meeting face-to-face. A second component of active participation is asking questions for clarification of confusing information and expressing opinions. Participation in online discussions, chats, and forums will be scored according to set criteria. Please refer to “Discussion Participation Rubric” section for details.

Extra-credit

Up to 25-extra credit points can be accumulated throughout the course. The preferred extra-credit activity will be that one related to service learning activities, meaning engaging in community, organization, or other activities associated with substance abuse issues. One point will be granted for each documented/demonstrated hour of service learning. Other extra-credit opportunities will be announced during the course.

NOTE: These activities must NOT be associated to your job responsibilities, organizing committee, etc., and are just limited to volunteer service work.

Final grading

The final score is based on the accumulation of points throughout the course; the total that can be earned taking on account two examinations and group project in this course is 400 **points**, plus 25 possible extra credit and 25 instructor prerogative points.

Type	Point value
Midterm online examination	0 -100
Final online comprehensive examination	0 -100
Group project (report & presentation)	0 -200
Extra credit; IP points	0 – 50
Total	0-450

The translation of points earned to a letter grade is defined as follows:

- 406 points and above A**
- 361 – 405 points and above...B**
- 316 – 360 C**
- 271 – 315 D**
- 270 or less..... F**

Student progress

Grades will be available through Blackboard’s Grade Center; feedback from the instructor be sent by e-mail.

Group work

Group work will be an integral part of the course. Groups will be formed during the first week of the course. During this time period students will be given the option of freely assembling and joining one until a set deadline; however, if a student does not join a group by the set date, the instructor will assign the student at random to a group. The maximum number of members allowed will be determined in the first day of class. Blackboard’s

group sign-in section is set to not allow joining freely or going over this number; groups can be of less than the set number members, or students can elect to work individually.

Although group work should be equally distributed, each will appoint a “Group Leader” who will be the liaison between the group and other groups and the instructor; another student (secretary) should be appointed for the responsibility of submitting group work and assessment. When completing a group assessment, the score will be the same for all members; however, at the end of the course, each group member can complete a “group-peer evaluation” in which students will evaluate, and rank member’s participation to receive proper merit in the form of extra credit points. In the case of a group member not performing at a satisfactory level, there is the option to change or drop form a group. The deadline for changing/dropping from a group is 2/12.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Attendance is an important component of this course since information not contained in the textbook will be presented during class through lectures and discussions. So:

- Attend all classes and be punctual.
- You are expected to personally sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. Responsibility for doing so is solely of the student. Not signing-in equals being absent.
- Avoid being late to class; students are discouraged from coming to class late or leaving early since this is disruptive to the instructor and more importantly to classmates. If you are late, please sign in after class. However, it will have an your grade; being late is arriving 30 minutes pass the start of the lecture; two (2) late sign/ins is equal to one (1) absence, and will also affect the possibility of being awarded IP points. Leaving class early without previous permission or notification will count the same as being late and subject to point deductions.
- **Absences will affect your final score/grade.** You required at least an 80% attendance (13 out of 16), including the first week of class. Furthermore, for each absence you will be deducted approximately 33% of a grade (15 points). **You are allowed three excused absences; a fourth absence means that there is the risk of being dropped from the course at any time and regardless of your current performance, even if it occurs in the final week of class. Exceptions will be made in the case of University excused absences (sponsored activities approved by the Dean of students). You will only be able to make up for activities, exams, or assignments (scheduled or unscheduled) in the case of University excused absences (sponsored activities approved by the Dean of students).**

Communication and Feedback Plan

This section includes how you and your students are expected to communicate during the course. When can students expect feedback from you? (I.e. within 24-48 hours) What tools can they use to contact you? UTEP email is the preferred method; send all emails to gabmejia@utep.edu; additionally emails can be sent to the courses’ appointed teaching

assistant; his/her email will be provided later in the course. Occasionally, a Skype® session can be scheduled – if set up with previous time. Your instructors Skype® ID is gabboim61.

Class disruptions

The use of cell phones (even for text messaging), headphones in any manner, is **prohibited** during class. Laptop computers can be used if needed for in-class assignments. Students who are continuously talking during lectures are showing disrespect for their classmates who are serious about learning. In such case, students will be asked to leave the lecture and will only be invited to return at the discretion of the instructor and will be considered absent for the day.

Active participation

Students are encouraged to actively participate in the learning process. This includes attentive listening. A second component of active participation is asking questions for clarification of confusing information and expressing opinions. You can also make use of email, chat, or online discussion groups for these purposes.

Policy on examinations

Exams will be accessible online using Blackboard platform and will be available on the scheduled day. You may access it at any time; however, once you begin the exam you will have a time limit to complete it. You will not be able to start the exam, stop, and then re-start again. You will have a maximum of 3 hours to complete the midterm and final examinations.

Missed examinations: Extensions will be granted only if proven Blackboard failure occurs. There is NO re-scheduling of missed quizzes, so please do not ask to re-open them for you. If a student misses **the midterm or final examination**, a make-up exam may be re-scheduled **only** if the student has informed the instructor of the absence ***prior*** to the beginning of the examination, and only if the absence is approved by the instructor. All re-take exams have a point deduction penalty of 20% of the value of the exam, which will not allow the student to score higher than 80% of the value of the assessment. Only in rare instances will a student be excused from the examination. Students that due to a **University excused absence** missed a quiz will be given the opportunity to complete it at the end of the semester, and before the scheduled date for final examination; however, a similar penalization will be applied also. All other reasons or justifications are not valid for re-taking a quiz. This is not negotiable.

Policy on late assignments

Homework and other assignments must be turned in when scheduled in order for graded score points to be awarded points. A 10% deduction on graded score will be applied for every **24 hours** an assignment is overdue, including weekends. No assignments will be accepted if submitted more than 1 week after the due date.

Notice on dropping the course, withdrawals, and incomplete.

Students may drop individual courses or completely withdraw from the University as described below. Refer to the on-line Academic Calendar at www.utep.edu/calendar or

to the *Class Schedule* to identify the dates during which adds, drops, withdrawals, and pass/fail registration changes may occur.

a) Student-initiated Drops

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a course that s/he no longer wishes to take. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" on the student's academic record. Athletes must receive permission from the Miner Athletic Advising Center before dropping a course. International students with F or J visas must receive permission from the Office of International Programs before dropping a course.

b) Administrative Drops

During registration periods for upcoming semesters, students will be dropped from registered courses for failure to meet prerequisites or co-requisites after final grades have been posted for the current semester and before the beginning of late registration for next semester. A student may petition the department chair of the course in question for a prerequisite or co-requisite waiver.

At the discretion of the instructor, a student may be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. Students may also be administratively withdrawn from a course during the semester for other reasons, with the concurrence of the academic dean or department chair. A grade of "W" will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline. A grade of "F" received due to disciplinary action imposed by the University overrides a grade of "W" received through a student-initiated or faculty drop. Students will be notified of their drop through their UTEP e-mail account.

c) Grade Assignment for Drops and Withdrawals

Grades will be assigned as follows when a student drops a course or completely withdraws from the University:

1. If a student drops a course before the official census date of a semester, neither the course nor a grade will appear on the student's academic record.
2. If a student drops from a course after the census date but before the student-initiated course drop deadline listed in the *Class Schedule*, a grade of "W" will be assigned.
3. If the student drops after the student-initiated course drop deadline, instructors will determine a grade of "W" or "F" for each course. A grade of "W" is considered only under exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the instructor and department chair for the course. A student may petition for a grade of "W" in writing with the necessary supporting documentation.

d) Incomplete course work

If eligible, the student may receive a grade of Incomplete (I) that will appear on the academic transcript; an "I" (incomplete grade) can only be considered only if requested by the student in advance of the conclusion of the course and only for legitimate, documented emergencies. Failure to request and negotiate the terms of an "Incomplete"

grade before the conclusion of the course will result in a denial except in the most extraordinary circumstances.

Notice of Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected the UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

American Disabilities Act

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact the Disabled Student Support Services Office (DSSO) at (915) 747-5148. You can also email the office at: dss@utep.edu or go by Room 106 Union Building East. For additional information, visit the DSSO website at: www.utep.edu/dsso

COURSE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT:

Course related: Your instructor is available to assist you online, by phone, and by blackboard email throughout the semester.

Technical support: Click on the "Help" hyperlink in Blackboard platform after logging in to your "My UTEP" portal at <http://my.utep.edu>. Furthermore, get additional technical information and assistance at The University of Texas at El Paso's Helpdesk.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Classes begin	Jan. 19
Census Day	Feb. 3
Pope's visit (University closed)	Feb. 17
Spring break	Mar. 7-11
Cesar Chavez day (University closed)	Mar. 25
Course drop deadline	Apr. 1
Last day for complete withdrawal	May 5
Last day of classes	May 6
Final exams week	May 9-13
Final grades due to the Records Office	May 18
Final grades available online for students	May 23