



Drug Use, Abuse, Trafficking (SOCI/ANTH 3312)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts

Drug Use, Abuse, Trafficking

Fall 2020

[A cross-listed class taught online](#)

SOCI 3312- 01 (CRN 14825)

ANTH 3312-01 (CRN 14876)

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Office Hours

Virtually, by appointment, see Blackboard course homepage.

[Catalog Description](#)

This course studies, from a cultural perspective, the use, abuse, and trafficking of drugs.

It examines cross-cultural uses and abuses of drugs in various contexts: private, public, ceremonial, medicinal, recreational, religious, etc.

It explores taboos, laws, prohibitions, beliefs, and stereotypes about drugs as well as representations of drug use and abuse in popular culture.

Additionally, the class will focus on the subject of drug trafficking and the public debates, crackdowns, and “cultural wars” associated with illegal drugs.

Recommended background: ANTH 1302 or SOCI 1301. ANTH 3312 is the same course as SOCI 3312.

Learning Outcomes

After the completion of this course, students should have the following skills or knowledge:

UTEP EDGE ADVANTAGE

You can learn about UTEP Edge, here: <https://www.utep.edu/edge/about/index.html>

This class fulfills the following targeted UTEP Edge Advantage skills:

- Communication: Discussion boards, book reviews, and film review.
- Confidence: Tests to give you a deeper command of the materials presented in the class.
- Critical thinking: scrutinizing materials about drug use, abuse and trafficking to build your own understanding of the subject.
- Entrepreneurship: going beyond facile stereotypes about a complex, controversial issue: the use, abuse and trafficking of drugs.
- Global awareness: Examining how people understand drugs, their use, abuse and trafficking across an international boundary.
- Problem solving: Tests, book reviews, film review, midterm and final.
- Social responsibility: examining in depth the way drug use, abuse and trafficking inform social interactions, especially in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Required readings

The required texts for this course are:

Zilney, Anne Austin	<i>Drugs: Policy, Social Costs, Crime and Justice</i>	9780132275354
Campbell, Howard	<i>Drug War Zone: Frontline Dispatches from the Streets of Juárez and El Paso.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available as an e-book^[1] from UTEP Library.	9780292782792
Andreas, Peter	<i>Border Games</i> (Second Editions, 2011)	9780801475405
Fleetwood	<i>Drug Mules</i>	9781349444694
Verghese, Abraham	<i>The Tennis Partner</i>	9780062116390

1 - [1] <https://0-ebookcentral-proquest-com.lib.utep.edu/lib/utep/detail.action?docID=3443427>

- These books are not listed in any particular order.

Required films

Any films we watch in this class are available through UTEP's Library Subscription to Kanopy or Swank or Films on Demand, or other providers, and will be available to you at no charge but you will have to log into the library through your UTEP account.

Grading Scheme

Attendance Policy: Failure to submit any assignment, including submitting an incomplete assignment may result in failing the class or withdrawal from the class.

Note: The student introduction and syllabus test are required, but they do not count towards your grade. You receive 2 points toward your final grade for introducing yourself to the class. You will be penalized 5 points if you do not take the syllabus test. If you do not take the syllabus test and/or introduce yourself to the class, you will be removed from the class.

Tests 280 points

x14 at 20 points each, due weekly, based on materials for that week; does not include syllabus test in week 1.

Discussion boards 280 points

x14, at 20 points each, due weekly, based on materials for that week; does not include student introductions in week 1.

Midterm 120 points

Book Reviews 120 points

x4 at 30 points each: based on four of the required books.

Final 120 points

Film Review 80 points

x1: based on [To be decided]

Total: 1,000 points

The total point score is then divided by 10 to provide a percentage. The letter grades break down in the following way:

%	Letter
≥ 89.50	A
79.50-89.49	B
69.50-79.49	C
59.50-69.49	D

≤ 59.49. F

Descriptions of graded work

Late work is unacceptable. You are advised to contact the instructor before the due date if, for any reason, you are going to submit late work.

TESTS

After you do the assigned readings for a given week, you will take the test (which will have about 30 questions per week). You should submit your answers to the tests by Sunday, 11:00pm (MT) each week.

EXAMS

There are two exams for the course. Questions are based on the readings and/or viewings.

The exams will be “open book” so that you will be able to have all support materials you think are necessary to answer the exam questions.

The exams will be administered via Blackboard. You will have **from Monday through Friday of two specific weeks** to complete the exam upon activation. The exams are to be taken individually—**it is not allowed to discuss the exam questions with the classmates or anyone else**. Please refer to the section on “Academic Integrity” below to review the university and instructor policies on cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

Make-up exams

Make-up exams will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency (see “excused absences” below). Note that make-up exams may be in a different format than the original exam and may require more intensive preparation. If you miss a test and your absence is not considered excused, you will receive a zero on the test. This policy will be strictly enforced.

FOUR BOOK REVIEWS

You will write four two-page book reviews of most of the books for this class.

You must focus on how the book reveals drug use, abuse and trafficking to the reader.

A book review is not a summary.

The book reviews will be two pages in length, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 points.

FILM REVIEW

You will write one two-page film review.

You must focus on how the film shapes understandings of drug use, abuse and trafficking.

The film review is not a summary. The film review will be two pages in length, double spaced, Times New Roman, 12 points.

DISCUSSION POSTS/CLASS PARTICIPATION

This is the central activity of the class and you will need to log into Blackboard several times during the week to participate effectively in the discussion board for each week.

Each week you will submit:

(1) a discussion post in response to a guided question (minimum of **250 words** and maximum of **500 words**); and,

(2) respond to **at least one** of your classmates' post (minimum of **100 words** and maximum of **500 words**).

Be sure to submit your discussion post and response to your peers for a given week by Sunday, 11:00pm (MT) of that week to receive credit for your participation.

Class participation via discussion posts makes up a significant portion of your grade in this class.

Check Blackboard for the instruction about the three-paragraph format. **The instructor will not read your discussion post** if you do not use a three-paragraph format and the post will be returned to you with a **grade of zero** and an **instruction to resubmit your post**.

It is a requirement that you comment on other students' submissions on the discussion board. **The instructor will not read your discussion post** if you do not include at least one comment on another student's post, **you will receive a grade of zero**, and an **instruction to resubmit with a comment on another student's post**.

The instructor will not read your discussion post if you do not use a three-paragraph format and the post will be returned to you with a grade of zero and an instruction to resubmit your post.

Some suggestions for successful posts:

Write with the **curiosity** of university students.

The instructor is more interested in doubts and the questions you raise rather than providing concrete answers. The expression of doubt and uncertainty is a skill and something to be practiced and developed.

You are strongly encouraged to use the UTEP Writing Center for assistance in drafting all written work, including discussion boards, essay, and reviews.

I expect everyone to actively participate in class and do so in a positive and appropriate way (see the "Online Etiquette and Effective Communication" section below). Keep in mind that class participation is more than just completing the scheduled assignments and taking exams—you should be willing to ask and answer questions and contribute intellectually to class debates via online discussion posts.

Before posting a discussion, you should complete the assigned readings and go over your notes of those readings. Exams will cover material from the readings, and our online discussions, so doing just one or the other will leave you at a disadvantage.

Full credit for a discussion post is reserved only for those that follow the online etiquette and effective communication rules below.

COURSE/INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

E-Mail Protocol

UTEP e-mail is the **only** way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt during weekdays. I will respond to weekend messages by Monday at the latest.

Follow this format when you write me an email. Unfortunately, due to the large number of students I serve every semester, I will not be able to respond to any email that does not follow these crucial instructions.

When e-mailing me, please put the course number in the subject line.

Address me, please, as Dr. Timmons. (Beware: I do not respond to the title, Mr.) Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your **question**. Unless you ask me a specific question, it is unlikely I will respond.

At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

Online Etiquette and Effective Communication

It is essential that the utmost respect and professionalism be adhered in all exchanges between class members. This is a political science course and we will be discussing at times sensitive and controversial topics. Avoid any unnecessary arguments with other class members, such as political polemical arguments (e.g., negative partisan talking points targeting those of opposing ideological perspectives or particular political figures) or, even worse, personal attacks on others for having different views.

No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated.

Unprofessional conduct will be dealt with swiftly through the University and it is at the professor's full discretion to have a student dropped from the course for any inappropriate behavior.

Please carefully read the following rules for online etiquette and effective communication:

Online Etiquette and Effective Communication Policy

Language: Given the absence of face-to-face clues, written text can easily be misinterpreted. Avoid the use of strong or offensive language, all capital letters, and the excessive use of exclamation points. If you feel particularly strongly about a point, it may be best to write it first as a draft and then to review it, before posting it, in order to remove any strong language.

Respect: A web-based classroom is still a classroom, and comments that would be inappropriate in a regular classroom are likely to be inappropriate in a web-based course as well. Treat your professor and your fellow students with respect. Remember that members of the class and I will be reading any postings.

Be Forgiving: If someone states something that you find offensive, mention this directly to the professor in an email. Remember that the person contributing to the discussion is also new to this form of communication. What you find offensive may quite possibly have been unintended and can best be cleared up by the professor.

This is Permanent: Think carefully about the content of your message before contributing it. Once sent, there is no taking it back. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.

Treat your professor and your fellow students with respect.

Edit Your Work: The grammar, spelling, and punctuation of a message are part of the grading criteria – you should not expect your professor and peers to decode misspelled words or poorly constructed sentences. It is a good practice to compose and check your comments in a word-processor before posting them.

Test for Clarity: Messages may often appear perfectly clear to you as you compose them, but turn out to be perfectly obtuse to your reader. One way to test for clarity is to read your message aloud to see if it flows smoothly and if you can read it to another person before posting it, even better.

Follow the Parameters/Stick to the Point: Follow the posting requirements and parameters set up by your professor. Contributions to a discussion should have a clear subject header, and you need to stick to the subject. Don't waste others' time by going off on irrelevant tangents. Also keep in mind that no credit will be received for yes/no answers. Posts should justify positions and provide specific examples. Students must demonstrate that they have read the assignment and their classmates' comments carefully and thoughtfully.

Read First, Write Later: Don't add your comments to a discussion before reading the comments of other students unless the assignment specifically asks you to. Doing so is tantamount to ignoring your fellow students and is rude. Comments related to the content of previous messages should be posted under them to keep related topics organized, and you should specify the person and the particular point you are following up on.

Excused Absences and Excuse for Late Work

I will excuse absences and late work *only* when a student participates in an official university-recognized activity, observes a recognized religious holiday of her/his faith that happens to coincide with a class session or due date for an assignment, is called to and participates in active military service for a reasonably brief period, or confronts a medical emergency.

To be excused, you must notify me *in writing* prior to the date of absence.

That said, in cases where advance notification is not feasible (e.g. a medical emergency), you must provide notification as soon as possible following your absence. Such notification must include an explanation of why notice could not be sent in advance.

You must also provide satisfactory documentation verifying the reason for the absence. In case of an illness, a doctor's note is the proper documentation required.

*For my records, you should e-mail me **a scanned copy** of the documentation that verifies the reason for your absence (if you don't have access to a scanner, you can take a photo of the documentation). Documentation that is not provided in a timely manner will not be accepted.*

Please do not ask me to excuse absences for minor illnesses or scheduling conflicts (e.g. sports practices, play rehearsals, meetings, conferences, appointments with other professors or advisors, student teaching, having your cable installed, having a bad headache, etc.). I am aware that students have other interests and obligations, but you should nevertheless make this class a priority. If you are likely to have recurring conflicts, please take another course that better fits your schedule.

See academic regulations in UTEP Undergraduate Catalogue for a list of excused absences:

<http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/>.

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline."

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, collusion, and plagiarism.

Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student and possessing unauthorized materials during a test.

Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. One example of collusion is preparing a discussion entry for another person or having someone prepare a discussion entry for you. I encourage students to study together and work collectively; however, working together to write any part of a written assignment, research paper, and/or exam is collusion.

Plagiarism is commonly defined as passing off the ideas, works, writing, etc., of another person as your own. Accordingly, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own work, even if you have the permission of that person. Be aware, just as the Internet has made it easier to find material, it has also made it easier to trace the source of any written work. If you are unsure whether a citation is required, err on the side of caution and provide one.

Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is **unacceptable** and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to the Office for Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/index.html>.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you require specific accommodations and support services, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Please keep in mind that accommodations need to be requested at least two weeks (or a month if advance planning, such as the acquisition of books-on-tape, is required) prior to the beginning of the semester. Here is the contact information for CASS: web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>; phone: (915) 747-5148; fax: (915) 747-8712; e-mail: ¹cass@utep.edu;² location: UTEP Union Building East Room 106.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

You will need the following software on your computer to efficiently work in this course (your computer may already have some of these programs installed):

- ☑ **Adobe Acrobat Reader.** To get this program, go to <https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/products/pdf-reader.html> and follow the instructions.³
- ☑ **Adobe Flash Player.** To get this program, go to <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> and follow⁴ the instructions.
- ☑ **QuickTime Player.** To get this program, go to <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/> and follow the instructions.
- ☑ **Microsoft Office.** If you do not have a word-processing software, go to <https://my.apps.utep.edu>. Using My.Apps interface, UTEP students can access most⁵ software offered in student computer labs (including Microsoft Office) from their personal computing devices. Students can use any laptop, tablet, or smartphone with an Internet connection and use the software from anywhere at any time. For more information, go to <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73740> and follow the instructions.⁶

¹<http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

²<mailto:cass@utep.edu>

³<https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/products/pdf-reader.html>

⁴<https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

⁵<https://my.apps.utep.edu/>

⁶<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=73740>

UTEP TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and Help Desk support at: <http://issweb.utep.edu/techsupport/>.⁷

ALTERNATE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up in case there is a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, you can always email me (ptimmons2@utep.edu) your back-up⁸ document.

COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS

For those of us (I include myself in this comment) who might confront difficulties because of COVID-19, I want to reassure you that I will be flexible and understanding.

There are policies and procedures in place for the possibility that you might go to campus.

You are required to follow these policies and procedures for the safety of our UTEP community, and residents of Ciudad Juárez/El Paso.

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms.

Even though this class is 100 percent online, you may decide to go to campus to use the library or other facilities.

If you visit campus, you **must** comply with campus safety procedures.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.

Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu.

⁷<http://issweb.utep.edu/techsupport/>

⁸<mailto:ptimmons2@utep.edu>

If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu⁹.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus.

The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus.

Under no circumstances should anyone come to campus when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms.

If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible.

Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present.

Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 Health and Safety and Section 1.2.2.5 Disruptions in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TASKS – WEEKS AT A GLANCE*

This course is taught in a modular format, and in five sections.

The first section offers guiding questions and theoretical perspectives and serves as the foundation for the rest of the class.

Sections 2 through 5 provide case studies to test the guiding questions, concepts and theoretical perspectives.

It is very important to understand that we are using creative, intellectual published works about drug use, abuse and trafficking to help us understand social, political and cultural interactions around the issue.

Week One: 08/24 to 08/30: Introduction to the class

- Review the posted materials in the “Welcome and Course Introduction” folder
- Familiarize yourself with the course Blackboard page –click on things!
- Carefully read the syllabus
- Take the syllabus test, due on Sunday 08/30 at 11pm MT.
- Note: The Syllabus Test will also have questions from Zilney, Chapter 1
- Introduce yourself to the class, and submit a comment on another student's introduction, due on Sunday 08/30 at 11pm MT.

⁹<mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu>

- Read Zilney, Chapter 1: Framing Drugs and Their Use
- Read Andreas, Preface to Second Edition of *Border Games, Policing the U.S.-Mexico Divide* (Second Edition, 2011).

SECTION ONE: An overview of drugs in a scholarly perspective

Book: Zilney, *Drugs: Policy, Social Costs, Crime and Justice*

Week 2: 08/31 to 09/06: Studying Drug Use

In Week 2 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 3: 09/07 to 09/13: Classifying Drug Use

In Week 3 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 4: 09/14 to 09/20: History and Effects of Drug Use

In Week 4 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 5: 09/21 to 09/27: Controlling Drug Use

In Week 5 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

SECTION TWO: The Border as the Mechanism of Difference

Book: Andreas, *Border Games* (Second edition, 2011)

Week 6: 09/28 to 10/04: Andreas, Part One: Introduction and Background

In Week 6 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 7: 10/05 to 10/11: Andreas, Part Two: Policing and Smuggling Across the U.S.-Mexico Border

In Week 7 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 8: 10/12 to 10/18: Andreas, Part Three: Extensions and Conclusions

In Week 8 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

- Book review on Andreas, *Border Games* due on 10/18 at 11pm MT.

*** Mid-term will be activated on 10/12 and will be due on 10/16 at 11pm**

SECTION THREE: The People Who Traffic

Book: Fleetwood, *Drug Mules*

Week 9: 10/19 to 10/25: Fleetwood, pages 1 to 68.

In Week 9 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 10: 10/26 to 11/01: Fleetwood, pages 69 to 133.

In Week 10 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 11: 11/02 to 11/08: Fleetwood, pages 134 to 166.

In Week 11 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

- Book review on Fleetwood, *Drug Mules* due on 11/08 at 11pm MT.

SECTION FOUR: On the Street in Juárez/El Paso

Book: Campbell, *Drug War Zone*

Week 12: 11/09 to 11/15: Campbell, "Introduction"

In Week 12 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test

- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.
- Film review of [To Be Decided...], due on 11/15 at 11pm MT.

Week 13: 11/16 to 11/22: Campbell, "Part One"

In Week 13 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.

Week 14: 11/23 to 11/29: Campbell, "Part Two" and Campbell, "Epilogue"

In Week 14 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.
- Book review on Campbell, *Drug War Zone* due on 11/29 at 11pm MT.

SECTION FIVE: Alcohol Addiction in El Paso

Book: Abraham Verghese, *The Tennis Partner*

Week 15: 11/30 to 12/06: Verghese, *The Tennis Partner*

In Week 15 module on Blackboard: do the readings and/or view the content, and:

- Take the test
- Submit a post to the discussion board and comment on another student's post.
- Book review of Verghese, *The Tennis Partner* due on 12/06 at 11pm MT.

Week 16: 12/07 to 12/11: Final Exam Week

*** Final exam will be activated on 12/07 and will be due on 12/11 at 11pm**

Please remember to evaluate the course. UTEP and your professor value your assessment!