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## CRJU 542, Section 001: DRUGS AND CRIME

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**COURSE MEETS:** MWF 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM, SPRING TERM 2008

**ROOM:** CURRELL 203

**PROFESSOR:** ERIC L. SEVIGNY

**OFFICE HOURS:** 210 CURRELL COLLEGE: M 1:00-4:00 PM & BY APPOINTMENT

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### **Course Description**

This course examines issues of illegal drugs and their control. The first part of the course provides a comprehensive overview of the illegal drug problem, focusing on the social history of and legal responses to drug use and drug trafficking, the connections between drugs and crime and other harms, and competing drug control strategies and policies. The second part of the course focuses on the business of illegal drugs by examining the structure, function, and operation of the illegal drug industry and drug markets. The third part of the course examines the timely issue of drugs in sports. The fourth part of the course addresses the issue of race and the war on drugs from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Recent developments regarding federal crack cocaine penalties will be discussed in depth. Finally, the fifth part of the course critically examines theory, policy, and practice in the development of just policies governing both licit and illicit drugs.

### **Course Requirements**

*Texts.* The first four books listed below are required reading. The Inciardi (2008) book is in its fourth edition, so if money for books is an issue you may want to look for the third edition. Other books, namely Hoffer (2006), may be available used. Since you will be writing reaction essays in this course, the fifth book is recommended for those students who wish to improve their writing organization and skills. You can get by without purchasing this book, but if you have other courses with writing assignments you may want to consider adding it to your reference library. This book is also available in earlier editions.

- James A. Inciardi. (2008). *The War on Drugs IV*. Boston: Pearson Education Inc.
- Scott H. Decker & Margaret Townsend Chapman. (2008). *Drug Smugglers on Drug Smuggling: Lessons from the Inside*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Lee D. Hoffer. (2006). *Junkie Business: The Evolution and Operation of a Heroin Dealing Network*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

- Margaret P. Battin, et al. (2008). *Drugs and Justice: Seeking a Consistent, Coherent, and Comprehensive View*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- William A. Johnson, Jr. et al. (2008). *The Criminal Justice Student Writer's Guide*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Additional readings will be distributed through Blackboard. Please access the course site on Blackboard frequently, as it will be used to distribute electronic materials, update the syllabus, and communicate about assignments and deadlines.

*Course Grade.* Your course grade will be based on weekly discussion boards, eight quizzes, and three reaction essays.

Discussion Boards. There will be twelve weekly Discussion Boards beginning the week of January 14<sup>th</sup> and extending through the week of April 21<sup>st</sup> (There will be no Discussion Boards during two semester weeks). The discussion boards are administered through Blackboard and are intended to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and to provide for ongoing dialogue regarding course concepts and issues. It is also a place for discussing current events in the area of drug policy. To keep abreast of these current events, students are required to sign up to receive the Drug War Chronicle, a weekly email newsletter administered by the drug reform group DRCNet ([http://stopthedrugwar.org/subscription\\_form](http://stopthedrugwar.org/subscription_form)). You need only enter your email address to receive the newsletter. Weekly Discussion Board postings must be submitted by Saturday at midnight to be applied to that week's Discussion Board grade. You may submit a new thread or respond to existing threads. You can contribute to the online discussion as much as you like, but you should have a minimum of two submissions each week. Each weekly Discussion Board is worth 10 points toward your final grade, for a total of 120 points (~34% of your grade). Weekly grades will be applied as follows: 0 points for failing to post altogether or for extremely substandard forum postings, 7 points (√-) for weak forum postings requiring greater elaboration and thought, 8.5 points (√) for competent forum postings that are good and well-thought, and 10 points (√+) for strong forum postings that offer engaging or critical insights.

Quizzes. Eight quizzes will be given throughout the semester to encourage students to stay up-to-date with the readings. The unscheduled quizzes will be announced and administered through Blackboard. Students will have a limited but sufficient window to complete each quiz. Each quiz is worth ten points, for a total of 80 points (~23% of your grade).

Reaction Essays. Three three-page reaction essays are required for the course. Specific details and requirements for the assignments will be provided at the appropriate time. Each essay is worth 50 points, for a total of 150 points (~43% of your final grade).

Classroom Participation. Classroom participation and discussion is important to the course, and students are expected to come to class having read the materials, prepared to ask questions, and contribute to classroom discussions. While not explicitly graded, the

level of your classroom participation may justify a grade bump for students on the border between grades.

From a possible 350 points, your final grade will be based on the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Minimum Points Required</b>	<b>Corresponding Percentage</b>
A	315	90.0-100%
B+	297.5	85.0-89.9%
B	280	80.0-84.9%
C+	262.5	75.0-79.9%
C	245	70.0-74.9%
D+	227.5	65.0-69.9%
D	210	60.0-64.9%
F	0	0.0-59.9%

### **Course Notes**

*Use of Blackboard.* Blackboard will be used to communicate and distribute materials in this course. Please check and monitor the course site regularly.

*Academic Integrity.* You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum of your failing the assignment, and may result in additional, more severe disciplinary measures up to and including referring you to the Office of Academic Integrity. Violations of the University's Honor Code include, but are not limited to improper citation of sources, using another student's work, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. For more information, see the Carolina Community Student Handbook.

*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities.* Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 require USC to provide academic adjustments or accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students seeking academic adjustments or accommodations must self-identify with the instructor and with the Office of Student Disability Services prior to requesting an accommodation.

### **Course Schedule**

The schedule and readings are subject to change. Readings that are not from required texts will be distributed electronically through Blackboard.

<b>WEEK OF:</b>	<b>TOPICS &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b><i>PART I — SETTING THE SCENE: ILLEGAL DRUGS AND THEIR CONTROL</i></b>		
Jan. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Introduction</li> <li>• Drugs in America: Early History to Present Day</li> </ul>	Inciardi, Chs. 1-4
Jan. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>No Class Monday, Jan. 21 in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i></b></li> <li>• Heroin, Cocaine, and Other Dangerous Drugs: Patterns of Trafficking and Use</li> </ul>	Inciardi, Chs. 5-7

Jan. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime, Death, and Disease: Examining the Serious Negative Consequences of Drug Distribution and Use</li> </ul>	Inciardi, Chs. 8-9
Feb. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling Illegal Drugs: Supply and Demand Reduction Strategies, Legalization and Harm Reduction, and Alternatives to the Drug War</li> </ul>	Inciardi, Chs. 10-12
<b><i>PART II — SPECIAL FOCUS: THE BUSINESS OF ILLEGAL DRUGS</i></b>		
Feb. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper-Level Drug Smugglers: Understanding Their Organization and Risk Management</li> </ul>	Decker & Chapman, Chs. 1-7
Feb. 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Level and Retail Distribution: Networks and Entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	Pearson & Hobbs (2003, 2004); Hoffer, Chs. 1-8
Feb. 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug Markets and Their Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Feb. 29: First Reaction Essay Due</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Johnson (2003); May & Hough (2004); Maher & Dixon (1999)
<b><i>PART III — CURRENT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES: DRUGS IN SPORT</i></b>		
Mar. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ongoing Dilemma of Drugs in Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>No Discussion Board This Week</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Gilbert (1969); The Mitchell Report (pp. SR1-SR37); Savulescu et al. (2004)
Mar. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Spring Break—No Classes</i></li> </ul>	
<b><i>PART IV — RACE, INCARCERATION, AND THE WAR ON DRUGS</i></b>		
Mar. 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race and Drug Criminalization: The Drug Menace in Racial Relief</li> </ul>	Cohen (2006); Mauer (2004)
Mar. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Disparate Racial Impact of the Current War on Drugs</li> </ul>	Justice Policy Institute (2007); Bobo & Thompson (2006)
Mar. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Current Focus: The Federal Crack-Powder Cocaine Sentencing Disparity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>April 4: Second Reaction Essay Due</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Reinarman & Levine (2004); The Sentencing Project (2007); Chanenson & Berman (2007)
<b><i>PART V — TOWARD JUSTICE IN DRUG REGULATION AND CONTROL</i></b>		
Apr. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking a Consistent, Coherent, and Comprehensive View of Drug Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>No Discussion Board This Week</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Battin, et al., Chs. 1-3
Apr. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Further Implications of Drug Addiction and Drug Harm for a Just Drug Policy</li> </ul>	Battin, et al., Chs. 4-5
Apr. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theory, Policy, and Practice in Drug Regulation and Control: Dilemmas and Future Prospects</li> </ul>	Battin, et al., Chs. 6-7
Apr. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>April 28: Third Reaction Essay Due</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	