

University of Maryland

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

CCJS 352: Drugs and Crime

Fall 2023

CCJS 352- ESG1

Class: Lecture

Location: Building III, Room 4215

Instructor: Alan C. Drew

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Class: Tuesday 9:30-12:00 p.m.

Phone: 240-856-2607

Office hours: Tuesday 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 or by appointment.

#### Course Description:

This course will examine the relationship between drugs and crime with a focused emphasis on the following areas:

Historical Perspectives on the War on Drugs

Critical Policy decisions and their effectiveness

Drug classifications and their physical effects

Law enforcement approaches and their impact

Alternative approaches (Treatment and education)

Associated social problems

## Current trends and issues

The course will explore the effects, if any, the War on Drugs, now entering its 5th decade, has had on the rate of illegal drug use. The course will examine a variety of drug trends that have impacted policy decisions and the collateral damage of those policies in terms of associated social issues, such as racial disparity, prison overcrowding, and criminal stigmas. The course will further focus on current issues such as marijuana legalization, Mexican drug violence, narco-terrorism, police/community relations, and mandatory minimum sentencing policies.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Text: Belenko SR, Spohn CC (2014). *Drugs, Crime, and Justice*. SAGE, Thousand Oaks (CA). ISBN # 9781452277080

In addition, a set of required course readings for each course topic will be available on ELMS. Additional course materials will be provided on ELMS, during lectures, through videos, newspapers, magazines, and from the internet. All students will be expected to have read or watched the assigned materials before class. To be clear, I will post materials at least a week in advance of each class for you to read and/or watch prior to the next class, so you will be able to have a back-and-forth discussion during class. Again, this will be considered as part of your class participation. The reading materials that you will be expected to read for the course will be as follows:

1. The readings/videos will address the historical perspectives for enforcing the drug laws, the evolution of drug laws, and political and

societal factors influencing drug laws and policy in the United States.

2. The readings/videos will address the issues involved in the War on Drugs, its positive and negative impact on the reduction of substance abuse, and the national and international drug trade.

3. The readings/videos will address the impact of drugs on mass incarceration, racial and ethnic disparity in prison populations, sentencing disparity, and their impact on the criminal justice system.

4. Any other reading/videos material regarding drugs and drug crime that may develop in relation to current events taking place this semester in congress, in the executive branch of government, and the courts.

## COURSE WEBSITE

This class utilizes Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. To access Canvas, go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. If you have any problems accessing your account, contact the support desk at 301-405-1400. You must be registered for the class to access the course website. The syllabus, additional required readings, class announcements, and grades will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for knowing the material posted on the website. Writing assignments will also be submitted via Canvas.

## Course Goals/ Student Outcomes

- The student will gain a historical perspective on the War on Drugs

- Students will understand the associated social problems of drug use, abuse, and trafficking
- Students will assess the nexus between drugs and crime.
- Students will recognize effective alternative strategies for reducing drug related crime.
- Students will critically analyze community and police relationships in terms of law enforcement approaches to drug crime.

Assess the strengths, weaknesses, and uncertainties around drug control policy options, including how these characteristics may vary by jurisdiction and by drug.

- Understand the roles of federal, state, and local law enforcement in drug control.

Assess criminal justice strategies to prevent or minimize the public health and safety impacts of drug abuse.

## Exams and Written Assignments

### Grading:

97-100+: A+	77-79: C+
93-96: A	73-76: C
90-92: A-	70-72: C-
87-89: B+	67-69: D+

83-86: B            63-66: D  
80-82: B-          60-62: D-  
60&lt;;:F

## Written Assignments

### COURSE GRADING

Participation: 15%

Participation refers to active engagement in class discussions

Writing Assignments: 20% each for 3 written assignments and 25% for the fourth assignment. The fourth assignment will be considered as a final for the course in lieu of a final exam. The written assignments will be term papers between 7-8 pages on topics covered in my lectures. I will ask for seven sources, at least two of which will be from academic journals, law reviews, and other scholarly materials.

Percentage points will be converted to a letter grade as listed below:

A+ (97-100%) B+ (87-89%) C+ (77-79%) D+(67-69%) A (93-96%) B (83-86%)

C (73-76%) D (63-66%)

A- (90-92%) B- (80-82%) C- (70-72%) D- (60-62%) F (&lt;60%)

### GRADE DISPUTES

If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe I should review them, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week after grades for the relevant assignment have been posted.

## Elms

Elms is a critical component to this class. All grades will be posted on Elms and Canvas. In addition, some required readings will be posted on Elms. It is expected that students bring copies of these readings to class. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your directory ID and password to use this feature.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

Changes to the course schedule, reading assignments, and other important information will be announced during class and on ELMS.

If you have any questions or concerns about the course, please email me and we can set up an appointment to discuss.

## TECHNOLOGY

It is understood that personal computers are worthwhile. Students are allowed to use their personal computer, iPad, and other similar devices to take class notes. But if it is discovered that personal technology devices are being used in any way that is not directly related to class, the student will lose the privilege of using any personal technology for the duration of the semester. To be specific, Students are prohibited from texting and sending emails during class.

## Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form, which has been updated for the Fall, 2023 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than August 29, 2023. I am not able to

accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by DSS.

after August 2023. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in no later than one (1) week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

### Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behaviors such as cheating on exams and quizzes, providing false statements, falsification of records or data, unauthorized reuse

of work (including resubmitting work written for another class, misrepresentation in bibliography and footnotes, dishonest use of computer facilities, etc).

Students will be asked to write the University approved Honor Pledge on each assignment. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally.

Recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council,

please visit: [Iwhatis.html](http://Iwhatis.html).

## Class Conduct

The success of this class is dependent not only on my abilities as an instructor to communicate new and complicated ideas, but also on our ability as a class to work together to create an environment conducive to learning. As a Department and University, we expect the faculty and students to be prepared for class and to be actively engaged in the classroom activities. Unfortunately, disruptive behaviors in the classroom cheat other students out of opportunities to learn. The University of Maryland's Code of Academic Integrity defines classroom disruption as "behavior a reasonable person would view as substantially or repeatedly interfering with the conduct of a class. Examples would include coming late to class, repeatedly leaving, and entering the classroom without authorization, making loud or distracting noises, and persisting in speaking without being recognized. As the instructor of this class, I also find the following distracting: reading outside material while in class, sleeping, side conversations, text messaging and using laptops for non-academic functions (e.g., Facebook, IM, e-mail, surfing, etc.). I also request that you turn cell phones/pagers on vibrate or silent during class.

Students are expected to treat each other with respect. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Students who are unable to show civility with one

another, the teaching assistants, or me will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.



## Course Evaluation:

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University. Therefore, we will do several forms of evaluation throughout semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. Students can go directly to the website ([www.courseevalum.umd.edu](http://www.courseevalum.umd.edu)) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo CourseEvalUM. Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

## Course Schedule

### DATE: TOPIC: READING ASSIGNMENT

August 29: Review of syllabus and course expectations; Introductory Lecture on Drugs and Crime; Lecture: The nexus between drugs and crime lecture.

September 4: Labor Day

September 5: Lecture on History of War on Drugs and class discussion of the film Drug Wars (Part 1) Chapters 5

September 12: Lecture on History of War on Drugs and discussion of the film

Drug Chapters 5

September 19: Transnational Drug Crime and National Drug Treat Assessment

September 26: Policing Drugs Chapter 6

October 3: Policing Drugs Chapter 6

October 10: Prosecuting Drug Offenders Chapter 7

October 17: Sentencing Drug Offenders Chapter 8

October 24: Alcohol Related Crime Lecture

November 7: Opioid Crisis Lecture

November 14: Methamphetamine Lecture

November 21: Fentanyl Lecture

November 28: Cannabis Legalization Lecture

December 5: Final Lecture Summing Up Drugs and Crime