

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CCJS 352: DRUGS and CRIME
FALL 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE/SECTION: CCJS 352: Section 0101
COURSE TITLE: Drugs and Crime
CREDITS: 3
TERM: Fall 2026
TIME/LOCATION: TTh 11AM-12:15PM, 2106 Tydings Hall

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Brett Lacey
He/him/his
OFFICE: 2211 Lefrak Hall
OFFICE HOURS: T8-9:30AM MW 8-9AM
TELEPHONE: 301-405-0170
EMAIL: blacey1@umd.edu

Should you need to contact me, please do so through my UMD email account. You may expect a 24-hour response time to email, although I will typically get back to you much earlier. I can be reached via the above phone number as well.

TEACHING ASSISTANT INFORMATION

Hannah Freeman hfreema4@terpmail.umd.edu

All in-person TA office hours will be held at 102 Morill Hall.

Office Hours: I will maintain in-person office hours as indicated above and also by appointment if those hours do not work well with your schedule. We can also organize meetings virtually via Zoom at other times which may be more convenient for you.

Course Description: Drug use, distribution, and crime are a critical part of our society and criminal justice system. Through the use of criminology and drug policy research, this course will address the relationship between drugs and crime in the United States. We will assess, evaluate, and analyze intervention policies and societal effects across drug enforcement data as well as use firsthand accounts of drug users and active traffickers for current drug issues including, alcohol, the opioid crisis, methamphetamines, and cannabis.

Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the roles and relationships between federal, state, and local law enforcement and drug control

- Possess an in-depth knowledge of drug policy and its effects in society
- Discuss differing sources of drug use and crime data
- Assess the strengths, weaknesses, and effectiveness of drug control methods and policies, including variation by jurisdiction and drug
- Evaluate criminal justice strategies to prevent or minimize risks to public safety and health
- Discuss how drug policy and politics are intertwined

Prerequisite: CCJS100: Introduction to Criminal Justice

Textbook: Levinthal, C. F., & Lovins, L. B. (2020). *Drugs, society, and criminal justice*. Pearson Education, Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-0135180037 **ISBN:** 0135180031

Course Policy: The University has created a course related policies web page which will be adhered to that can be found at: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

Communication Policy: In accordance with university policy, your university issued email must be issued for all email correspondence. Although the above-mentioned timeframe is 24 hours to receive a reply, it will typically be much sooner. Please have some patience as at times it may take several hours to reply due to other obligations. Should you email me at off business times, you may not receive a response until the following morning. Your understanding and adherence are appreciated.

Canvas Learning Management System: This course relies heavily on Canvas as a delivery platform for the learning material. Power points, assignments, and other course documents and resources are posted and available in the Canvas course site. Students should:

- Become proficient in utilizing Canvas as a Learning Management platform
- Check Canvas regularly for changes, updates, and learning materials
- ***Set notifications in Canvas*** which automatically notify students of instructor emails, submission comments (grading), and additions of new assignments.
- Review posted course materials each week to stay abreast of what is occurring in the course including due dates and materials which will assist in completing the final draft.

I will be using CANVAS to post the syllabus, grades, some handouts, and you will be submitting all assignments on ELMS as well. Go to <http://www.elms.umd.edu/> and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature. In the event you have difficulty with ELMS:

1. Contact the ELMS support desk at 301- 405-1500
2. Send me an email letting me know what has occurred (Blacey1@UMD.EDU)

Classroom Conduct Policy: Students are expected to behave professionally in the classroom, be respectful towards instructors and fellow classmates, and ensure their behaviors do not disrupt or interfere with class activities. Instructors have the authority and professional obligation to maintain a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

To that end, the following expectations will be enforced:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and remain in class for the entire class period.
- Be attentive throughout the entire class period.
- Do not engage in side conversations with students.
- Act in a mature and adult manner at all times.
- Respect everyone in the class, but not be fearful of disagreement. Discussion and debate are at the heart of learning.
- Do their best to succeed. Some students may need to work harder than others to succeed, but all students can earn an A in the class depending on their willingness to work.
- Ask the instructor for clarification or further explanation if they feel they do not understand the material being discussed or read. Chances are someone or everyone else has the same question.
- Challenge the instructor using evidence and reasoned arguments if they disagree with something the instructor says!
- Please note that cell phones are to be turned off during class. Repeated classroom disruptions will result in being asked to leave the class and may ultimately affect the grade you receive.

Instructor Conduct Policy: Students can expect me to:

- Treat them with respect.
- Provide feedback in a timely manner on assignments (ideally within two weeks of the due date of exercises, usually much sooner).
- Provide extensive feedback and assistance to students as they learn.
- Be honest in response when I do not know something.
- Enforce the standards I have established for grading and the learning outcomes of the course.

Names, Pronouns, and Self-Identifications

The University of Maryland recognizes the importance of a diverse student body, and we are committed to fostering equitable classroom environments. I invite you, if you wish, to tell us how you want to be referred to both in terms of your name and your pronouns (he/him, she/her, they/them, etc.). The pronouns someone indicates are not necessarily indicative of their gender identity. Visit trans.umd.edu to learn more. Additionally, how you identify in terms of your gender, race, class, sexuality, religion, and dis/ability, among all aspects of your identity, is your choice whether to disclose (e.g., should it come up in classroom conversation about our experiences and perspectives) and should be self-identified, not presumed or

imposed. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly, and I ask you to do the same for all of your fellow Terps.

Course Evaluation Policy

Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Fall 2026 courses in November. Students can go directly to the website (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's CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.

LATE WORK POLICY: All assignments, papers and homework are due in Canvas by the date and time indicated in the Canvas assignment list and calendar. Assignments, papers, and homework will lose the equivalent point value of one letter grade for each *class period* they are late. ***NOTE: Final projects, papers, and exams CANNOT be turned in late!!!***

LATE PENALTY ON ASSIGNMENTS:

40 pt. assignment	minus 4 pts for every day
25 pt. assignment	minus 2.5 pts for every day
20 pt. assignment	minus 2 pts for every day
15 pt. assignment	minus 1.5 pts for every day
10 pt. assignment	minus 1 pt. for every day

Exception: Final papers/assignments CANNOT be turned in late.

NO student will be given an extension for any assessments after the beginning of the final exam. In other words, if work is not turned in by the time of the scheduled Final Exam Period, the student will NOT be allowed to turn the work in and will receive zero points for that assignment.

Make-up policy: Exam make-ups will only be provided with a university sanctioned excuse and when the instructor is notified BEFORE the exam takes place. Failure to attend the exam at the scheduled time without an approved excuse will result in a zero on the exam. For quizzes and other assignments, extension requests are not anticipated without notifying the instructor prior to the due date to be eligible for consideration. Exam make-ups must be arranged and completed by the student within a timeframe determined by the instructor.

Religious Observances: If you are unable to take the any exams or to be present in class on a required attendance day due to a religious observance, you will need to discuss this with me by September 25, 2026.

Copyright

The lectures that I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e., Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty of any form will absolutely NOT be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses the traditional behavior such as cheating on exams and assignments, giving false statements, etc., but also includes activities such as possessing and/or reviewing previous semester's exams and computer assignments. **Artificial intelligence use will not be tolerated in any form. This includes grammar checking programs such as Grammarly.** Anyone determined to be using it will be reported to the Honor Council as well as receive a zero on their 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 and 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 see the following link

<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-integrity-student-conduct-codes/>

Accessibility and Disability Support

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Support Services (ADS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2026 semester. This form must be presented to me no later than September 25, 2026. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has not been reviewed by ADS after September 25, 2026. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS Center need to provide me with the link to the testing form for each exam and I must receive this **no later than 1 week prior to each exam**. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

Evaluation and Assessment (Grading):

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

A+ (97-100%)	B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<60%)
A (93-96%)	B (83-86%)	C (73-76%)	D (63-66%)	

A- (90-92%)

B- (80-82%)

C- (70-72%)

D- (60-62%)

I will be rounding grades at the end of the term, using the .45 threshold. So, for example, a 92.45% will be rounded up to an A, but a 92.44% will remain as an A-. Please do not ask for your grade to be “bumped” or rounded up. **If the request is made, your email will be ignored and any chance of the grade changing will then be gone.**

Quizzes (75 points): (7 quizzes at 15 points each; best 5 out of 7) Throughout the semester, you will be responsible for completing 7 quizzes. These quizzes comprise a total of 15 true/false and multiple-choice questions (1 point each). All quizzes will be completed online through ELMS.

Importantly, only your 5 highest quiz scores will be counted towards your final grade. In other words, 2 of your quizzes with the lowest scores will be dropped. Please reserve your 2 dropped scores for emergencies or unexpected situations that prevent you from completing the quiz on time. Students with excused absences may be provided extensions. Extensions will only be provided with legitimate excused absences prior to the due date of the quiz.

While quizzes are open book and open note, students are not permitted to work on them together. Doing so will be considered cheating. Quizzes will be available on Mondays and due the corresponding Friday. Once the quiz is opened, you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Failure to complete the quiz in 30 minutes will result in a zero.

Midterm and Final Exam (200 points): This course will have one midterm and one final exam. The midterm exam will be administered in the classroom at the date and time indicated in the calendar portion of the syllabus. The midterm exam will cover the first half of the class. The final exam will be an optional exam that covers the entire semester of the course.

Exams and all assignments are considered to be Major Scheduled Graded Events and therefore the University medical excuse policy which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does not apply to them. Exams must be taken in the class you are registered for and will be in person. Assignments must be turned in ONLINE via ELMS. Bring a picture ID to each exam.

Fieldwork Assignment (125 points): Students will interview a criminal justice professional whose role engages drugs and crime—such as law enforcement, drug court officials, drug/alcohol counselors, probation/parole officers, substance abuse counselors, criminologists, or forensic psychologists (or many other professions). The goal is to explore the legal, ethical, operational dynamics of drug-related justice work as well as potential policy implications for this work. Students will prepare a thoughtful and relevant interview protocol and conduct an interview in-person or virtually lasting at least 30 minutes. Each student will present their interview findings with the class.

Participation (100 points): Grades will not be based on attendance; rather, they will be based on active participation. Hence, you are expected to come to each lecture and contribute some sort of active behavior (examples: engaging in discussions, asking questions, answering questions etc.) during class. Simply showing up will not be a part of your grade. You are expected to arrive on time and remain throughout the entire duration of the lecture. Participation is an ongoing

process; therefore, your participation grade will not be posted until the end of the semester. As part of this grade, you will be introducing some form of media focusing on drugs to the course. A corresponding signup sheet will be provided during week 1. Participation points can only be earned during lectures, so if you are absent from a lecture, you will not earn participation points for that day. An article presentation will be completed by students at the beginning of each lecture period. The presentation will be worth 20 points and count towards your participation grade. Two of these grades will be dropped from your total grade.

Extra Credit

The topic of drugs and crime presents a unique opportunity for extra credit. If students choose, they will receive extra credit for attending and AA/NA meeting. After attending the meeting, students should write a two-page reflection/report on the meeting and incorporate course content. Prior to completing this extra credit option, please contact me for a detailed outline. Students are expected to be respectful and not invasive of other individual's privacy should they choose this option. This extra credit option will be worth 4% (16 points) of the total course grade. Other extra credit opportunities will be available at the professor's discretion throughout the semester.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE/FINAL EXAM REMINDER

WEEK 1 (September 1-4, 2026)

Week 1: Major Topics	Intro and syllabus
September 1	
	Introductions, thoroughly read and review syllabus Quiz 1 available after class
September 3	
	Definitions, drug culture, aims of course/Beginning of Ch. 1 Quiz 1 due Sunday, 11:59 pm

WEEK 2 (September 7-11, 2026)

Week 2: Major Topics	Global Drug Policy and the Drug Market
September 8	
	Finish Chapter 1/begin Chapter 2
September 10	
	Magnitude of the Drug Market Quiz 2 available Friday

WEEK 3 (September 14-18, 2026)

Week 3: Major Topics	War on Drugs and United States Drug Policy
September 15	
	The foundations and Impact of the War on Drugs
September 17	
	Future directions of US drug policy Quiz 2 due Sunday 11:59pm

WEEK 4 (September 21-27, 2026)

Week 4: Major Topics	Drug Law Penalties
September 22	
	Policing drugs, Ch. 6
September 24	
	Penalties for drug offenses, Ch. 5 Interview Protocol due Sunday at 11:59 PM

WEEK 5 (September 28-October 2, 2026)

Week 5: Major Topics	Drug addict and User Behaviors
September 29	
	Prosecution and Sentencing of Drug Offenders
October 1	
	Drug use behaviors, Ch. 8 Quiz 3 available

WEEK 6 (October 5-9, 2026)

Week 6: Major Topics	Corrections for Drug Offenders/Opioids
October 6	
	Corrections and treatment of drug offenders
October 8	
	Opioids, Crisis and Policy Implications, Ch. 9 Quiz 3 due Sunday, 11:59pm

WEEK 7 (October 12-16, 2026)

Week 7: Major Topics	
October 13	
	NO CLASS- FALL BREAK!
October 15	
	Cocaine and related crimes Ch. 10

WEEK 8 (October 19-23, 2026)

Week 8: Major Topics	Midterm
October 20	
	Midterm Review
October 22	
	Midterm Exam

WEEK 9 (October 26-30, 2026)

Week 9: Major Topics	Cocaine/Methamphetamines
October 27	
	Cocaine
October 29	
	Cocaine and methamphetamine policy

WEEK 10 (November 2-6, 2026)

Week 10: Major Topics	Alcohol
November 3	
	Methamphetamines
November 5	
	Alcohol effects on body, DUI, and related crimes, Ch. 13

WEEK 11 (November 9-13, 2026)

Week 1: Major Topics	Hallucinogens, Depressants, and Marijuana
November 10	
	Alcohol effects on body, DUI, and related crimes, Ch. 13
November 12	
	Hallucinogens Quiz 5 available

WEEK 12 (November 16-20, 2026)

Week 1: Major Topics	Juvenile and status offenses
November 17	
	Juvenile Drug use and Crime/Tobacco and Status offenses
November 19	
	Quiz 4 available and to be worked on during class

WEEK 13 (November 23-27, 2026)

Week 1: Major Topics	Quiz 4 and Thanksgiving break
November 24	
	Quiz 4 due at 11:59 PM Quiz 5 available
November 26	
	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING RECESS

WEEK 14 (November 30-December 4, 2026)

Week 14: Major Topics	Cannabis
December 1	
	History of cannabis policy and effects, Ch. 11
December 3	
	Legalization effects of cannabis Quiz 5 due, Sunday, 11:59 pm

WEEK 15: (December 7-11, 2026)

Week 15: Major Topics	
December 8	Testing, Prevention and Deterrence, Ch. 16
December 10	Testing, Prevention and Deterrence, Ch. 16 Complete Quiz 6 due Friday, at 11:59 PM
	LAST DAY OF CLASS No assignments accepted after Sunday- NO EXCEPTIONS!

WEEK 16 (December 14-21, 2026)

Week 1: Major Topics	Finals
FINAL EXAM:	
	December 14 @ 10:30AM

Disclaimer: The instructor has the right to revise topics covered and due dates as needed during the semester.