

CCJS 418P: MARIJUANA, LAW, & SOCIETY
FALL 2026
SECTION 0101 Van Munching Hall 1207
Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00am-12:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Alan R. Lehman
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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-1:00pm
and by appointment

Course Description:

The laws concerning the medical use and legalization of cannabis are changing rapidly. This class attempts to analyze of the role of criminology and criminal justice in the understanding and control of cannabis use and abuse.

Prerequisite: You MUST have already completed CCJS 100 and CCJS 105 to enroll in CCJS 418P.

Required Book:

The book I used to require (Caulkins, Jonathan., Kilmer, Beau., and Kleiman, Mark. 2nd Edition 2016. *Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know*, Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-0-19-026240-2) is quite out of date (2016!) yet there is still much useful information there. I have copied the relevant chapters and uploaded them. The chapters are abbreviated **ML**.

The class syllabus, individual readings, and any other supplementary files that will be used for this course are on our ELMS space under 'Files'.

Course Grading:

Your grade will be based upon 3 exams (each worth 20%), 5 in-class pop-quizzes (each worth 4%), a semester research project (17%), and discussion with Dr. Lehman concerning the semester research project (3%). We will discuss the guidelines for the research project in class.

The exams will cover material from the lectures and assigned readings. Exams are not cumulative. I have a very strict policy concerning makeup exams. Exams must be taken on the assigned day unless you have presented a valid, written excuse before the exam and made arrangements to take a makeup exam. Health center notes are not valid excuses! Dr. Lehman reserves the right to change the format of the makeup exam if he wishes.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any form will absolutely not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty encompasses behaviors such as plagiarism, cheating on exams and

assignments, giving false statements, etc. All students are required to sign the Honor Pledge on each exam.

The use of AI tools (ChatGPT, TerpAI, Gemini, Grammarly, etc.) is **prohibited** for any part of the assignment process in this class, including brainstorming, writing, and editing. This policy aims to foster your ability to develop original ideas and a unique voice, both core skills of this class. Any use of AI-generated work to outline, write, create, or edit your assignments will be considered an academic integrity violation and will be subject to a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. If you have any questions about this policy, please email Dr. Lehman.

Copyrights

The lectures I give in this class and the course materials I have created are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. You are permitted to take notes from the lectures and to use course materials throughout the semester. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes/assignments 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).

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. This form must be presented to me no later than September 18th. I will not be able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS by September 18th. 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 to me 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.

Answers to other course related questions and policies may be found at the web site: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

There will be no curve-final grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ = 97.00% - 100%	A = 93.00% - 96.99%	A- = 90.00% - 92.99%
B+ = 87.00% - 89.99%	B = 83.00% - 86.99%	B- = 80.00% - 82.99%
C+ = 77.00% - 79.99%	C = 73.00% - 76.99%	C- = 70.00% - 72.99%
D+ = 67.00% - 69.99%	D = 63.00% - 66.99%	D- = 60.00% - 62.99%
F = <60.0		

Week & Dates	Topics, Exams	Readings
Week 1 September 1 September 3	Introduction to CCJS 418P Subjective Effects, Early/Ancient History, Botany of Cannabis	Review Syllabus Week 1 Readings
Week 2 September 8 September 10	Overview of Cannabis Laws in the U.S., How Stringent is Enforcement? Arrest Statistics & Racism; Collateral Consequences	ML Ch. 6
Week 3 September 15 September 17	The War on Drugs, Procedural Fairness and Racial Equality The Drug Menace in Racial Relief	Provine reading
Week 4 September 22 September 24	Introduction to Medical Cannabis A Cannabis MD Evaluates Cannabis Exam Review	ML Ch. 5 & 13 Seeing Through the Smoke Chapters 1-3
Week 5 September 29 October 1	Film: The Cannabis Question Exam 1	All chapters and readings, film
Week 6 October 6 October 8	Case Study: Washington State Introduction and "Before the Grand Opening", "After the Grand Opening" Case Study Film: 'Evergreen: The Road to Legalization' (1 st half)	"Before the Grand Opening" reading, "After the Grand Opening" reading
Week 7 October 13 October 15	No Classes: Enjoy Fall Break Case Study Film: 'Evergreen: The Road to Legalization' (2 nd half)	
Week 8 October 20 October 22	Case Study: Washington State "Cannabis Legalization in Washington" Case Study: Washington State "Experimental Criminology" Article	"Cannabis legalization in Washington" reading "Experimental Criminology" Reading

Week & Dates	Topics, Exams	Readings
Week 9 October 27	International Cannabis Policy	ML Ch. 15
October 29	Introduction to Green Criminology: Dan Rather Film	Reading to be determined
	Exam Review	All chapters & readings since Exam 1, Film
Week 10 November 3	Exam 2	All chapters & readings since Exam 1, Film
November 5	[No class, Dr. Lehman at a conference]	
Week 11 November 10	Where Are We, and How Did We Get Here?	ML Ch. 12
November 12	Pros and Cons of Legalization Generally	ML Ch. 7
Week 12 November 17	How is Legalization of Marijuana Different?	ML Ch. 8
November 19	Treat Cannabis like Alcohol?	ML Ch. 9
Week 13 November 24	Office Hours instead of class: Research Project Discussions	
November 26	[No Classes: Happy Thanksgiving]	
Week 14 December 1	Legalization and Cost-Benefit Issues	
December 3	Risks of Use, Harm Reduction	Caulkins reading
Week 15 December 8	Risks of Use, Harm Reduction Research Project due December 8th by 5pm	Caulkins reading
December 10	The Future of Cannabis Exam Review, Course Evaluation	ML Ch. 17 ML Chs. 12, 7, 8, 9, Caulkins reading, 17
Final Exam Monday, December 14th	Final Exam 10:30am - 12:30pm	ML Chs. 12, 7, 8, 9, Caulkins reading, 17