

CCJS 418P: MARIJUANA, LAW, & SOCIETY
Spring 2026, Susquehanna Hall, Room 1120
Section 0101 Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00pm-3:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Alan R. Lehman
2209 LeFrak Hall
alehman@umd.edu
301 405-4735

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-1:00pm
and by appointment

Course Description:

The laws concerning the medical use and legalization of cannabis are changing rapidly. This class attempts to analysis 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 (ISBN: 978-0-19-026240-2) is quite out of date (2016!)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, required readings, and other supplementary files that will be used for this course are on our ELMS site 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 an informal meeting with Dr. Lehman concerning the semester research project's topic (3%).

The exams will cover material from the lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings from the textbooks. Approximately 1/2 of the exam questions come from lecture and class discussions and the remaining 1/2 come from the core 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 or emailed excuse (such as a doctor's note or a police report or summons) before the exam has begun and made arrangements to take a makeup. Under no circumstances will oversleeping, car trouble, or health problems (without a doctor's note) be grounds for a makeup. Dr. Lehman reserves the right to change the format of the makeup exam if he so wishes.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty in any form will 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.

New Attendance Policy

Under this new policy, instructors are expected to accept as an excused absence a self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class for the semester. Please note that this situation does NOT apply to Scheduled Graded Events such as exams.

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).

Accessibility & Disability Service (ADS)

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility & Disability Service (ADS) office (next to LeFrak Hall in Shoemaker Hall) and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form or email. I must receive this form or email must no later than February 12th. I cannot accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS by February 12th. 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.

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	= <60.00%		

Room for doodling or notes.

Week	Date(s)	Topics, Exams	Book Chapter(s) & Readings
Week 1	January 27 January 29	University Closed due to snow/sleet University Closed due to snow/sleet Panopto Lecture for Introduction (Subjective Effects, Early/Ancient History, Botany of Cannabis available 1/30 by afternoon	Weil, Zinberg, & Nelson reading Weil Hashish Overdose Lenson reading
Week 2	February 3 February 5	Overview of Arrest Statistics and Racism; Collateral Consequences Cannabis Laws in the U.S. The Drug Menace in Racial Relief	ML Ch. 6 Provine reading
Week 3	February 10 February 12	Introduction to Medical Marijuana A Cannabis MD Evaluates Cannabis Exam Review	ML Chs. 5 & 13 Seeing Through the Smoke Chapters 1-3 All chapters & readings
Week 4	February 17 February 19	Exam 1 Case Study: Washington State Introduction, "Before the Grand Opening"	All chapters & readings "Before the Grand Opening" reading
Week 5	February 24 February 26	Case Study: Washington State "After the Grand Opening" No Class-Dr. Lehman at a conference.	"After the Grand Opening" readings
Week 6	March 3 March 5	Case Study: Washington State Evergreen: The Road to Legalization (1 st half) Case Study: Washington State Evergreen: The Road to Legalization (2 nd half)	
Week 7	March 10 March 12	Case Study: Washington State Cannabis Legalization in Washington Class Cancelled	"Cannabis legalization in Washington" reading
Week 8	March 17 March 19	Spring Break-No Classes-Have Fun	

Week	Date(s)	Topics, Exams	Book Chapter(s) & Readings
Week 9	March 24	Case Study: Washington State Recreational marijuana legalization and drug-related offenses in Washington State	"Recreational marijuana legalization and drug- related offenses in Washington State" reading
	March 26	Film: The Cannabis Question	
Week 10	March 31	International Cannabis Policy Exam Review	ML Ch. 15 All chapters & readings since Exam 1, Film
	April 2	Exam 2	All chapters & readings since Exam 1, Film
Week 11	April 7	Introduction to Green Criminology: Dan Rather Film	
	April 9	No Class-Dr. Lehman at a conference.	
Week 12	April 14	Where Are We, and How Did We Get Here?	ML Ch. 12
	April 16	Pros and Cons of Legalization Generally	ML Ch. 7
Week 13	April 21	How is Legalization of Marijuana Different?	ML Ch. 8
	April 23	Office Hours instead of class: Research Project Discussions	
Week 14	April 28	Treat Cannabis like Alcohol?	ML Ch. 9
	April 30	Legalization and Cost-Benefit Issues	
Week 15	May 5	Risks of Use, Harm Reduction	Caulkins reading
	May 7	Research Project Due Wednesday 5/6 by 5pm The Future of Cannabis Exam Review	ML Ch. 17
Final Exam:	Thursday, May 14	Final Exam 10:30am-12:30pm	All chapters & readings since Exam 2