

SOCI 390¹

Drugs and Society

Instructor: Dr. Michael Ma

Course Description:

This course critically examines the social dimensions of substance use and addiction from a sociological perspective. It explores theories of drug use, social constructions of addiction, impacts across different populations, drug policy and regulation, harm reduction approaches, and drug-related social movements. The course takes a critical approach to biomedical models of addiction and considers how social factors shape patterns of drug use and related harms.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify social and structural factors influencing the understanding of drugs.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how drug use and harms vary across social groups.
- Understand drugs and their connection with social disparity, health, and criminalization.
- Critically analyze the relationship between social norms and drug use.

Required Resources May Include:

All required readings will be available online and/or on Brightspace.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.