

CRIJ 3344 – Drugs, Behavior and Criminal Justice

Fall 2026 Section .060

University of Texas at Tyler

Online Course

Instructor Betty Charlson

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Course Description

This course will introduce you to the scholarly study of alcohol and drugs. Students will have an opportunity to become familiar with drug discourse and effects, as well as drug history and drug policy in American society. This course will take a multidisciplinary approach that will help students understand the substances' physiological and sociological effects and critically evaluate the policies, as well as their evolution, put into place to regulate/prohibit their use. A goal of this course is to help students develop into more informed consumers of drug-related information. Students should not only understand *what* policies are in place, but also *why* they exist and how they came to exist. This should help them to think critically about drug issues, drug prohibitions, allowed usage, and regimens for drug control.

Course Objectives: At the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- 1) Describe the history and field of drug and alcohol use in American culture
- 2) Identify the major controversies surrounding drug and alcohol use in the US.
- 3) Describe the history of drugs and alcohol use from their first known use.
- 4) Honestly and intelligently assess the usefulness and progress of the "War on Drugs."
- 5) Explain why it may be difficult for political leaders to initiate changes in drug policy.
- 6) Intelligently argue in favor of policy shifts to better address the "drug problem."

Course Materials:

- 1) There are no required textbooks for you to purchase this semester. This course has been designed as an OER (Open Educational Resources) course in which all materials have been provided to you by the instructor at no expense.
 - a. However, I know that some students still want a textbook or some sort of reading companion. If you fall into that boat, I encourage you to consider the following textbook:
 - i. Hanson, Glen R., Venturelli, Peter J., and Fleckenstein, Annette E. (2022). *Drugs and Society, 14th Edition*. Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284197853 (**Optional, but NOT Required**)

Course Policies

Class Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous manner, both in their interactions with other students and with the professor. As this is an online class, you are permitted to work at your own pace but must complete all work as required by the instructor by the due date assigned to a particular assignment.

Furthermore, this class is an exercise in professionalism in the workplace. As you are preparing to enter into the workforce (you may even be there already), it is important that you treat this class as though it were your job. Late work and poor attitudes are not acceptable in this class or any other. Please be respectful of others' opinions and experiences, and do not be aggressive or combative over the topics being discussed in the course. You are all adults and are expected to use Netiquette appropriately while working in an online class.

Course Grade: Your course grade for the semester is dependent on the work that you put into the class. I do not give grades, you earn grades. Also, I do not provide a curve grades or offer extra credit at the end of the semester. **Please do not ask for extra points at the end of the semester that would boost you to the next letter grade – they will not be given.**

Course Assignments and Grades

Online Lecture Quizzes: Each week you will have a series of short, micro-lectures that last somewhere between 10-20 minutes each. Depending on the length of the lecture, you will be required to answer several questions that are embedded in the lecture itself. The lecture will stop, ask you a question, then proceed once the question is answered. These will be between 2-4 points each depending on the length of the lecture. You may take these quizzes as many times as you wish to earn the full point value of the assignment. Lecture quizzes are auto-graded by Canvas, so if you think there is an issue with your grade please reach out to me.

Online Activities: Each week you will be required to complete an online activity that corresponds with the materials presented in lecture for the week. Online activities will be completed individually. You will be provided with instructions for each activity, and they will differ based on what is required for the week. Each activity will vary between 10-20 points toward your final grade. Please refer to the course schedule to see the format in which these activities will take place.

Final Exam: This semester, you will not have traditional exams but will be required to complete a comprehensive, cumulative final exam. This will be worth 100 points toward your final grade and must be completed by the Sunday of the last week of classes. In other words, there is no final during finals week. I make this choice not only to alleviate some of the stress for you students during finals week, but also to give me enough time to grade everything before grades are due.

As it is cumulative in nature, I expect students to tap into concepts discussed throughout the entire semester to show a breath of knowledge on the subjects we explored all term. No late final exams will be accepted without documentation.

Grading Scale:

Your grade will consist of points awarded to the successful completion of the following components:

- Syllabus quiz 20 points
- Plagiarism tutorial 20 points
- Online lecture quizzes (30 total micro-lectures x 5 points each) 150 points
- Online or F2F module activities (10 points each) 100 points
- "Public Enemy Number One" Reflection Paper 20 points
- Final Exam 100 points
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410 total points

Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

Total Points	Grade Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Points
410 – 369	100 – 90%	A	4.0
368.5 – 328	89.9 – 80%	B	3.0
327.5 – 287	79.9 – 70%	C	2.0
286.5 – 246	69.9 – 60%	D	1.0
245.5 – below	59.9% and below	F	0.0

Additional Policies

Late Assignment Policy

As a general rule, I do not accept late assignments. I never spring any last-minute assignments on you – from the first day of class, you will know what is due and when it is due to me. It is up to you to plan accordingly as you have ample time to complete these assignments. If you do not turn in your assignments on time, it is a zero in the gradebook and I will not grade the assignment. If you have a documented excuse (death in the family, illness, car accident, etc...), you must inform me of your situation within 2 days of the missed assignment and it is mandatory for you to provide documentation to me in order to be eligible for a make-up. Please note that having to work is not an excused absence. While I am sympathetic and understanding to your work schedule, you have made a choice to enroll in this class and it must be considered a priority.

Email Policy

I like to keep open lanes of communication between students and myself. If you need to ask any questions or discuss anything class related, please do not hesitate to email me or call me during office hours. As I said before, please include CRIJ 3344 in the subject line so I know that it is class related. You may also email me through Canvas, but please do not leave comments in the assignments themselves. I do not go back and check for those. My preferred method of contact is through email, please try that first. Also, it is polite to address your instructors by their chosen title. Do not email and simply say "Hey," as it does not make me the happiest of professors. Proper introductions to emails and a little professionalism go along way with me and with all of your other instructors and professors as well.

You are responsible for checking your email daily. I frequently email students individually or as a group – if I send you an email I assume that you have read it and are informed with the

message. It is a pet peeve of mine when students do not check their email – I will not hound you trying to get you to reply to my emails. At most, I will send you two emails and if I do not have a response in a reasonable amount of time then I will assume you have chosen not to reply to me and I will act accordingly. For instance, if you submit a paper and I cannot open the attachment I will email to send me another copy of the paper. I will always include a reasonable deadline – if you do not respond by that deadline that I will not grade the paper and you will not receive credit for it. So please check your email.

Instructor Expectations

Just as I have certain expectations of you, you should have certain expectations of me. Every semester I have an open-door policy with students. I will be available virtually and if I am unavailable, you will be notified. If you email or call me, you will receive a response within 48 hours during the business week and business hours. Email responses during late hours and the weekend are not a guarantee, so late minute questions for assignments may not receive answers if they are sent during those times. As for grading, you will receive feedback on all assignments within 2 weeks. Please do not email within a day or two of the assignment submission looking for a graded assignment. I do my best to get things turned around to you all very quickly but I am only one person with several classes of grading to do weekly. If there is a technological issue, please get in touch with the university IT department. I am unable to fix Canvas issues that are system based.

University Policies

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped include those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

For this course, AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected.

a. Example 1: I encourage you to explore using artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, for all assignments and assessments. Any such use must be appropriately

acknowledged and cited, following the guidelines established by the APA/MLA/Chicago Style Guide, including the specific version of the tool used. The submitted work should include the exact prompt you used to generate the content and the AI's complete response as an appendix. Because AI-generated content is not necessarily accurate or appropriate, you must assess the validity and applicability of any submitted AI output. You will not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work. APA Style Citation Information
MLA Style Citation Information Chicago Style Citation Information

b. Example 2: You can use AI programs (ChatGPT, Copilot, etc.) in this course. These programs can be powerful tools for learning and other productive pursuits, including completing assignments in less time, helping you generate new ideas, or serving as a personalized learning tool. However, your ethical responsibilities as a student remain the same. You must follow UT Tyler's Honor Code and uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. This applies to all uncited or improperly cited content, whether created by a human or in collaboration with an AI tool. If you use an AI tool to develop content for an assignment, you must cite the tool's contribution to your work.

c. Example 3: Students can use AI platforms to help prepare for assignments and projects. You can use AI tools to revise and edit your work (e.g., identify flaws in reasoning, spot confusing or underdeveloped paragraphs, or correct citations). When submitting work, students must identify any writing, text, or media generated by AI. In this course, sections of assignments generated by AI should appear in a different colored font, and the relationship between those sections and student contributions should be discussed in a cover letter that accompanies the assignment when submitted.

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to

meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or

creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting

Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.