



DRUGS, BEHAVIOUR, AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIJ 3344)

Term: *Summer I 2026*

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Wooldridge

Office Phone: 903-566-7438

Email: jwooldridge@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-11:00am or by appointment

Course Dates: June 1 – July 5, 2026

Course Times: Online

Classroom: Online

Course Overview

This course provides an overview of drug abuse including the use, manufacture and distribution of legal and illegal drugs. Included is a brief review of the pharmacological effects of drugs on behavior and its interaction with crime. A review of American anti-drug policy is included.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

- Describe the history and field of drug and alcohol use in American culture
- Identify the major controversies surrounding drug and alcohol use in the US.
- Describe the history of drugs and alcohol use from their first known use.
- Honestly and intelligently assess the usefulness and progress of the “War on Drugs.”

Required Textbooks and Readings

- This course is considered an OER/no-cost course. All of the course readings and materials will be provided, at no cost, on Canvas.
- Total Estimated costs of required course materials: \$0

Course Structure

This course is fully online taught asynchronously throughout the semester. You will have online lectures and activities each week that correspond with the topic at hand. This is a work intensive course with collaborative and independent work.

Tips for Success in this Course

1. **Participate.** I invite you to engage deeply, ask questions, and talk about the course content with your classmates. You can learn a great deal from discussing ideas and perspectives with your peers and professor. Participation can also help you articulate your thoughts and develop critical thinking skills.
2. **Manage your time.** I get it—students usually juggle a lot, and I know you've got commitments beyond this class. Still, doing your best often means carving out enough dedicated time for coursework. Try scheduling specific blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any tech issues that might pop up.
3. **Login regularly.** I recommend that you log in to Canvas several times a week to view announcements, discussion posts and replies to your posts.
4. **Do not fall behind.** This class moves at a quick pace and each week builds on the previous class content. If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with the instructor as soon as possible so we can troubleshoot together. It will be hard to keep up with the course content if you fall behind in the pre-work or post-work.
5. **Use Canvas notification settings.** Pro tip! Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. ([Canvas Notification Guide](#))

6. **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and your classmates for support.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Online Lectures

- Each week you will watch a series of short micro-lectures worth 5 points each
- Please know that even though this a 5-week course, we will cover an entire 15-week semester's worth of material. Condensed courses do not mean condensed material.
- 30 x 5 pts = 150 total points

Plagiarism Tutorial

- Students will complete a plagiarism tutorial week one.
- 20 points

Syllabus Quiz

- Students will complete a syllabus quiz week one reviewing the requirements of the course.
- 20 points

Applied Activities

- There are four applied activities that correspond with the lectures for the week.
- 4 x 10 pts = 40 total points

Grading Structure

Assignment	Percentage %
Online Lectures	150 pts
Syllabus Quiz	20 pts
Plagiarism Tutorial	20 pts
Applied Activities	40 pts
Total	230 total pts

Grading Scale

- A - (90% or higher,
- 230-207 pts
- B - (80 - 89%)
- 206.5-184 pts
- C - (70 - 79%)
- 183.5-161 pts
- D - (60 - 69%)
- 160.5-138
- F - (Below 60%)
- 137.5-below

Late Work and Make-Up Exams:

Put your late work and make-up exam policy here. Please remember that we all encounter unexpected events in our lives.

Attendance Policy (optional):

If you have an attendance policy, please put this here. Check with your department or college to verify any institutional attendance requirements.

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under “Syllabus”. (You may copy or print the following information to include in your syllabus or use the links provided below.)

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates *(REQUIRED COMPONENT)

CRIJ 3344 Summer 2026 Summer Schedule

Just a note – this might look like a lot of reading but the course is designed as an Open Educational Resources (OER) class where I am able to provide a mixture of articles, chapters, and media resources. I am providing you everything you would get during a regular semester. Many of these items are short and read quick. Please know I am not expecting you to read everything line by line. It’s summer 😊

Module 1 (June 1 – June 7)

All assignments are due Sunday at 11:59pm CST.

Read/Watch/Complete by Topic

- **Introduction to Drugs and Society**
 - Gender Differences in Drug Use (Read)
 - Module 1 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-3) (5 points each, 15 points total)
- **How and Why Drugs Work**
 - Common Side Effects of Drug Use (Read)
 - Drugs, Brains, and Behavior: The Science of Addiction (Read)
 - Module 2 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
- **Over-the-Counter and Prescription Drugs**
 - Price of Insulin Hurts American Families (Read)
 - Eli Lilly Caps the Cost of Insulin (Read)
 - Marketing to Doctors: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Watch)
 - FDA Approval Guidelines for Prescription Drug Advertising (Read)
 - Module 3 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
 - Online Activity: Dissecting a Pharmaceutical Advertisement (10 points)

Other Work to complete by Sunday July 14th at 11:59pm

- Syllabus Quiz (20 points)

- Plagiarism Tutorial (20 points)

Module 2 (June 8 – June 14)

All assignments are due Sunday at 11:59pm CST.

Read/Watch/Complete by. Topic

- **CNS Depressants: Sedative-Hypnotics**
 - Benzodiazepine Use Might Result in Long-Term Neurological Dysfunction (Read)
 - Valium, Xanax Prescriptions Could Raise Overdose Risk in Youth (Read)
 - Module 4 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
- **Stimulants**
 - Shake and Bake Meth (Watch)
 - DEA: The Rise of Liquid Meth Being Smuggled Across the Border (Read)
 - Len Bias and Two Decades of Destruction (Read)
 - Module 5 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
 - Online Activity: Powder vs Crack Cocaine Venn Diagram (10 points)
- **Hallucinogens**
 - Nixon's Manhunt for the High Priest of LSD in "The Most Dangerous Man in America" (Read/Listen)
 - Colorado just Legalized "Magic Mushrooms," an Idea that's Growing Nationwide (Read)
 - The Psychedelic Experience by Timothy Leary (Optional Read)
 - "The Man Who Turned on America" Documentary (Optional Watch)
 - Module 6 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)

Module 3 (June 15 – June 21)

All assignments are due Sunday at 11:59pm CST.

Read/Watch/Complete by. Topic

- **Drug Use, Regulation, and the Law**
 - Drugs and Race in American Culture: Orientalism in the Turn-of-the-Century Discourse of Narcotic Addiction (Read)
 - Module 7 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-3) (5 points each, 15 points total)
- **Tobacco**
 - Tobacco: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Please Watch)
 - US Cigarette Smoking Rate Falls to Historic Low, But E-Cigarette Use Keeps Climbing (Read)
 - How Juul Hooked Kids and Ignited a Public Health Crisis (Read)
 - Juul Settles More than 5,000 Lawsuits Over its Vaping Products (Read)
 - Module 8 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
- **Alcohol**
 - More Evidence Uber, Lyft are Reducing Drunk Driving Crashes (Read)
 - People Vaporize Alcohol for the First Time (Watch)
 - Parks and Recreation – The Wrong Way to Consume Alcohol (Watch)
 - Alcohol and Behavior (Optional Lecture to Watch)
 - Module 9 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-3) (5 points each, 15 points total)
 - Online Activity: Binge Drinking Campaign (10 points)

Module 4 (June 22 – June 28)

All assignments are due Sunday at 11:59pm CST.

Read/Watch/Complete by. Topic

- **Marijuana and Legalization**
 - Marijuana: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (Watch)
 - The Money Behind Marijuana (Read)
 - Americans Love Weed More than Chocolate (Read)
 - 7 Facts About Americans and Marijuana (Read)
 - The United States of Weed (Read)
 - “Reefer Madness” (Optional film to watch)
 - Module 10 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-3) (5 points each, 15 points total)
- **War on Drugs**
 - The Blood Feud that Launched the War on Drugs (Read)
 - Nixon Declares Drug Abuse “Public Enemy Number One” (Watch)
 - Jimmy Carter Calls for Federal Marijuana Decriminalization (Watch)
 - President Bush Holds up Bag of Crack on National TV (Watch)
 - Legalize it All: How to Win the War on Drugs (Ehrlichman Interview – Read)
 - War on Drugs Timeline (Read)
 - 50-Year War on Drugs Imprisoned Millions of Black Americans (Read)
 - Module 11 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)

Module 5 (June 29 – July 5)

All assignments are due Saturday at 11:59pm CST.

Read/Watch/Complete by. Topic

- **Marijuana and Legalization**
 - The Opioid Epidemic: National Trends in Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths from 2000 to 2017 (Read)
 - Last Week Tonight with John Oliver – Opioids Part 1-3 (Watch 3 Videos)
 - National Opioid Settlement Website (Read)
 - Man Hides in Walgreens, then Tunnels Through Wall to get Opioids, Tennessee Cops Say (Read)
 - Detecting Fentanyl, Saving Lives (Read)
 - Narcan Now Available as an OTC Drug (Read)
 - Module 13 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-3) (5 points each, 15 points total)
- **Drug Courts/Treatment**
 - Drug Court Locations – Interactive Map (Read)
 - Module 14 Video Lecture Quizzes (Parts 1-2) (5 points each, 10 points total)
 - Online Activity: Opioid Timeline (10 points)

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closing, or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closing and the specific dates missed.

