

**CJ 4530-410**  
**PS 4530-410**  
**WAR ON DRUGS**  
**Fall 2009**

**Time:** Tues/Thurs 9:30-10:45 AM

**Place:** 1132 Anne Belk Hall

**Professors:** Dr. Matt Robinson,  
Dr. Renee Scherlen

**Office Information:**

Robinson – 2034 Anne Belk /262-6560

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**Office Hours:**

Robinson – Tu/Th, 11AM-12PM and by appointment

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## **Course Content and Objectives**

This course is about the US war on drugs. Historically, the “war on drugs” is a term used to describe America’s approach to reducing drug use and abuse. Unless you’ve been asleep for most of your life, you must have heard something about it. President George HW Bush declared in a nationally televised message that drug abuse was “our nation’s most serious domestic problem.” His son, President George W. Bush, continued the war despite calls to end it from inside and outside of the United States. In May 2009, the Obama Administration (in a statement by the Drug Czar) said it would no longer use the term “drug war,” although it surely continues to “fight” it. Earlier, President Reagan had diverted more than \$700 million from education, treatment, and research to law enforcement programs to fight the war. More money was also given by Reagan to prisons and the Drug Enforcement Administration, the federal agency responsible for preventing illicit drug use. And President Bill Clinton allocated between \$10 billion and \$18 billion on the war on drugs every year.

What has taken place in the US and abroad in pursuit of the war on drugs? What have been the effects of such efforts on the United States and other countries? Is the US still pursuing a war on drugs, despite the change in rhetoric? Are there alternatives to the war? This course addresses these questions and seeks to guide students in gaining a greater understanding of the issues involved in the US war on drugs.

## **Assigned Texts**

The following books have been ordered for the course:

- I. **The Pursuit of Oblivion: A Global History of Narcotics** by Richard Davenport-Hines
- II. **The War on Drugs IV** by James A. Inciardi
- III. **Lies, Damned Lies, and Drug War Statistics** by Matthew R. Robinson & Renee G. Scherlen
- IV. **Beyond Bogota: Diary of a Drug War Journalist in Colombia** by Garry Leech
- V. **Opium Season: A Year on the Afghan Frontier** by Joel Hafvenstein

## **Grades/Assignments**

### *Exams*

The course will have a mid-term and a final, each worth 100 points. The mid-term will count as 20% of your final grade and the final for 25% of your final grade (combined = 45%). All exams will consist of key terms and short essay questions. It is essential that you do the readings and attend the class since the exams will draw upon readings, lectures, and discussion material. The mid-term test date is approximately October 13<sup>th</sup> and the final exam is Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2:30 (the scheduled period for the final exam).

**No test make-ups are given in this course, unless due to a documented emergency situation (in writing)!** We decide what an emergency is. If you have an emergency and you know in advance that you will be missing a test, we will expect that you inform us before the designated test date by calling one of us at our office phone # listed on the front of the syllabus.

### *Reading Responses*

Twenty percent (20%) of your final grade comes from your assessment of class readings. For each class period you will write a “reading reaction” for EACH of the reading assignments. These are due via AsULearn PRIOR to class (by 8:00 am) to allow for professors to access prior to class time.

Your response to each of the readings must include the following:

1. What are the key points the author raises in the chapter(s)?
2. What contributions does the reading make to your understanding of drugs/the drug war?
3. What parts of the reading were difficult to follow/didn't make sense/lacked evidence?
4. Please include at least two (2) questions raised by the reading to use for class room discussion.

These informal writing assignments will be graded on an unsatisfactory, satisfactory, outstanding scale.

### *Final Paper Project*

Another 20% of your final grade will be determined by a research paper between 12-15 pages in length. **The subject of the paper should be a current political/criminal justice issue or problem related to the war on drugs.** You must use a variety of contemporary scholarly

sources (at least 10; all from the 2000s; you will probably use far more sources than this, and they must include books and research articles beyond mere websites). You must get approval from the professors for your paper topic. The paper is due Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> via AsULearn.

### *Participation*

Fifteen percent (15%) of your grade will be based on class attendance and participation. *Learning takes place through the exchange of ideas within the classroom as well as reading assigned material.* Thus, it is imperative that you attend class. We will take the roll every class. A good participation grade requires you to be involved in classroom activities and discussions. Keep current with the readings and actively engage in deliberations.

Furthermore, we will often assign projects to be completed either during class period or prior to the next class. They may be a group project or an individual assignment. Your work will be graded (check minus, check, check plus) and calculated as part of the overall participation grade.

If necessary, quizzes will also include material from the reading assigned for that class period.

### **Summary of Assignments**

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Mid-Term	=	20% (approximately Oct 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Final	=	25% (Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12:00-2:30 pm)
Reading Response	=	20% (every class period)
Paper Project	=	20% (Nov 24, 2009)
Participation	=	<u>15%</u> (thru out the semester)
Total	=	100%

Grade distributions will be determined using the following scale:

A	94-10	A-	93-90
B+	87-89	B	84-86
B-	80-83	C+	77-79
C	74-76	C-	70-73
D+	67-69	D	64-66
D-	60-63	F	59 and below

**PLEASE NOTE:** When a grade falls between two of the categories provided above, determination of your grade may be based upon attendance and class participation. Thus, it is to your advantage to be a responsible, active student in this class!

### **A Note on Cheating:**

Cheating is strictly prohibited! Cheating is a cheap way to get through school. By cheating, you "cheat" yourself of a significant learning opportunity, and you "cheat" your classmates who have worked hard to learn the materials dealt with in this course. Those caught cheating on a test

WILL be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and receive a failing grade for the course, NO EXCEPTIONS. If you copy someone else's writing assignment and/or plagiarize someone else's words, you will receive a ZERO on the assignment (and a very dirty look from us).

The university's academic integrity policy can be found at the Office of Student Conduct web site: <http://studentconduct.appstate.edu>. Further, academic integrity code can be found at: [http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/index.php?module=documents&JAS\\_DocumentManager\\_op=downloadFile&JAS\\_File\\_id=45](http://studentconduct.appstate.edu/index.php?module=documents&JAS_DocumentManager_op=downloadFile&JAS_File_id=45). If you have any questions about this policy, feel free to contact Dr. Dave Haney, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at [haneydp@appstate.edu](mailto:haneydp@appstate.edu) or 262-2070, or Judy Haas, Director of the Office of Student Conduct at [haasjm@appstate.edu](mailto:haasjm@appstate.edu) or 262-2704.

### **Attendance and Reading:**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Since much of the material presented in class comes from outside sources and from the instructors' experiences, missing class means missing important material.

Students are expected to read all assigned materials **BEFORE** the first day that the material will be presented and discussed. It would be wise for you to outline chapters as you read along, and to take notes, so that you will better understand material as it is presented in class. Remember that you are paying for this experience, so make the most out of it!!!

### **Assignment Due Dates:**

Due dates will be firmly set, and late work **WILL NOT** be accepted. Work in this course will include periodic writing assignments. These give the instructors the opportunity to check on your progress throughout the semester, and provide individualized suggestions for study. They also give you a chance to demonstrate your writing abilities. The instructors will not accept late work that has been left in his/her box or slid under her/his office door, due to the likelihood that such work will be lost, misplaced, stolen, etc.

## **Our Expectations:**

You are not permitted to be disrespectful to your instructors, to other students, or to yourself. Therefore, we ask that you abide by these simple rules: You are NOT permitted to be disrespectful to your instructor, to other students, or to yourself. Therefore, I ask that you abide by these simple rules:

- 1) Come to class on time, stay until it is over!
- 2) Don't be disrespectful in class by talking outside of classroom discussion, reading the paper, listening to music, sleeping, and so on. Save this for out of class (where you spend the great bulk of your lives)!
- 3) **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES and PAGERS and other electronic gadgets !!!** (seriously, you are not *THAT* important). Any behavior unrelated to the course should not

**be engaged in the classroom (so that means no instant messaging, no text messaging, etc.). Here's something to think about – if you cannot turn it off and be away from it for 50 minutes for this class, you might very well have a technology addiction, wouldn't you say?**

*Also, keep in mind that IT IS A CRIME in North Carolina for your cell phone to ring in class. Professors are also authorized to SEIZE your phone if it rings, or even to answer it! I'm sure I can think of some things to say to embarrass you if the phone rings in my class! So, unless you are a police officer, medical doctor, etc. you really do not need this technology in class, do you? Don't worry, they will leave a message and you can call them back!*

4) You have freedom of speech, but no disparaging comments about entire groups of people will be permitted ... and no acts of sexual harassment will be tolerated! Be tolerant of others' viewpoints. And don't take things personally.

5) Eat, drink and be merry. Eat and drink whatever you like as long as you clean up after yourselves. BUT, please refrain from using any tobacco products in class (e.g., dip, snuff, etc.).

### **EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO AND EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE!**

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Appalachian State University provides special services to students with disabilities or special needs. **Students with disabilities or special needs who desire academic accommodations should:**

- 1) Register with and provide documentation to the Learning Disability Program and Disabled Student Services (LDPDSS), who can be reached at 262-2291; and
- 2) Bring a letter to the instructor from the LDPDSS indicating you need academic accommodations. **This should be done within the first week of class.**

#### **IMPORTANT GENERAL DATES (PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR CALENDAR)**

Aug 25	First day of classes
Aug 31	Last day to drop or add a class
Sept 7	State Holiday
Sept 8	UNC "Census" date
Sept 10	Convocation
Sept 24	Last day to drop a first half course
Oct 14	First-half semester ends
Oct 15-16	University Break
Oct 19	Second-half semester begins
Oct 28	Last day to drop a full semester course; last day to withdraw without academic penalty
Nov 17	Last day to drop a second half course
Nov 25	University Break (For students only)
Nov 26-27	State holidays
Dec 7	Last day of formal class meeting pattern

Dec 8	Reading Day
Dec 9-16	Final examination period (excluding Sat, Dec 12 and Sun, Dec 13)
Dec 13	Commencement
Dec 17	Faculty grading period
Dec 18	Last day to submit final grades

***If you have any questions, or if any part of the syllabus is unclear, please come and speak with us.***

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Do the readings **PRIOR TO CLASS TIME** on the day assigned so that you can ask questions and participate fully.

**Week #1**

Aug 25	Introduction: Review of Syllabus
Aug 27	Initial Assumptions & Views regarding war on drugs

**Week #2**

Sept 1	The Policy Process; the Role of Theory in Policy Development & Assessment
Sept 3	Basic Drug Facts

**Reading:**

Sept 1: Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 1  
Sept 3: Inciardi, Chapter 1

**Week #3**

Sept 8	The Nature of Drugs & Drug Use
Sept 10	NO CLASS - CONVOCATION

**Reading:**

Sept 8: Facts about drugs -- <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/drugfact/index.html>  
Drug by drug -- <http://www.drugpolicy.org/drugbydrug/>  
Drug facts -- [http://safety1st.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=37](http://safety1st.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&Itemid=37)  
Marijuana The Facts -- <http://www.drugpolicy.org/marijuana/>  
Common questions about marijuana -- <http://www.mpp.org/library/common-questions-about-marijuana.html>

Marijuana Myths vs. Reality -- <http://www.mpp.org/library/marijuana-myths-vs-reality.html>

**Week #4**

Sept 15 Drug Production & Consumption: A Global History  
Sept 17 Drug Production & Consumption: A Global History

**Reading:**

Sept 15: Davenport-Hines, Chapter 1-6  
Sept 17: Davenport-Hines, Chapter 7-10, 12

**Week #5**

Sept 22 History of the War on Drugs in the US  
Sept 24 History of the War on Drugs in the US

**Reading:**

Sept 22: Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 2  
Davenport-Hines, Chapter 11  
Inciardi, Chapter 2  
Sept 24: Inciardi, Chapter 3-7

**Week #6**

Sept 29 Drug Use, Abuse, and Responses-Comparison of US & "World"  
Oct 1 The War on Drugs At Home: Goals & Methods

**Reading:**

Sept 29: Davenport-Hines, Chapter 14  
Oct 1: Inciardi, Chapter 10

**Week #7**

Oct 6 The War on Drugs At Home: Goals & Methods  
Oct 8 The War on Drugs At Home: Goals & Methods

**Reading:**

Oct 6: "National Drug Control Strategy" Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Oct 8: "National Drug Control Strategy" Office of National Drug Control Policy

**Week #8**

Oct 13 **MID-TERM EXAM**  
Oct 15 NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

**Week #9**

Oct 20 The War on Drugs Abroad: Overview  
Oct 22 The War on Drugs Abroad: Case Study #1 (Colombia)

**Reading:**

Oct 20: Leech, Chapter 1-6

Oct 22: Leech, Chapter 7-11

**Week #10**

Oct 27 The War on Drugs Abroad: Case Study #1 & #2 (Afghanistan)

Oct 29 The War on Drugs Abroad: Case Study #2

**Reading:**

Oct 27: Hafvenstein, Chapter 1-16 (pgs. 1-175)

Oct 29: Hafvenstein, Chapter 17-29 (pgs. 176-328)

**Week #11**

Nov 3 Evaluation of the Drug War in the US – goals achieved?

Nov 5 Evaluation of the Drug War in the US – goals achieved?

**Reading:**

Nov 3: Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 4

Marijuana Arrests, Availability and Use --

<http://www.mpp.org/assets/pdfs/dm/3DECADESFAILURE.PDF>

Drugwar Battle Damage Assessment 1995-2005 --

<http://www.briancbennett.com/antidotes/drugwar95-05.htm>

**Week #12**

Nov 10 Evaluation of the Drug War Abroad-goals achieved?

Nov 12 Evaluation of the Drug War Abroad-goals achieved?

**Reading:**

Nov 10: Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 5

Nov 12: "Evaluating U.S. Policy in Colombia"

<http://americas.irconline.org/reports/2005/0505colombia.html>

"War on Drugs and War on Terror: Case of Afghanistan"

<http://www.review.upeace.org/index.cfm?opcion=0&ejemplar=17&entrada=86>

**Week #13**

Nov 17 Critique of the War in the US – cost/benefit analysis/harms assessment

Nov 19 Critique of the War Abroad – cost-benefit analysis/harms assessment

**Reading:**

Nov 17: Inciardi, Chapter 8-9

Robinson & Scherlen, Chapters 6

Nov 19: Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 7

Drugs, Police, and the Law -- <http://drugpolicy.org/law/>

The Vortex: The Concentrated Racial Impact of Drug Imprisonment and the

Characteristics of Punitive Counties -- [http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07-12\\_REP\\_Vortex\\_AC-DP.pdf](http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07-12_REP_Vortex_AC-DP.pdf)

Cracks in the System: Twenty Years of Unjust Federal Crack Cocaine Law --  
[http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/drugpolicy/cracksinsystem\\_20061025.pdf](http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/drugpolicy/cracksinsystem_20061025.pdf)

**Week #14**

Nov 24 Alternatives to the War Approach  
**RESEARCH PAPER DUE** – submit by 9:30 am to AsU Learn  
Nov 26 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

**Reading:**

Nov 24: Inciardi, Chapter 11  
Reducing Harm: Treatment and Beyond -- <http://drugpolicy.org/reducingharm/>

**Week #15**

Dec 1 Alternatives to the War Approach  
Dec 3 Will the War Ever End? Why Does US Pursue a Failed Strategy?  
Confronting the ONDCP & Strategies for Change

**Reading:**

Dec 1: Inciardi, Chapter 12  
Robinson & Scherlen, Chapter 8  
Building the Capacity to Address the Nation's Drug Problems --  
[http://www.napawash.org/pc\\_management\\_studies/ONDCP\\_12\\_09/ONDCP%20Buildin%20Capacity%20-%20Nov%202008.pdf](http://www.napawash.org/pc_management_studies/ONDCP_12_09/ONDCP%20Buildin%20Capacity%20-%20Nov%202008.pdf)

**Final will be Wednesday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:30 pm**