SOCA3630 Drugs in Culture
Course Outline

Course Coordinator: Dr Andrew Lattas
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Email: Andrew.Lattas@newcastle.edu.au
Semester: Semester 2 - 2007
Unit Weighting: 10
Teaching Methods: Lecture/Tutorial

Brief Course Description
Course Description. Using comparative material, this course will explore the social relationships and the cultural forms which drugs mediate. Ethnographic and historical material from Western and indigenous societies will be used to explore the particular social and cultural meanings of drug use. Attention will be given to the social history of drugs in the West and in Asia; the social and cultural rules governing drug use; drugs and social control; and the use of hallucinogens in relationship to shamanism, divination and healing in indigenous societies. The course will explore the cultural meanings attached to altered states of consciousness. The focus will not be so much on the scientific bio-medical aspects of drugs but on people's understandings of biology, embodiment and consciousness. Specific topics covered will vary from year to year. However, it is envisaged that possible topics will include: drugs and the exploration of alternative realities; drugs and identity; drugs and subcultures; the social distribution and control of drugs; the social and cultural effects of drugs; drugs and the financing of criminal activities and political conflicts; and the social use of alcohol in the West.
**Contact Hours**
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Tutorial for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term

**Learning Materials/Texts:** Book of Readings

**Course Objectives**
Course Objectives. Upon completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:
1. An understanding of the different theoretical perspectives used to study cultural practices.
2. Knowledge of the way in which experiences are socially controlled and culturally formed.
3. An ability to critically analyse social practices and cultural representations.
4. Skills in writing academic essays, giving oral presentations, and policy research.

**Course Content**
1. Theories of the way in which experiences are symbolically and socially constituted.
2. Theories of the social control and use of drugs.
3. Classic ethnographic studies of how relationships are mediated by alternative realities.
4. Contemporary ethnographic studies of drugs use.
5. The political economy of drugs.

**Assessment Items**
Assessment Essays / Written Assignments
Tutorial paper worth 20%, 1000 words.
Essays / Written Assignments Essay 1 worth 40% due mid-semester, 1500 words.
Essays / Written Assignments Essay 2 worth 40% due end of semester, 1500 words.

**Assumed Knowledge**
SOCA1020 or equivalent.

**Callaghan Campus**
**SOCA3630 DRUGS IN CULTURE**
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 2 - 2007

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Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.
Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received in the Student Hub no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

- For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007
- For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007
- For Trimester 1 courses: 16 February 2007
- For Trimester 2 courses: 8 June 2007

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.
Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

**Faculty Information**

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**

- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**

- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**

- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

**Faculty websites**

**Faculty of Business and Law**


**Faculty of Education and Arts**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

**Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

**Faculty of Health**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

**Faculty of Science and Information Technology**

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/

**Contact details**

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie
Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit:


Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards


Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards


Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards


STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability).
Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

Additional Information

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

Type your assignments: All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.

Word length: The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.

Proof read your work because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.

Staple the pages of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).

University Assessment Item Coversheet: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/

By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:
Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
Ground Floor, University House, City
Opposite Café Central, Ourimbah

Date-stamping assignments: All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.

Keep a copy of all assignments: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

Essay of 1,500 words (40%) due week 9

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Special Circumstances

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

No Assignment Re-submission

Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Re-marks & Moderations

A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result – in the course to which the assessment item contributes – has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-
mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator  
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark  
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade  
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark  
5. the number of original markers, that is,  
   a) whether there was a single marker, or  
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Re-marks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or  
2. an alternate internal marker; or  
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)  
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline  
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course  
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

Return of Assignments

Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.


Preferred Referencing Style

See essay topics
Student Representatives

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Refer - ‘Information for Student Representatives on Committees’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/committees/student_reps/index.html

Student Communication

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services is available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

Grading guide

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<th>Grade Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail (FF)</td>
<td>An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass (P)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit (C)</td>
<td>The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction (D)</td>
<td>Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction (HD)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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**Mid-Semester Recess:** Tuesday 2 October to Friday 12 October 2007

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**Examination period:** 5 November to Friday 23 November

**Non-Discriminatory Language**

Students are required to use non-discriminatory language. This includes avoiding the use of "he" to refer to men and women. Two easy ways of doing this are to use the plural (ie. they) or "s/he" (the short form for "he or she"). The terms "Aboriginal" and "Aborigines" are spelt with a capital A, just like "English," "French" or "Spanish".
Lecture and Tutorial Topics and Readings

**Week 1 Lecture Peyote: the return to paradise (Dr Barry Morris)**

**Lecture References:**

**Tutorial**
This will be mainly an organisational tutorial

**Week 2 Lecture Rasta, Ganja and Babylon (Dr Barry Morris)**

**Lecture References:**
Forsythe, D. 1999 Ch.6 *On the Ganja Trail*, in *Rastafari: healing of the nations*, New York: One Drop Books

**Tutorial Readings**
Week 3, Lecture The Political Economy of Cocaine: South America

Lecture References:
Morales, Edmondo 1990 The Political Economy of Cocaine Production: an analysis of the Peruvian Case, Latin American Perspectives, 67, 4, pp.91-109
Morales, Edmondo 1986 Coca and Cocaine and Social change in the Andes of Peru, Economic Development and Cultural Change, 35, pp.153-161
Malkin, V. 2001 Narco Trafficking, Migration and Modernity in Rural Mexico, Latin American Perspectives, 119, 4.

Tutorial Readings
Edmonds, E. B. ch.4 The Ethos of Rastafari: structure, ideology and ritual, in Rastafari: from outcastes to culture bearers, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Week 4 The Political Economy of Cocaine: New York’s Cocaine Kids

Lecture References
Miller, Jerome G 1996 Search and Destroy: African-American males in the criminal justice system New York: Cambridge University Press,

Tutorial Readings
Morales, Edmondo 1990 The Political Economy of Cocaine Production: an analysis of the Peruvian Case, Latin American Perspectives, 67, 4, pp.91-109
Morales, Edmondo 1986 Coca and Cocaine and Social change in the Andes of Peru, Economic Development and Cultural Change, 35, pp.153-161
Week 5 Lecture: Risk Society: delegitimating legal drugs

Lecture References
Collison, Mike 1996 In search of the high life, British Journal of Criminology, v.36, no.3, pp. 428-444

Tutorial Readings
William, Terry 1992 in Crackhouse: notes from the end of the line, ch. 8 Work, New York: Addison Wesley Publishing Company

Week 6 Lecture: Skid Row and the social uses of alcohol

Lecture References
Spradley, James P. 1970 You owe yourself a drunk: an ethnography of urban nomads, Boston: Little, Brown,

Tutorial Readings
Week 7 Lecture: Heroin (Dr Andrew Lattas)

Lecture References:


Tutorial Readings


Week 8 Lecture Ecstasy: Drugs in a Modern World (Dr Andrew Lattas)

Lecture References:


Tutorial Readings


**Week 9  Lecture Drugs and Shamanism in Colombia (Dr Andrew Lattas)**

**Lecture References:**


**Tutorial Readings**


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**Week 10  Lecture Cannabis and Cultural Change (Dr Andrew Lattas)**

**Lecture References:**


**Tutorial Readings**


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**Week 11 Lecture Crack and Women**

**Lecture References:**


**Tutorial Readings**


**Week 12 Lecture Prozac and the Medicalisation of Depression**

**Lecture References:**
Rosso, Amanda. "Behind every crooked thought there lies a crooked molecule": A sociocultural analysis of Prozac. BA (Honours), Macquarie University, 1997.

**Tutorial Readings**

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**Week 13 Lecture: Ecstatic Religious States (Dr Andrew Lattas)**

**Lecture** Video: Dealing with Drugs (Dr David Suzuki)

**Tutorial Readings**

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**Week Fourteen, Lecture Revision and Review**