

# RCS 4451 PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

SPRING 2020, CLASS NUMBER 20160, 3 CREDITS, DELIVERY FORMAT: IN-PERSON, CANVAS

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION: TUESDAY, 3P-350P & WEDNESDAY, 3P-4:55P, HPNP RM G-101

Instructor: Dr. Mike Moorhouse  
Office: HPNP, Room 4137  
Phone: 352.273.6564

Email: [mmoorhou@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:mmoorhou@phhp.ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday 4p-6p,  
or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Collins

Email: [sbrusca527@ufl.edu](mailto:sbrusca527@ufl.edu)

## ***PREQUISITES***

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Students must be either a Health Science, Communication Science, or Public Health major in the College of Public Health and Health Professions; completing a Public Health minor; or have instructor permission.

## ***COURSE OVERVIEW***

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We will examine the primary determinants and outcomes associated with substance use from a public health perspective. We will explore how the evolving social climate has impacted our view of various substances. We will examine use patterns and consequences of many illegal and legal substances. Upon successfully completing the course, the goals are for students to be more aware of the significance of social contexts and substance use.

## ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

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Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss current historical and perspectives on substance use.
- Identify common substances of abuse, their developmental effects, and the signs and symptoms of intoxication and withdrawal.
- Understand the sociopolitical circumstances that influence the past and future legality of drugs and alcohol.
- Discuss how substance use impacts individuals, families, and society.
- Discuss current "hot button" public health topics related to substance use.

## ***REQUIRED TEXT***

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The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star  
Author: Nikki Sixx  
Publisher: New York: MTV Books  
Publication Year: 2008

\*Available on Kindle and iTunes

\*\*Audiobook version is acceptable

## REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

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- **Exams** (60 Points) – Students will take 3, 40 question multiple choice exams via Lock-Down Browser. All questions will be taken directly from lecture, videos, class discussion, and assigned readings. **Any student caught cheating will, at minimum, be referred to the Dean of Students Office, receive a zero on the exam, and have a full-letter grade reduction for the class.**
- **Reaction Papers** (10 Points) – Students will participate in 7 classroom discussions. Each discussion will address a current “hot button” topic. Following each discussion, students will be responsible for uploading a 150 word reaction paper to canvas by 11:59pm the day of the discussion. Each reaction paper will count for 2 points and only 5 of the 7 reaction papers will be needed to fulfill the total points toward your grade. There are no make-ups for missed reaction papers, and no extra credit will be given for additional reaction papers. Students must be present for the in-class discussion to be eligible to complete a reaction paper. Late reaction papers, even for students who are present for the discussion, will not be accepted. **Any students submitting a reaction paper when they were not present for the in-class discussion will, at minimum, be referred to the Dean of Students Office, receive a zero on the assignment, and have a full-letter grade reduction for the class.**
- **Attendance Checks** (10 Points) – The instructor will give 7 random attendance checks throughout the semester which may be given at the beginning, middle, or end of any class period. Each check will be worth 3 points and students need to be present for only 5 checks to receive full credit. There are no make-ups for missed attendance checks, and no extra credit will be given for additional attendance checks. **Falsifying attendance on behalf of another student will, at minimum, result in a referral to the Dean of Students Office and full-letter grade reduction for the class.**
- **Public Service Announcement** (10 Points) – Students will form into groups of 5 and develop a 30-90 second Public Service Announcement (PSA) related to drugs and/or alcohol. All students are expected to actively contribute to the development of the PSA. Further instructions will be provided.
- **PSA Peer Evaluation** (5 Points) – Students will be evaluated by their PSA group members during the course of the semester. The final evaluation will be worth 5 points.
- **Professionalism** (5 Points) - The instructor reserves the right to deduct class points for unprofessional behavior including, but is not limited to, texting during class, continuously showing up late to class, distracting classmates, or using a computer or cell phone when not authorized.

## GRADING

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The student’s final grade will be based on the number of points accumulated during the course:

Exams (x3)	60 Points	A	93-100 Points	=	4.00
Reaction Papers (x5)	10 Points	A-	90-92.99 Points	=	3.67
Attendance Checks (x5)	10 Points	B+	87-89.99 Points	=	3.33
Public Service Announcement	10 Points	B	83-86.99 Points	=	3.00
PSA Peer Evaluation	5 Points	B-	80-82.99 Points	=	2.67
Professionalism	5 Points	C+	77-79.99 Points	=	2.33
		C	70-76.99 Points	=	2.00
		D+	67-69.99 Points	=	1.33
Total	100 Points	D	63-65.99 Points	=	1.00

Please see the UF Grading Policy for more information, please visit the undergraduate catalog at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

## CALANDER

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07-Jan	T	Class Introduction
08-Jan	W	The Long Strange History as to How Drugs Became Illegal in the US
14-Jan	T	Drug Basics
15-Jan	W	<b>Class Discussion 1: Is Addiction a Disease?</b>
21-Jan	T	Addiction and the Family
22-Jan	W	Guest Speaker – An Addict’s Story
28-Jan	T	The "War on Drugs"
29-Jan	W	The Impact of Incarceration and Mandatory Minimum Sentencing
04-Feb	T	<b>Class Discussion 2: Should We Prosecute Pregnant Women Who Use Drugs?</b>
05-Feb	W	<b>Exam 1 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 1–139; December 1986 – April 1987)</b>
11-Feb	T	No Lecture / <b>PSA Group Check-In and Evaluation 1</b>
12-Feb	W	Alcohol: America’s True National Past Time
18-Feb	T	“Binge Drinking” Among College Students: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
19-Feb	W	Moms are MADD – The Formation of Mothers Against Drunk Driving
25-Feb	T	<b>Class Discussion 3: How Should Universities and Colleges Handle College Drinking?</b>
26-Feb	W	No Class
03-Mar	T	Spring Break
04-Mar	W	Spring Break
10-Mar	T	<b>Class Discussion 4: E-Cigarettes/Vaping Public Health Friend or Foe?</b>
11-Mar	W	Tobacco: The World’s Most Notorious Serial Killer
17-Mar	T	The Master Settlement Agreement: Funding Implications
18-Mar	W	<b>Exam 2 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 140 – 261; May 1987 – August 1987)</b>
24-Mar	T	No Lecture / <b>PSA Group Check-In and Evaluation 2</b>
25-Mar	W	Marijuana
31-Mar	T	Breaking Down State Marijuana Laws
01-Apr	W	<b>Class Discussion 5: Should Marijuana Be Legalized at the Federal Level?</b>
07-Apr	T	How Prescription Opioids Spiraled Out of Control
08-Apr	W	Heroin and Other Opioids / <b>Public Service Announcements Due</b>
14-Apr	T	Harm Reduction: A Closer Look at Naloxone
15-Apr	W	<b>Class Discussion 6: Heroin Diaries</b>
21-Apr	T	Public Service Announcements Presentations / <b>PSA Evaluation 3</b>
22-Apr	W	<b>Exam 3 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 232 – 393; September 1987 – December 1987)</b>

## **GENERAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

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### **PROFESSIONALISM**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all communication with the course instructor and any staff that assist with this course. Moreover, students are expected to arrive to class on-time, turn off all computers and cell phones, and conduct themselves accordingly (e.g., no excessive talking during class, cell phone use, or distracting classmates).

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of any technology, including cell phones, computers, tablets, etc., at any point during class is strictly prohibited unless otherwise instructed by the instructor. Should you need to keep your cell phone on hand due to a personal reason, please inform the instructor prior to class.

### **MAKE-UP POLICY**

Make ups will be given for exams only. The student must have either: (a) prior authorization from the instructor, or (b) an official medical excuse (signed by the treating physician) indicating the student's inability to attend class on the missed day. The official medical excuse must be presented within 48 hours after being released from medical treatment.

### **ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### **COUNSELING & STUDENT HEALTH**

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in-person assistance is available.

- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:  
Alachua County Crisis Center  
(352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

### ***INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIORNMENT***

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Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)