FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
DRUGS in HISTORY
FALL 2009

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Section 1: Chapin 101

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REQUIRED READINGS

Books. You may buy the books below at Amherst Books (they are also on reserve in Frost Library) – except for Graff and Birkenstein, which you must buy.

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing

Craig Reinarman and Harry Levine, Crack in America: Demon Drugs and Social Justice

Jeffrey A. Schaler, Drugs: Should We Legalize, Decriminalize or Deregulate?

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants

Thomas R. Pegram, Battling Demon Rum: the Struggle for a Dry America, 1800-1933

Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

Nick Bromell, Tomorrow Never Knows: Rock and Psychedelics in the 1960s

Peter Kramer, Listening to Prozac

Recommended: Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History

Course Reader. Readings followed by “R” are in the course reader. You may pick up the course reader in the History Office, Chapin Hall.

Readings on the Web. You can find these readings (marked “E”) by clicking on the links on the electronic version of this syllabus on the course website.
AIMS, ASSIGNMENTS, GRADES

This course is meant to enable you to think, speak and write clearly about a subject that often evokes hysteria, hyperbole, dogmatism, confusion and rhetorical excess. It focuses on writing – constructing clear sentences and using those sentences to generate arguments that express a point a view and adduce evidence to support that view. You should take drafts of papers to the Writing Center; we suggest dates by which you should pass in drafts to a writing assistant. Final versions of papers should be handed in BOTH via e-mail (as a file attachment sent to your section leader) AND in hard copy (handed in to your section leader’s box).

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADES

a) 3 pp (10%) “They Say/I Say” paper– submit draft by Fri. Oct. 2 to writing assistant; revision due Wed. Oct. 7 by 5:00 pm.
b) 5 pp paper (20%), draft to tutor by Thurs. Oct. 29; revision due Wed. Nov. 4 by 5:00 pm.
c) 5 pp paper (20%), draft to tutor by Wed. Nov. 18; revision due Wed. Dec. 2 by 5:00 pm.
d) 7-8 pp paper (30%), draft to tutor by Dec. 17 , final draft due Dec. 22 by 5:00 pm.
e) Class participation counts for 20% of the grade.

In addition there are periodic shorter writing assignments which are ungraded but important for gauging your progress as a writer.

For information on academic honesty and plagiarism, please visit the college website, http://www.amherst.edu/plagiarism

SYLLABUS

I. THINKING ABOUT DRUG USE AND DRUG CONTROL

Th, Sept. 10: INTRODUCTION: READING, WRITING, THINKING ABOUT DRUGS (OR ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE)

Graff & Birkenstein, Preface & Introduction (bring book to class)

Tu, Sept. 15 PUSHERS AND CONTROLLERS (BOTH SECTIONS MEET IN CHAPIN 101)

GRAFF AND BIRKENSTEIN, PART I

Drug Enforcement Administration, “Mission Statement”
http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/agency/mission.htm
WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: TWO SENTENCES ON EACH WEBSITE’S MESSAGE -- WHAT DO “THEY SAY?”

TH, SEPT. 17 LOOKING AT DRUG USE CLOSE TO HOME

Graff and Birkenstein, Part II
National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse, “Preventing Alcohol-Related Problems on College Campuses”
Wechsler, et al. “College Binge Drinking,” [R]
Anonymous, “Drug Use at Amherst College” [R]
Drug Stats, section 2

WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: TWO SENTENCES ON WHAT “THEY SAY”, AND TWO SENTENCES ON WHAT “YOU SAY,” IN REGARD TO ANY TWO OF THE ABOVE.

TU, SEPT. 22 THINKING ABOUT BASIC TERMS: DRUG USE, DRUG ABUSE, DRUG PROBLEMS, DRUG PANICS

Graff and Birkenstein, Chaps. 8, 9
Goode, Drugs in American Society, pp. 41-52, 56-64 [R]
Reinarman and Levine, Chapter 1
“Drug Abuse,” DSM-IV criteria for drug dependence and abuse [R]
Drug Stats, sections 1, 3

WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: ONE PAGE IN THE “THEY SAY/I SAY” FORMAT IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION: “WHAT IS A DRUG PROBLEM? “ OR “WHAT IS DRUG ABUSE?”
TH, SEPT. 24 DEFINING ADDICTION: DISEASE, HABIT, CHOICE…?

Graff and Birkenstein, Chap. 10
Koob, “Drug Addiction” [R]
Leshner, “Addiction is a Brain Disease”
http://www.nap.edu/issues/17.3/leshner.htm
Drug Stats, sec. 4

WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: ONE PAGE IN THE “THEY SAY/ I SAY” FORMAT RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION: “WHAT IS ADDICTION AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT?”

TU, SEPT. 29 CASE STUDIES OF “ADDICTION”

Schaler, Drugs, ch. 23, 24
Waldorf, et al., Cocaine Changes, pp. 1-2, 9-14, 140-156 [R]
Reinarman and Levine, Ch. 4

WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: ONE PAGE ON WHAT “THEY SAY” AND ONE ON WHAT “I SAY” IN REGARD TO THE READINGS.

FILM: “DRUGSTORE COWBOY”
VIEW BY NEXT CLASS

TH, OCT. 1 DISCUSSION OF “DRUGSTORE COWBOY” (BOTH SECTIONS MEET IN CHAPIN 101)

Drug Stats, section 4.4, fig. 8.3
Schivelbusch, Ch. 1

DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY FRIDAY, OCT. 2

II. PSYCHOACTIVE REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION

TU, OCT. 6 PSYCHOACTIVE REVOLUTION: THE GROWTH OF THE WORLD DRUG MARKET

Schivelbusch, Chs. 2, 4

FIRST PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7 BY 5:00 PM
TH, Oct. 8  THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF DRINKING

Schivelbusch, Chs. 5-7
Pegram, Ch. 1

TU, Oct. 13  CONTROLLING ALCOHOL IN AMERICA  (BOTH SECTIONS MEET IN MEAD ART MUSEUM. COME EARLY IF POSSIBLE)

Pegram, Chs. 2-5

TH, Oct. 15  THE RISE AND FALL OF ALCOHOL PROHIBITION

Pegram, Chs. 6-8, epilogue

TU, Oct. 20  CONTROLLING OPIATES, COCAINE, AND MARIJUANA

Schivelbusch, Ch. 8
Schaler, Drugs, Ch. 1
Spillane, Cocaine, Ch. 5 [R]
Addiction Research Unit, “Before Prohibition”
http://wings.buffalo.edu/aru/preprohibition.htm

film “REEFER MADNESS”
(View by next class)

TH, Oct. 22  MARIJUANA: KILLER WEED

Discuss film
Himmelstein, The Strange Career of Marihuana, Ch. 4 [R]

TU, Oct. 27  MARIJUANA: DROP-OUT DRUG

Himmelstein, The Strange Career of Marihuana, Chs. 6 and 7 [R]

FILM: “TRAFFIC”
(view by next class)

TH, Oct. 29  DISCUSS “TRAFFIC”

DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY OCT. 29
Tu, Nov. 3  INTERNATIONAL DRUG MARKETS: ASIA


SECOND PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4 AT 5:00 PM

Th, Nov. 5  INTERNATIONAL DRUG MARKETS: LATIN AMERICA

Contreras and Ambrus, “Fighting the New Drug Lords,” Newsweek, February 21, 2000 [E]

III. BETTER LIVING THROUGH CHEMISTRY: THE PSYCHOACTIVE REVOLUTION and THE MORALITY OF PLEASURE

Tu, Nov. 10  DRUGS AND POWER IN THE BRAVE NEW WORLD

Huxley, Brave New World

Th, Nov. 12  THE PSYCHEDELIC EXPERIENCE (BOTH SECTIONS MEET IN CHAPIN 101)

(IN-CLASS LISTENING TO `60s “PSYCHEDELIC” MUSIC)

Huxley, Doors of Perception, pp. 14-34 [R]
Lee and Shlain, Acid Dreams, Chapter 2 [R]
Bromell, Chs. 1-2

FILM: “EASY RIDER”
(view by class on Tu., Nov 17)

Tu, Nov. 17  DISCUSS “EASY RIDER” AND BROMELL

Bromell, Chs. 3-6

DRAFT OF THIRD PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY WED. NOV. 18
TH, Nov. 19  THE  ANTI-DEPRESSANTS

Kramer, Introduction, Chs. 1-3

THANKSGIVING BREAK – Nov. 21-29

Tu, Dec. 1  DEBATING THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Kramer, Chs. 5 (pp. 108-131) and 9 (pp. 250-287)

In addition, read any two of the following four articles:


THIRD PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2 AT 5:00 PM

Th, Dec. 3  “The CRACK ATTACK”

Reinarman and Levine, Chs. 2, 3, 5,12

IV. DEBATING DRUG CONTROL

Tu, Dec. 8  THE CRITIQUE OF PUNITIVE PROHIBITION

Reinarman and Levine, Chs. 11, 13, 16

Th, Dec. 10,  RESPONDING TO THE CRITICS

Schaler, Drugs, Chs. 3, 4, 11
Currie, Reckoning, pp. 164-190 [R]
**Tu, Dec 15**  
**Harm Reduction: A Third Way? (Both sections will meet in Chapin 101 for a debate. Stay tuned for directions)**

- Reinarman and Levine, Ch. 17
- MacCoun and Reuter, “Marijuana, Heroin, and Cocaine” [E]
- MacCoun and Reuter, *Drug War Heresies*, pp. 238-264 [R]

**Draft of final paper to writing assistant by Dec. 17**

**Final paper to instructor by Dec. 22**