

**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR  
DRUGS in HISTORY  
FALL 2009**

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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 Reinerman 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>

National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Exploring Myths About Drug Abuse"  
[http://www.nida.nih.gov/published\\_articles/myths.html](http://www.nida.nih.gov/published_articles/myths.html)

National Institute of Mental Health "The Invisible Disease: Depression"  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/invisible.cfm>

GlaxoSmithKline, "Paxil," <http://www.paxil.com/#>

National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, "Personal Use"  
[http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group\\_ID=5442](http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5442)

Drug Policy Alliance, "Harm Reduction"  
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/reducingharm/>

**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"

<http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh284/249-251.htm>

Wechsler, et al. "College Binge Drinking," [R]

Kluger, "Medicating Young Minds" Time, November 3, 2003 [E]

Kirn, "University Blues: A Crisis," Time, November 3, 2003 [E]

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  
Stutz, "When My Life Fell Apart..." *NY Times Magazine*, May 6, 2007 [E]

**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

Alfred McCoy, The Politics of Heroin, pp. 9-20, 436-453, 478-492 [R]

**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]

Brzezinski, "Re-engineering the Drug Business," NY Times, June 23, 2002 [E]

Zurita-Vargas, "Coca Culture," New York Times, October 15, 2003 [E]

Forero, "Bolivia's Knot: No to Cocaine, but Yes to Coca," New York Times,  
February 12, 2006 [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:*

Elliott, "American Bioscience Meets the American Dream," The American Prospect, June, 2003 [E]

Noonan and Cowley, "Prozac vs. Placebos," Newsweek, July 15, 2002 [E]

Rothman, "Shiny Happy People," The New Republic, Feb. 14, 1994 [E]

Sandel, "The Case Against Perfection," Atlantic Monthly, Apr., 2004 [E]

**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

"The War on Drugs is Lost," National Review, Feb. 1996 [E]

**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]

Reinarman, Cohen, and Kaal, "The Limited Relevance of Drug Policy:  
Cannabis in San Francisco and Amsterdam" [R]

**DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY DEC. 17**

**FINAL PAPER TO INSTRUCTOR BY DEC. 22**