**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR**

**DRUGS in HISTORY**

**FALL 2010**

Class meets in Chapin 101

PROF. F. COUVARES Office: Chapin 17

[fgcouvares@amherst.edu](mailto:fgcouvares@amherst.edu) Office hrs: Tu 2:30-4, W 10-12

## 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* and

Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*

**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 the readings (marked “E”) and the links by going to the course website and clicking on E-Reserves.

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. Below I suggest dates by which you should discuss drafts with a Writing Assistant, before they are revised and submitted to me.

Assignments, grades:

a) 3 pp (10%) “They Say/I Say” paper– submit draft by Fri. Oct. 1 to Writing Assistant; revision due Fri. Oct. 8.

b) 5 pp paper (20%), draft to WA by Wed., Oct. 27, revision due Fri., Nov. 5.

c) 5 pp paper (20%), draft to WA by Wed., Dec. 1, revision due Mon., Dec. 6.

d) 8 pp paper (30%), due Tu., Dec. 21.

e) Class participation counts for 20% of the grade.

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

**Tu, Sept. 7:** Introduction: reading, writing, thinking about drugs

(or about anything else)

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

**Th, Sept. 9:** pushers and controllers

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>

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

Eli Lilly Co., “Prozac,” <http://www.prozac.com/Pages/index.aspx>

National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, “Personal Use” <http://www.norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=5442>

Drug Policy Alliance, “Harm Reduction”

<http://www.drugpolicy.org/reducingharm/>

WRITE & BRING TO CLASS: two typed sentences on each website’s message -- what do “They Say?”

**Tu, Sept. 14:** 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 typed sentences on what “They Say”, and two on what “You Say,” in regard to any TWO of the above.

**Th, Sept.16:** 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 typed page in the “they say/I say” format in answer to the question: “What is a drug problem? “ or “What is drug abuse?”

**Tu, Sept. 21:** 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: Two typed pages in the “they say/ I say” format responding to the question: “What is addiction and what should be done about it?”

**Th, Sept. 23:** 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: two sentences on what “they say” and two on what “i say” in regard to any two of the readings.

### Film: “Drugstore Cowboy”

**View by next class**

**Tu, Sept. 28:** Discussion of “Drugstore Cowboy”

Drug Stats, section 4.4, fig. 8.3

Schivelbusch, Ch.1

### II. PSYCHOACTIVE REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION

# **Th, Sept. 30:** psychoactive revolution: the growth of the world drug market

Schivelbusch, Chs. 2, 4

DRAFT OF FIRST PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY FRIDAY, OCT. 1

**Tu, Oct. 5:** the industrialization of drinking

Schivelbusch, Chs. 5-7

Pegram, Ch. 1

**Th,** **Oct. 7:** Controlling alcohol in america

Pegram, Chs. 2-5

**Paper due Friday. October 8, 1 pm**

**Oct. 9** **– 12:**  **OCTOBER BREAK**

**Th, Oct. 14:** The rise and fall of alcohol prohibition

Pegram, Chs. 6-8, epilogue

**Tu, Oct.19:** 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. 21:** Marijuana: killer weed

Discuss film

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

Tu, Oct. 26: Marijuana: drop-out drug

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

**film: “TRAFFIC”**

(View by next class)

DRAFT OF SECOND PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY FRIDAY, OCT. 27

**Th, Oct. 28:** Discuss “Traffic”

**Tu, Nov. 2:**  International Drug Markets: Asia

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

**Th, Nov. 4:** 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]

**Second Paper due Friday, Nov. 5, 1 pm**

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

**Tu, Nov. 9:** Drugs and Power in the Brave New World

Huxley, Brave New World

**Th, Nov. 11:** The Psychedelic Experience

(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 Thursday)

**Tu, Nov. 16:** Discuss “Easy Rider” and Bromell

Bromell, Chs. 3-6

1. **Th. Nov 18:** The Anti-Depressants

Kramer, Introduction, Chs. 1-3

### thanksgiving break – November 20-28

**Tu, Nov. 30:** Debating the pursuit of happiness

Kramer, Chs. 5 (pp. 108-131) and 9 (pp. 250-300)

*In addition, read two of the following four articles (to be assigned):*

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]

DRAFT OF THIRD PAPER TO WRITING ASSISTANT BY WEDNESDAY, DEC.1

**Th, Dec. 2:** “The Crack Attack”

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

**Paper due Monday, December 6, 1 pm**

IV. DEBATING DRUG CONTROL

Tu, Dec. 7: 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. 9:** Responding to the Critics

Schaler, Drugs, Chs. 3, 4, 11

Currie, Reckoning, pp. 164-190 [R]

**[Looking ahead to final paper, use Writing Assistant, at your own discretion]**

**Tu, Dec 14:** Harm reduction: A Third Way?

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]

**Final paper due Tues., Dec. 21**

**Appendix: Paper Topics**

**First paper** (10/1; 10/8), 3 pp:

“They Say/I Say” paper addressing the question: To what extent, and in what ways, are the terms “addiction” and “abuse” helpful in understanding drug use and the problems associated with it? To what extent are those terms based more on “myth” and misinformation than on scientific studies?

**Second Paper** (10/27; 11/5), 5 pp:

Over the last century, alcohol, cocaine, opiates, and marijuana have been prohibited in the United States. The prohibition of one of these substances, alcohol, came to an end in 1933. Why were these substances prohibited? Why was alcohol prohibition repealed, while the other drugs have remained prohibited?

**Third Paper** (12/1; 12/6): An imaginary conversation about drugs, pleasure, and power, 5 pp:

Mustapha Mond, Nick Bromell, and Peter Kramer meet at a symposium in Amherst. Over drinks in the Monkey Bar, they engage in a broad-ranging conversation about drugs, addressing questions such as: Is Prozac soma -- have we arrived at the Brave New World? Might drugs be means of escape, of social control, of transcendence, of therapy, and should they be? Are we an under-medicated or over-medicated society? Is there any moral difference between "medications" -- e.g., Prozac, Ritalin, and Valium -- and "self-medications" -- e.g., alcohol, marijuana, meth, heroin, and cocaine? These and other questions easily occupy the evening, from drinks and dinner to after-dinner coffee. What was said?

**Final Paper** (12/21), ca. 8 pp:

A paper topic of your choice, determined in consultation with me. It should be based on materials assigned in the course, as well as on new research. By your return from Thanksgiving break, you should have begun to contemplate your subject, to discuss the subject with me during office hours, and to conduct research.