



Department of Sociology

## **SOC 3330 Drugs and Society**

Online Asynchronous Course (via Canvas)

Instructor: Michael L. Rosino, PhD

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Office: Kellenberg 312 #3 (office on the right)

Q & A Drop-In Hours: T & W 12:30-1:30 (in my office or on Zoom)

### **Course Description:**

Examination of intoxicating substances, their consumption, treatment, and social meaning. Focus will be placed on issues of policy, public health, the legal system, cultural representations, and power dynamics, which incorporates analysis from both the micro- and macro-level.

### **Course Format and Benefits**

This is a **fully online** course with no face-to-face requirements. It is also **asynchronous**. In other words, there are no required meeting times where you must virtually attend lectures or courses. You will instead use modules and tools through Canvas to complete assignments, check-in and communicate with the instructor, and collaborate and engage in conversations with other students.

This format has several important benefits:

- It will allow us to discuss important topics while maintaining the physical distance crucial to our health and safety.
- It also allows for more flexibility to control your own schedule as you complete your work and participate in the course.
- You will also have more flexibility in terms of your location.
- If you have the required technology and reliable access to the internet, you will be able to participate.
- Accordingly, concerns about transportation, your appearance, fulfilling obligations for family, other coursework, and employment will have less impact on your ability to participate actively.
- Finally, this course will help all of us (including myself) develop a richer skillset for using digital technology and communicating and collaborating online. These skills are crucial for success in the contemporary workplace and navigating society.

Additional information about these benefits can be found here:

- [10 Advantages to Taking Online Classes](#)
- [Educational Benefits of Online Learning](#)

### **Online Course Components**

You will be completing several types of components to encourage critical thinking, communication and writing skills, the ability to apply new concepts to trends and events, research literacy, social empathy, and sociological imagination. Weekly modules will each list distinct assignments and their due dates. The modules are organized around specific topics and goals for that week.

### **Participation**

While this course does not require you to step foot in a classroom, participation and engagement are a major component of your course grade. Students will be required to read and engage with all materials, complete all components of all modules, and deeply and thoughtfully engage the material with care and consideration.

### **Communication**

Students should contact me through my Molloy email ([mrosino@molloy.edu](mailto:mrosino@molloy.edu)). I will respond to emails as promptly as possible from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. I do not check email on weekends or evenings. I will also offer opportunities to check in remotely via Zoom. I will also post announcements and updates via Canvas.

Students should use their official Molloy email and check Canvas daily during weekdays for updates and announcements. Students can use the Settings tab in Canvas in their Account to add other emails, a cell phone number, or a Twitter account to receive notifications.

### **Molloy Attendance Policy for Hybrid/Online Courses**

It is the accepted practice at Molloy University that faculty take attendance in all courses. Students should notify faculty if an absence is necessary because of a serious situation. Failure to attend class for two (2) consecutive weeks at any point in the semester without notification of extenuating circumstances will result in an administrative withdrawal from the course. **In the case of an online or hybrid course, attendance is considered similarly important.** Therefore, failure to participate in academic activities in any given week is considered an absence. Examples of participation in academic activities representing attendance would be participation in a class chat or discussion board on an academic topic, submissions of a required assignment, digital interaction with the professor on an academic topic, and completion of a quiz or exam.

Administrative withdrawal results in removal from the course with a grade of “WA” or “WF” determined by the point in the term and the academic performance.

Students should consult the College catalog for complete details regarding withdrawals and the potential financial implications of a withdrawal.

### **Netiquette**

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics of communicating online:

- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs, plus just differences in general.
- Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and profanity are also part of being sensitive to your classmates and should be avoided. Also, consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
- Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses, as this is considered “shouting” on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
- Be respectful of your others' views and opinions. Avoid “flaming” (publicly attacking or insulting) them, as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of getting all different types of points of view.
- Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym, it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put it in parentheses afterward, such as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that, you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
- Use good grammar and spelling and avoid using text messaging shortcuts.

### **Technical Requirements for Use of Canvas**

Canvas will work properly on most modern (5 years old or newer) computers and the mobile application will run on iOS and Android devices. To ensure the best experience using Canvas, please use the latest

version of any popular web browser in conjunction with the latest versions of Flash and Java. Please note that “Internet Explorer” may conflict with some content in Canvas. Firefox, Chrome, or Safari are more reliable options.

A webcam, microphone, and stable Internet are needed to participate in Zoom meetings and for online proctoring. Please make sure that you have access to a computer that is compatible with Canvas. It is your responsibility to ensure access to adequate equipment.

Click here for [more information about supported browsers and software.](#)

Click here for [more information about technology requirements for Fall 2020.](#)

### **Course Goals**

By the time you finish this course, you will be able to:

1. Comprehend and discuss the primary schools of thought within sociology that address the topics of drugs and society, including critical theories and associated research methods.
2. Develop your “sociological imagination” and apply your knowledge and understanding of sociology to social issues and day-to-day life.
3. Define and analyze related concepts (drugs, substance misuse, moral panics, harm reduction, criminalization, etc.) and understand them from a sociological perspective.
4. Better utilize your analytical and intellectual abilities for critical thinking and problem-solving.
5. Clearly articulate your own analysis and standpoint on various vital social issues and back up this standpoint with empirical facts and logical reasoning.
6. Integrate, understand, and write succinctly and academically about sociological research.

### **Course Grade Components:**

1. **Weekly Discussions and Assignments (40%)** – Each weekly module contains either an assignment due on Thurs at 5 pm or participation in a discussion via the discussion board. For the discussions, original posts are due on Thurs at 5 pm, and responses to others’ posts are due the following Monday by 5 pm. These will count toward your grade and your weekly participation in the course.
2. **Quizzes (15%)** – There will be 4 online quizzes on Canvas, each consisting of 10 multiple-choice questions covering content from the readings. Each quiz is worth 5% of your total grade, and your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade.
3. **Review of Op-Eds and Policy Papers (5%)** – A 1-2 page paper reviewing examples of op-eds and policy papers to hone in on effective writing and communication will be due in **Module 6**.
4. **Paper Proposal (5%)** – A one-page proposal of your paper topic, approach, and at least 3 relevant sociological research articles (adequately cited) will be due during **Module 9**.
5. **Rough Draft (10%)** – A 1–2-page rough draft of your paper for the course will be due during **Module 10**.
6. **Op-Ed/Policy Paper (25%)** – A 5-page paper analyzing an issue of your choice related to drugs and society through the theoretical and topical readings introduced in this class and outside scholarly research will be due during **Finals Week**.

Communicating Across the Curriculum Program: Percentage of Grade Involving Evaluation of Writing, Speaking, Critical Thinking Skills: 85%

### **Late Assignments and Due Dates:**

**Late assignments will not be accepted** except in documented cases of family or health emergencies. All assignments for this course should be done well before their due dates to avoid last-minute issues. **Please contact me as soon as possible if you need an extension or clarification.** I am happy to work with students to meet deadlines.

### **Readings:**

To cover a wide range of materials and save you some money, **there is no textbook for this course!** All readings and other materials will be posted to each weekly Module on Canvas.

This course will involve two or three essays, news articles, theoretical or empirical articles, or book chapters, generally totaling about 20-70 pages per week. **Reading for this course is essential** for following lectures, discussions, and activities and performing well on coursework. Some of these readings will be challenging. However, I will cover concepts from the readings in-depth in class.

**Note: Changes will be made (with ample notification) to this schedule and reading list throughout the semester.**

**Course Schedule:**

<b>Weekly Module</b>	<b>Relevant Dates</b>
<b>Module 1:</b> Introduction to the Class and Each Other	Syllabus Quiz (9/12)
<b>Module 2:</b> Sociological Approaches to Social Issues, Institutions, and Behavior	Introductory Discussion Board (9/13)
<b>Module 3:</b> What are "Drugs" Anyway? (Why do they matter? Are "drugs" a social problem? Is drug use "deviant"?)	Discussion Board (9/20)
<b>Module 4:</b> Birth of the "War on Drugs" and Racialized Moral Panics	Reflection Assignment (9/27)
<b>Module 5:</b> Social Meanings of Drug Use in Subcultures and Communities	Discussion Board (10/4) Quiz #1 (10/4)
<b>Module 6:</b> Causes and Consequences of Disordered Substance Use	Campus Closed 10/9-10/10 Reflection Assignment (10/11) Op-Ed/Policy Papers Review (10/11)
<b>Module 7:</b> Evolution and Contemporary Impacts of the War on Drugs	Reflection Assignment (10/18)
<b>Module 8:</b> Medicalization ("Drugs" vs. "Medicine")	Discussion Board (10/25) Quiz #2 (10/25)
<b>Module 9:</b> Issues in Emerging Drug Policy	Reflection Assignment (11/1) Paper Proposal (11/1)
<b>Module 10:</b> Media Representations of Drugs and Drug Use	Discussion Board (11/8)
<b>Module 11:</b> The Public Debate over Drug Policy	Reflection Assignment (11/15) Quiz #3 (11/15)
<b>Module 12:</b> Writing Check-in/ "Thanksgiving Recess"/ Day of Mourning	Rough Draft Check-In (11/22) NO CLASS (11/22)
<b>Module 13:</b> Harm Reduction and Abolitionist Approaches	Discussion Board (11/29) Rough Draft (11/29)
<b>Module 14:</b> Activism and Humanization	Reflection Assignment (12/6)
<b>Module 15:</b> Future of Drugs and Drug Policy	Discussion Board (12/13) Quiz #4 (12/13)
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	<b>Final Paper (date TBD)</b>

**Additional Resources and Information**

**Molloy University Writing Center**

“The Writing Center is staffed by experienced professional consultants. As an undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral student of Molloy University, you can be helped at the Writing Center, whether you are writing a summary/critique, a PowerPoint presentation, an application essay, or a research paper requiring precise use of MLA or APA documentation format. You can also obtain helpful handouts prepared by our consultants.”

<https://www.molloy.edu/about-molloy-college/offices-and-services/writing-center>

### **JET Library Virtual Office Hours**

“Online office hours are specific hours where a librarian will be sitting in a Zoom meeting, waiting for people to join and ask questions.”

<https://molloy.libguides.com/usingthelibrary/ooh>

### **Attendance**

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### **Course Withdrawal Policy**

Withdrawal from a course after the Add/Drop period ends can be administrative, voluntary, or non-voluntary. (See [Withdrawal Policy](#) for potential financial implications; the [Academic Calendar](#) and/or the course syllabus for the last day to withdraw dates.)

*Administrative withdrawal* can occur from a course if a student is absent from class for two (2) consecutive weeks at any point in the semester without providing notification to their faculty of extenuating circumstances.

*Voluntary Withdrawals* from a course may be requested by the student from the faculty before the end of the 10th week of the semester (prorated for shorter sessions and terms). After the end of the 10th week, the student may complete the course for a grade or receive a grade of WF.

*Non-Voluntary Withdrawal* may be assigned by the faculty with a grade of “WF” when the student's work is failing after the 10th week of the semester and if the student did not complete the course (prorated for shorter sessions and terms). “WF” is not computed as a failure in quality points/GPA, but a course failure for some program progression requirements.

### **Incompletes**

A grade of incomplete or “I” will be granted only in cases of hardship (circumstances which, in the judgment of the faculty, warrant special consideration), when all coursework is not completed by the last day of class, and when the student contacts the faculty within 24 hours of the final examination. Students have until the last day of the following semester to submit their completed assignments to the faculty. (See [Incompletes Policy](#).)

### **Expectations of Academic Integrity for All Students**

Engaging in any form of academic dishonesty is an academic infraction subject to referral to the student conduct process. Students will be held accountable for infractions regarding cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty, falsifying documents, and fabrication.

*Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)* To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless a faculty member for a given course specifically authorizes their use.

The consequences for academic infractions include but are not limited to, participating in an interactive online academic integrity course with a written final paper, suspension, or dismissal. (See [Honor Pledge and Academic Honesty Policy](#).)

### **Email Accounts**

Students are to utilize their Molloy e-mail account or via Canvas when communicating throughout the semester. Those who use a non-Molloy account may miss important messages. Students are responsible for responding to all methods of communication in a timely fashion relating to this course.

### **Health and Wellness**

Molloy Health Services is committed to the health and wellbeing of the students. Therefore, students are urged to monitor the website and all health and safety updates for any health-related changes in campus procedures. See [Student Health Services](#) or email [healthservices@molloy.edu](mailto:healthservices@molloy.edu) or by phone at 516-323-3467. The [Student Personal Counseling Center \(SPCC\)](#) is a confidential and free service available to all currently enrolled Molloy University students. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment with SPCC, please call 516-323-3484 (Monday-Friday), scan the QR code, or walk in to request a time and day to meet.

To schedule an appointment with the  
**Student Personal Counseling Center**  
**(SPCC)** scan QR Code:



**A note from your instructor:** The COVID-19 virus is still present and may surge during the Fall semester. I will offer complete flexibility to allow you to make up work, stay home, or need any other accommodations if you test positive for COVID-19, suspect you may have encountered COVID-19, or feel you may have symptoms. I personally recommend taking precautions to protect yourselves, your classmates, and myself as much as possible.

### **Center for Access and Disability (ACCESS)**

Molloy University provides reasonable accommodation for any student with a documented disability or chronic illness. Students requiring accommodations are urged to contact the at [access@molloy.edu](mailto:access@molloy.edu). See [ACCESS](#) for more information.

### **Technical Support**

*Canvas Support* is accessed through the HELP feature in the lower left-hand corner of Canvas. You can also call 844-408-6455 or use the online chat feature 24 hours 7 days a week. *Technology Support Services* and *The Information Commons* are available to support students' technology needs. *Technology Support Services* is located in Kellenberg 022 and can be reached via phone: 516.323.4800 or email: [helpdesk@molloy.edu](mailto:helpdesk@molloy.edu). *The Information Commons* is located on the second floor of Public Square and can be reached at 516.323.4817 or email: [slewis2@molloy.edu](mailto:slewis2@molloy.edu). For more information see [Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#).



**Ally for Canvas**

Students are able to download course materials in different formats that fit your device, need, and learning preference. For more information see [Supportive Tools and Resources/ Ally](#) or contact [CourseDesign@molloy.edu](mailto:CourseDesign@molloy.edu).

**Molloy Student Tour**

The Molloy Student Tour (MST) helps students locate appropriate student resources and contact information, navigate Canvas effectively, and identify ways to be successful during your time at Molloy University. Students can access MST by selecting “Courses” from the left navigation in Canvas and then selecting “All Courses.” Select the star next to its name to turn it orange and include it on your Canvas dashboard for easy access.

**Recording**

To foster an environment that encourages and supports the full and free expression of information, ideas, and opinions between students, faculty, and administration of the University, students, faculty, employees, and administrators are prohibited from recording in any manner or by any means conversations, meetings, class lectures, or any communication without the explicit consent of all participants. This is a critical commitment to the collegiate experience at Molloy and any violation may become a subject of disciplinary action. Thus, recordings are only permitted if all participants are fully informed that the recording will be made, and all participants consent to being recorded. A student who does not consent to the recording must email their professor at the start of the course. Any student who has not contacted the professor is deemed to have consented to the recording. You may notify your professor by email at any time if you choose to revoke your consent.