

SOCY 109: Altered States: On a Culture of Alcohol and Drug Use
College of Charleston
Fall 2015, Express II

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and by appointment.

SKYPE OFFICE HOURS: If you are not in Charleston while taking this class, I am happy to meet with you via Skype or to chat on the phone. I am available by appointment for either meeting format.

METHODS OF CONTACT: For questions of an individual or personal nature, please send me an email at hoffmannh@cofc.edu. We can also talk on the phone or meet in person by appointment.

For course-related questions, please post questions on the OAKS discussion board forum titled “Course Lounge”—this is a place for us to address frequently asked questions of interest to everyone in the class. Please see below for instructions on how to access OAKS.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Sociology is the scientific study of “social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior” (American Sociological Association). Thus, we will use the sociological lens to examine the role that alcohol and other drugs play in the lives of Americans today, how culture and our relationships shape our use of alcohol and other drugs, and why some drugs and some kinds of drug use are okay and others are not. Further, we will explore the rituals, meaning and importance that we ascribe to different drugs and how those meanings are rooted in social and cultural actions. Since there is a good chance that each one of us has used at least one mind-altering substance (e.g., caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, a prescription drug [whether or not you actually have a prescription for it], marijuana, ecstasy or cocaine) in our lives, and maybe within the last week, we will draw upon our personal experiences to make sense of the assigned readings as they are discussed in the online forum and as you write about them for this class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Social Science General Education Requirement: SOCY 109 is one of the approved courses that will satisfy 3 of the 6 credits of social science that you are required to complete for the General Education curriculum.

Learning Outcome for the Social Sciences in the General Education Curriculum: Students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions.

How and When this Learning Outcome will be Assessed: On the final exam, you will be asked to complete an essay question that assesses your competence on this learning outcome.

NOTE OF CAUTION: This class is not intended to provide you with the tools to help you deal with an alcohol or drug problem that you, a friend, or a loved one is experiencing. In fact, this class might be difficult for those in recovery as our discussions and the chosen readings are sometimes critical of contemporary conceptions of alcohol and/or other drugs.

OFFENSIVE MATERIAL: In studying alcohol and drug use we will encounter language, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that may be offensive and/or upsetting to some.

CLASS DELIVERY FORMAT

This is a distance education course, which means that almost all of our interaction will occur virtually over the Internet and not in a traditional face-to-face classroom setting. Distance education courses require students to be self-motivated, disciplined, organized and task-driven. **SOME STUDENTS ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT DISTANCE EDUCATION CLASSES ARE EASIER THAN TRADITIONAL FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES. THIS IS NOT TRUE. IN FACT, DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES ARE OFTEN MORE CHALLENGING THAN TRADITIONAL CLASSES AND YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SPEND TIME ON THIS CLASS EACH DAY, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL TIME ON THE WEEKENDS DURING THE EXPRESS II SESSION.**

In this class, while each content Unit has deadlines, you will be able to complete readings and assignments at times and throughout the week when it is most convenient for you—you are not required to login to the Internet at a specific time each day to interact with your classmates or me. **HOWEVER, YOU MUST HAVE REGULAR ACCESS TO A COMPUTER WITH A RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET CONNECTION THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THIS COURSE. COMPUTER FAILURE/UNAVAILABILITY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EXCUSE FOR NOT COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS (INCLUDING ASSIGNED READINGS) BY THE DUE DATES.**

This class will be administered through OAKS, the College of Charleston's learning management system. To access OAKS go to <http://my.cofc.edu> and login to My Charleston. The OAKS icon is the acorn located in the upper right hand corner of the screen.

Since this is an expedited Express II class (consolidating approximately 14 weeks of material into 8 weeks) I expect you to login to OAKS regularly each week to complete assignments, look for course updates (in the News section of the course homepage), complete readings, etc. I will use OAKS to update you on class events and assignments and you can use OAKS to communicate with me and/or your classmates via e-mail (click on the Communication link on the toolbar, then click on Classlist and you can send me or your classmates an email from there). Regularly communicating with each other will enhance the learning experience for us all.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

As you will see below, I have broken the class down into discrete Units. Each Unit consists of assigned readings, lecture(s), related assignments (commenting on lectures, completing response papers and/or Discussion Board posts), quizzes and sometimes videos that you are expected to watch. Pages 6-8 below contain a summary of the various Units for this class, including the dates that each Unit will open for you to begin working on it and the due date for the assignments associated with each Unit.

COMMUNITY STATEMENT

Learning is something you do and a process in which you are actively and purposefully engaged but not something that is done to you. Thus, in every class that I teach, I expect students to be active participants in the learning process. In my face-to-face classes, I sometimes lecture but most of the class time is spent with students discussing the assigned readings. The success of this format is contingent on students reading the assigned articles and chapters before coming to class and to be willing to engage me and their classmates in thoughtful discussion. While the online format of this class is obviously different than a face-to-face class, my expectations are the same.

I expect each of you to complete the readings, participate in the various opportunities for discussion of the topics (many of those discussions are a required component of your grade) and to thoughtfully engage each other in critical examinations of the topics. Each of you brings invaluable knowledge and experiences to this class and you should draw on those assets to explore the topics that we cover in this class.

If you are one who is shy and generally feels uncomfortable talking in class, the distance education format is perfect for you. However, the key is that you remain committed to engaging the class through OAKS—I've structured the class so that you are actively engaged with each other and me in the learning process.

The class will be as good as you make it—so, let's make it great! (I know that sounds a little corny) We will not always agree with each other on the issues and that's good. So, express yourself but please do so intelligently and respectfully.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

All assigned readings are available electronically in OAKS. To locate the readings, select the “Content” link on the main toolbar. All articles are posted as PDF files, which will require you to use Adobe Acrobat Reader (all library computers should have this program) to view these files. Please make sure you have an updated version of Acrobat Reader (version 11.0 is now available) installed on your home computer <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>, click “Download Now” for the program you want and it will be installed on your computer legally and for free.

Students who like to read PDF articles on their computers without printing them out have previously complained that some of the posted articles are upside down or sideways on the computer screen. You can rotate the PDF document by doing one of the following:

- On a PC: Right Click on the open document and select “Rotate View” or “Rotate Clockwise” until the document appears in the direction that you want.
- On a MAC: press the Control button and click your mouse and select “Rotate Clockwise”.

Hardware: You need regular access to a computer with a reliable high-speed Internet connection.
Your laptop, tablet or computer needs to have a microphone and/or a Webcam.

Software: [Firefox Mozilla Internet Browser](#) (OAKS is said to work best on this browser)
[Adobe Reader](#)
[Adobe Flash Player](#) (necessary to view some of the lectures)

Other: Amazon.com. There will be 1 or 2 documentaries that I will ask you to rent and stream through Amazon. Voice Thread. A link to VoiceThread is available on OAKS homepage for our class (far right column on OAKS).
[Skype](#). Download and create a Skype account for optional live office hours with me by appointment.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The College of Charleston is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College’s programs or services, contact the Center for Disability Services (CDS) (Lightsey Center, Suite 104) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with the Center for Disability Services. The CDS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. The CDS serves as a clearinghouse on disability issues and works in partnership with faculty and all other student service offices. For further information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the CDS.

Each of us learns in different ways, and the organization of any course will accommodate each student differently. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them. If you do not have a documented disability, remember that other support services, including the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, room 116) and the Counseling Center (843.953.5640), are available to assist you with writing, mathematics and general study skills.

Students with documented disabilities should talk with me personally at the beginning of the semester to make necessary accommodations. I will not make special accommodations during an exam period or after a deadline has passed so you must make arrangements with me now.

CENTER FOR STUDENT LEARNING

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, supplemental instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

STUDENT HONOR CODE

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each instance is examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

It is important for students to remember that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless a professor specifies that students can work together on an assignment and/or test, no collaboration is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (such as a cell phone or tablet), copying from another's exam, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Remember, research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the professor.

You can find a complete version of the Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_info/studenthandbook.html.

GRADED WORK

Discussion Board Participation and Lecture Commentary

Each unit of the course will include several required opportunities for you to participate in a discussion of the assigned reading materials and/or lectures. You may be asked to participate in one of two ways (or both) for each Unit of the class. First, you may be asked to participate by responding to discussion questions that I will post on the OAKS Discussion board (the "Discussion" board is located within the Communications link in OAKS) about some readings. Second, you will be asked in some Units to comment and/or pose questions on the lectures and/or assigned readings in VoiceThread or in a program called Echo 360 (links to the lectures and discussion opportunities will be made available in each Unit's Checklist).

Your participation will be graded for the substance of your ideas, including the logic of your argument and your demonstrated comprehension of the readings and/or lecture materials. Participation is worth 35% of your final grade.

Unit Quizzes

Each Unit includes a quiz based on the readings and lectures assigned for that particular Unit. Quizzes will consist of a mix of multiple choice/objective questions and short answer questions and the quizzes will be timed so you will not have an infinite amount of time to look up the answer to every single question or to consult your notes from the lectures. The quizzes will account for 30 percent of your grade.

YOU SHOULD NOT COLLABORATE WITH OTHER STUDENTS WHEN TAKING THE QUIZ. IF I FIND THAT YOU HAVE COLLABORATED WITH ANOTHER STUDENT OR MULTIPLE STUDENTS (OAKS offers me a couple of tools that allow me to track and monitor unapproved student collaboration), OR SOMEBODY HAS TAKEN THE QUIZ FOR YOU, YOU WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR VIOLATING THE COLLEGE'S HONOR CODE.

Quiz Makeup Policy

Pages 6-8 below contain an outline of each Unit, when each Unit opens, assignments you will be expected to complete for each Unit and when each of those Unit assignments are due. If you do not take the quiz within the timeframe associated with that Unit, I will not extend the time or reopen the quiz for you. However, I will extend the quiz window for students who 1) have a death in the family, 2) are ill or are helping an ill parent or family member, or 3) you are away from campus for a school-related academic or athletic event. **However, it is up to you to communicate with me to request an extended window for completing the quiz before the open quiz period.**

Response Papers

I have created 10 response paper assignments to coincide with the different Units we will cover during this course. You are responsible for completing 3 of these assignments. You choose the 3 response paper assignments that are most interesting to you. However, you must complete each assignment by the due date for the respective unit, which is listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments will not be accepted and you will not be able to complete a response paper before the unit has been discussed in class.

Your response papers should be typed and at least 2 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1" margins)--of course, you can write more than 2 pages if you have interesting things to say about the topic. I will grade your papers on the substance of your ideas and responses as well as the quality of your writing. Please carefully edit your papers before turning them in.

Each assignment should be submitted as a PDF file in the appropriate OAKS Dropbox folder by the respective due date. You can convert your paper to a PDF file at <http://www.pdfonline.com/convert-pdf/>. The 3 response papers are worth a total of 10% of your final grade.

FINAL EXAM

We will have a final exam covering all of the readings, lecture materials and class discussion for the entire summer session. The final exam will be available by 12/3 at 12:01 a.m. and is due by 9 a.m. on 12/10/15 in the appropriate OAKS Dropbox. The format for the final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and will be worth 25% of your final grade.

QUIZ AND EXAM MAKEUP POLICY

The quiz and final exam dates are clearly listed on the syllabus (see below) and in OAKS so you should be prepared to complete the quizzes and exam on those days. However, life often hits us with unforeseen situations. Makeup exams will only be offered if: 1) you are in the hospital or visiting a doctor because you are ill, 2) there has been a death in the family, or 3) you have been involved in an auto accident. These are three legitimate reasons to miss an exam. Barring a serious injury, you must make arrangements with me **prior to** the scheduled exam period in order to be granted a make-up exam. Make-up exams will consist entirely of short-answer and essay questions and must be completed the week following the scheduled exam.

FINAL GRADE POINT DISTRIBUTION

Discussion Board Participation and Lecture Commentary	35%
Unit Quizzes	30%
Response Papers	10%
Final Exam	25%

FINAL LETTER GRADES

Your final grade will be calculated by adding the weighted scores on the above graded elements. OAKS will be set up to make these calculations throughout the semester and you can check your progress at any time (go to OAKS and click on "My Grades"). Final letter grades will be given according to the following scale:

96.0-100%	A (4.0)	74.0-76.9%	C (2.0)
90.0-95.9%	A- (3.7)	70.0-73.9%	C- (1.7)
87.0-89.9%	B+ (3.3)	67.0-69.9%	D+ (1.3)
84.0-86.9%	B (3.0)	64.0-66.9%	D (1.0)
80.0-83.9%	B- (2.7)	60.0-63.9%	D- (0.7)
77.0-79.9%	C+ (2.3)	≤59.9%	F (0)

NOTE: I do not round grades up. Thus, if your final point total is 89.9% at the end of the semester, you will receive a "B+". Extra credit assignments will not be given to individual students after the last day of class or after your final grade has been calculated.

DAILY COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit 1: Class Overview and Introduction to Class Topic.		
Unit 1a: Syllabus Review	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS under the Content link for all assignments associated with this Unit.	Opens: 10/14/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 10/17/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 1b: Cultural Matters	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 10/14/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: Saturday, 10/17/15, 11:59 p.m. Due on a Saturday because of Fall Break.
OCTOBER 18-20: FALL BREAK		
Unit 1c: Disciplinary Studies of Alcohol and Other Drugs	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 10/21/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 10/28/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 1d: Alcohol and Drugs in Media	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	

UNIT 2		
Unit 2a: Prevalence of Use.	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 10/28/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 11/4/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 2b: Country of Drug Users?	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 2c: America: Addicted to the Drug Problem?	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 3		
Unit 3a: Pharmacologicalism and Controlled Drug Use	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 11/4/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 11/11/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 3b: Drug, Set and Setting	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS. Comment on Lecture (VoiceThread)	
Unit 4		
Unit 4a: College and Alcohol: <i>Animal House</i>	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 11/11/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 11/18/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 4b: Gender, Alcohol and Culture	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 4c: Celebration Drinking	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 5: Cultural Change and the Self		
Unit 5a: The Challenges of Self	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 11/11/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 11/24/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 5b: FOMO and YOLO Culture: Social Media and the Self	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 5c: Social Media and Substance Use	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 5d: Medicalization and the Self's Adjustment to Cultural Change	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
NOVEMBER 25-29, HAPPY THANKSGIVING.		

Unit 6: Biomedical-Pharmaceutical Industrial Complex		
Unit 6a: Normal to Illness	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	Opens: 11/30/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 12/7/15, 9 a.m.
Unit 6b: The "Angel" Drug Industry	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 6c: Cosmetic Psychopharmacology	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
Unit 6d: Medicalization and Perfection in the Bedroom	Please consult the Unit checklist in OAKS.	
FINAL EXAM		Opens: 12/7/15, 12:01 a.m. Due: 12/10/15, 9 a.m.