

# RCS 4451 - PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Period & Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Period, Room: C1-15

Instructor: Dr. Mike Moorhouse  
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Office: HPNP, Room 3120  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Web: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

## Prerequisites

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Students must be completing a Public Health minor or be enrolled in either the General Health Science, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Pre-Public Health, or Communications Sciences and Disorders track of the Bachelor of Health Science Program.

## Course Overview

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We will examine the primary determinants and outcomes associated with substance use from a public health perspective. We will explore how the evolving social climate has impacted our view of various substances. We will examine use patterns and consequences of many illegal and legal substances. Upon successfully completing the course, the goals are for students to be more aware of the significance of social contexts and substance use.

## Course Objectives

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Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss the historical and current perspectives of different populations on substance use.
- Identify common substances of abuse, their developmental effects, and the signs and symptoms of intoxication and withdrawal.
- Discuss how substance use interacts with individuals, families, and populations.
- Identify and discuss current "hot button" public health topics related to substance use.
- Identify effective public health strategies used to motivate individuals and communities, who have substance use issues, in the change process.

## Required Text

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The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star

Author: Nikki Sixx

Publisher: New York: MTV Books

Publication Year: 2008

\*Available on Kindle and iTunes

## Requirements / Evaluation

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- *Exams* (45 Points) – Students will take 2, 45 question multiple choice exams. All questions will be taken directly from lecture, videos, class discussion, and assigned readings.
- *Reaction Papers* (10 Points) – Students will participate in 6 classroom discussions. Each discussion will address a current “hot button” topic. Following each discussion, students will write an in-class reaction paper related to the topic. Each reaction paper will count for 2 points and only 5 of the 6 reaction papers will be needed to fulfill the total points toward your grade. If students participate in all 6 discussions, he or she will earn an additional 2 points for extra credit.
- *Attendance Checks* (10 Points) – The instructor will give 7 random attendance checks throughout the semester which may be given at the beginning, middle, or end of any class period. Each check is worth 2 points and students need to only be present for 5 checks to receive full credit. No extra credit will be given for additional attendance checks.
- *Heroin Diaries Paper* (10 Points) – Students will be required to write a 1000 word reflection paper related to the course text: *Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star*. Further instructions will be provided.
- *Public Service Announcement* (15 Points) – Students will form into groups of 3 or 4 and develop a 30-90 second Public Service Announcement (PSA) related to drug and/or alcohol. Further instructions will be provided.
- *Participation* (5 Points) – Students will earn 1 point for each class they participate in. Lectures are interactive and students are expected to contribute.
- *Professionalism* (5 Points) – Students may lose points throughout the semester for unprofessional behavior. Unprofessional behavior includes, but is not limited to, texting during class, continuously showing up late to class, distracting classmates, or using a computer or cell phone when not authorized.

## Grading

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The student’s final grade will be based on the number of points accumulated during the course:

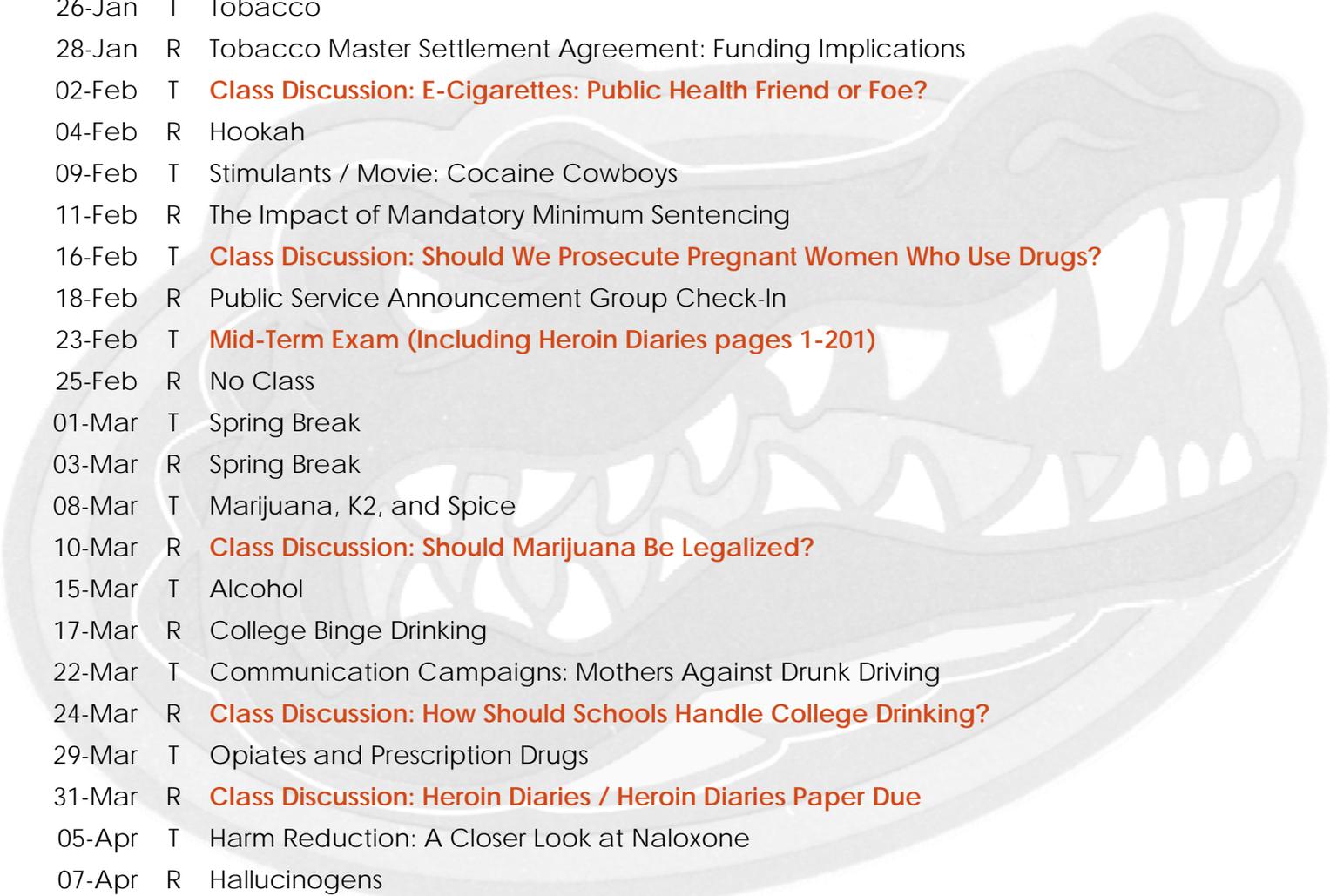
Exams (x2)	45 Points	A	93-100 Points	=	4.00
Reaction Papers (x5)	10 Points	A-	90-92.99 Points	=	3.67
Attendance Checks (x5)	10 Points	B+	87-89.99 Points	=	3.33
Heroin Diaries Paper	10 Points	B	83-86.99 Points	=	3.00
Public Service Announcement	15 Points	B-	80-82.99 Points	=	2.67
Participation	5 Points	C+	77-79.99 Points	=	2.33
Professionalism	5 Points	C	70-76.99 Points	=	2.00
		D+	67-69.99 Points	=	1.33
Total	100 Points	D	63-65.99 Points	=	1.00
Extra Credit	5 Points				

Please see the UF Grading Policy for more information, please visit:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

## Calendar

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05-Jan	T	Class Introduction
07-Jan	R	Drug Basics
12-Jan	T	The Strange History of How Drugs Became Illegal in the US
14-Jan	R	<b>Class Discussion #1: Is Addiction a Disease?</b>
19-Jan	T	The "War on Drugs"
21-Jan	R	Patterns of Use
26-Jan	T	Tobacco
28-Jan	R	Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement: Funding Implications
02-Feb	T	<b>Class Discussion: E-Cigarettes: Public Health Friend or Foe?</b>
04-Feb	R	Hookah
09-Feb	T	Stimulants / Movie: Cocaine Cowboys
11-Feb	R	The Impact of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing
16-Feb	T	<b>Class Discussion: Should We Prosecute Pregnant Women Who Use Drugs?</b>
18-Feb	R	Public Service Announcement Group Check-In
23-Feb	T	<b>Mid-Term Exam (Including Heroin Diaries pages 1-201)</b>
25-Feb	R	No Class
01-Mar	T	Spring Break
03-Mar	R	Spring Break
08-Mar	T	Marijuana, K2, and Spice
10-Mar	R	<b>Class Discussion: Should Marijuana Be Legalized?</b>
15-Mar	T	Alcohol
17-Mar	R	College Binge Drinking
22-Mar	T	Communication Campaigns: Mothers Against Drunk Driving
24-Mar	R	<b>Class Discussion: How Should Schools Handle College Drinking?</b>
29-Mar	T	Opiates and Prescription Drugs
31-Mar	R	<b>Class Discussion: Heroin Diaries / Heroin Diaries Paper Due</b>
05-Apr	T	Harm Reduction: A Closer Look at Naloxone
07-Apr	R	Hallucinogens
12-Apr	T	Emerging Drugs / <b>Public Service Announcements Due</b>
14-Apr	R	<b>Public Service Announcement Presentations</b>
19-Apr	T	<b>Final Exam (Including Heroin Diaries pages 202-413)</b>

## GENERAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION

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### Professionalism

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all communication with the course instructor and any BHS staff that assist with this course. Moreover, students are expected to arrive to class on-time, turn off all computers and cell phones, and conduct themselves accordingly (e.g., no excessive talking during class, passing notes, reading newspapers, or distracting classmates).

### Make-up Policy

Make ups will be given for exams and reaction papers only. The student must have (a) prior authorization from the instructor, or (b) an official medical excuse (signed by the treating physician) indicating the student's inability to attend class on the missed day. The official medical excuse must be presented within two days after being released from medical treatment. Assignments missed for any other reasons will receive a zero.

### Accommodation Policy

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

### Academic Honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>  
<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

### Counseling & Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing

issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in-person assistance is available.

- You Matter We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:  
Alachua County Crisis Center  
(352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.