

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: DRUGS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY
Status: Definitive
Code: **5505MEDCUL** (115001)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 12.00
Total Delivered Hours: 44.00
Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 76

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	21.000
Workshop	21.500

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	One essay (1500 - 2000 words) week 12	50.0	
Exam	AS2	One seen paper week 14	50.0	1.50

Aims

To introduce students to a range of literary, cinematic and musical influences on British drug culture since the early 20th Century

To discuss contemporary issues around drug use within the context of social policy, including prohibition, legalization, harm minimization and normalization.

To consider how changing consumption patterns have led to a transformation in attitudes towards illicit drug use in contemporary culture.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Evaluate accounts of cultural influences on illicit drug use since the twentieth century
- 2 Analyse and assess changes in social policy and societal attitudes towards illicit drug use
- 3 Evaluate the cultural value of illicit drug use within the wider context of alternative discourses

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Essay (1500-2000 words)	1	
EXAM	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Students will be introduced to the key terms and concepts in relation to drug use. There will be a consideration of the underlying contradictions that surround legal and illicit drug use, looking at 'therapeutic' and 'recreational' use as well as concepts such as 'dependence' and 'addiction'. Attention will also be given to the historical context and pharmacological effects of certain drugs which cause most concern in contemporary society.

A range of literary, cinematic and musical themes will be explored which have been directly influenced by drugs as well as a review of their emergence in the light of wider social and ideological change. Changing patterns of consumption and experiences of drug use will be examined that have 'shaped' contradicting realities. There will be a critical examination of social policy, looking in particular at key debates around regulation and control, while considering notions of prohibition, harm reduction, legalization, normalisation and maintenance. The significance of 'moral panics' will also be discussed.

Learning Activities

Lectures, workshops, seminars film screenings, audio, small group discussions, tutorials.

References

Course Material	Book
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Author	Bennet, T. and Holloway, K.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Understanding Drugs, Alcohol and Crime
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Blackman, S.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	Chilling Out
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Davenport-Hines, R.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	The Pursuit of Oblivion
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Manning, P.
Publishing Year	2007
Title	Drugs & Popular Culture
Subtitle	Drugs, Media & Identity in Contemporary Society
Edition	
Publisher	Willan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Simpson, M. Shildrick, T. & MacDonald, R.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Drugs in Britain
Subtitle	Supply, Consumption & Control
Edition	
Publisher	Palgrave
ISBN	

Notes

This module will enable students to examine how culture has been influenced by drugs, how various literary, cinematic and musical themes can be understood as a direct response to changing social policy and the shifts in attitudes towards drugs.