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Office Hours: By appointment
Telephone Number: (575) 382-8212 (home # - usually available 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm)
(575) 646-3311 (work # - often not in office, but can leave message)
E-mail: via the Blackboard 8 learning management system

Course Overview:
This course is a multi-dimensional approach to examining drugs in society: pharmacological, cultural, legal, psychosocial and environmental. The course is self-paced and asynchronous, allowing students to work independently and at times that best fit their individual schedules. This syllabus is the guide to this course and requirements. All course materials, including lectures, quizzes, exams, assignments, and supplemental information are delivered using the Blackboard 8 learning management system. To begin the course, see the “Getting Started” box below.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of the Fall 2011 semester, the student will have a broad understanding of the various categories of drugs and their use in modern society. This includes being familiar with the possible root causes of individual and social drug use and multi-dimensional approaches to drug misuse and abuse prevention. Students successfully completing HLS 300 will be able to:
1. Identify and discuss the major categories of drugs.
2. Define the term drug abuse.
3. Identify and discuss the legal and illegal use of:
   a. at least 3 types of stimulants and how they affect the body
   b. at least 3 types of depressants and how they affect the body
   c. at least 2 types of hallucinogens and how they affect the body
   d. at least 2 types of narcotics and how they affect the body
   e. at least 5 products used as inhalants and how they affect the body
4. List a minimum of five reasons why individuals use drugs
5. Discuss the role the media plays in drug promotion.
6. Discuss the role the media plays in drug prevention.
7. Describe a support group meeting and its treatment theory/foundation.
8. Identify at least 2 community organizations/agencies that seek to prevent substance abuse.

Textbook (required):
**Special Requirements:**

Each student must have access to a computer with access to the internet. This can be at on-campus computer labs, personal computers, or off-campus computers. In addition, students must use a word processing program that can save files in the Microsoft Word Document (.doc) format, and will need a PDF file reader program like Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free.

**Course Organization:**

This is a self-paced course, with students starting and ending their coursework at their own pace throughout the semester. As a result, there are only two deadlines, each imposed by the end of the semester. All course assignments and the midterm examination must be completed and turned in by **December 2, 2011**, and the final examination must be completed by the end of exam week on **December 9, 2011**. However, students are strongly encouraged to complete at least half of the course work prior to the mid-point of the semester (October 7) in order to avoid having a large amount of work to do at the end. Also, assignments turned in after November 18 may not have grades posted until December 12 due to the large numbers of papers turned at the end. Students are encouraged to turn in written assignments prior to November 11 so feedback can be provided and there is sufficient time to allow for corrections to be submitted.

This course is designed around 14 “lessons”. Each of these lessons requires the reading of a “lecture”, the reading of a chapter(s) from the required textbook, and completion of two quizzes. In addition, students must complete three discussion postings, as well as choose three assignments/projects (out of five choices) that must be completed and submitted by the end of the semester.

**Course Etiquette:**

All course participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner in all postings and discussions. It is completely acceptable to disagree with someone else’s opinions, and to challenge and debate them with research, citations, and/or personal experiences. This is both appropriate for learning and encouraged. However, personal attacks (e.g., references to the other person’s intelligence, ancestry, etc.) will not be tolerated.

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**GETTING STARTED**

The Blackboard 8 educational delivery system is used to provide the course content, and it is accessed by using an Internet browser to go to [learn.nmsu.edu](http://learn.nmsu.edu). At this website, log in using your NMSU student login information. A listing of courses you are enrolled in will then display. Select this course (“HLS 300 – Drugs and Behavior”) by clicking on the course name. This will take you to the course homepage. On the homepage you will find several links. The “Syllabus” link will take you to a copy of this syllabus. The “Lessons” folder will take you to each of the lessons. This is where you will do most of the actual work in this course, accessing the lectures, the quizzes, and the discussions. Along the left side of the screen is a listing of the course tools that will also help you access features like Mail. Start by opening the Lesson #1 folder, reading the lecture material, and then taking the quiz over the lecture. Take the quiz as many times as necessary until you pass with a 100%. Then, move on to the next lesson. (NOTE: Don’t forget to read the appropriate chapters from the textbook and take the quiz over the reading for each lesson.)
Assignments / Projects:
Students must pick and complete 3 out of 5 possible assignments listed below. Each is worth 25 points. The requirements for each assignment are contained on the course homepage. Requirements (such as page length, attachments, and sources) vary between assignments, so students should check the requirements closely. All assignments must be submitted as e-mail attachments using Blackboard. The grading rubric can also be viewed online. The following are the assignment titles that are available:

Alcohol Advertisement Report
Journal Article Review
Community Agency Paper
Support Group Paper
Website Review Paper

Lessons:
The following shows the subject matter and contents of each lesson:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson #</th>
<th>Topic(s) Covered</th>
<th>Textbook Reading:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction; What is a “Model”; Overview of Drugs</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Drug Problems &amp; Regulation</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>How Drugs Work in the Body</td>
<td>Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cocaine &amp; Stimulants</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Depressants &amp; Inhalants</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Medications for Treatment of Mental Health Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alcohol, Abuse, Alcoholism</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MID-TERM EXAM</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Over-the-Counter &amp; Prescription Drugs</td>
<td>Chapters 11 &amp; 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Narcotics</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Psychedelics &amp; Hallucinogens</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Marijuana and Legalization</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alcohol in special populations</td>
<td>Chapter 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Drug Abuse Prevention &amp; Treatment</td>
<td>Chapters 17 &amp; 18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Quizzes:
There are quizzes covering the chapter readings and the lectures. A password is at the end of each lecture that allows entry into the appropriate quiz. The quizzes are not graded, but rather are designed as an aide in mastering of the material prior to moving on. As such, students will be able to re-take the quizzes. Students must pass the quizzes with a 100% (demonstrating mastery of the concepts) prior to being allowed to take the mid-term and final exams.

Exams:
There are two (2) exams, a mid-term and a final. The mid-term will cover material presented during the first half of the semester, and the final will cover material presented during the second half of the semester. Each is worth 50 points and consists of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. Both exams are taken utilizing Blackboard. In order to gain access to an exam, students must pass all of the preceding quizzes with a 100%. This may require taking some quizzes more than once. This helps ensure students understand the material before proceeding. It also affords students the opportunity to review the material prior to taking the examinations, as quizzes can be re-taken as many times as desired, with only the highest score being retained.

Discussions:
There are three discussions that must be completed. Each is based on watching a short video segment and then commenting on a discussion board. These discussions are part of Lesson #4, Lesson #7, and Lesson #12, and the videos are contained in the respective lesson folders. The discussion postings should be substantive. Postings that are only simple comments will result in less than full points being awarded.

Attendance Policy:
As this is a distance education course, students are not required to be physically present for any classes.

Late/Incomplete/Make-up Assignment Policy:
All assignments and the mid-term exam are due no later than December 2, 2011. The final exam must be completed by 5:00 pm on December 9, 2011. Because these deadlines are the end of the semester, there is no opportunity to accept late work. A grade of incomplete may be given only if the student has already achieved a passing score and has made the appropriate request, to include a completion plan.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course. Assignments submitted are run through a plagiarism check tool to help identify plagiarism. In order to avoid problems with plagiarism, always cite sources and always place quotation marks around material obtained from other sources (as appropriate). For guidance in avoiding plagiarism problems, the NMSU Library has put together a guide that can be found at http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/.

Grading Policy:
Grades are assigned based on the points earned by each student. The following are the points possible and the corresponding grades:
Quizzes on Readings and Lectures: Not graded, but required
Assignments (3 out of 5 required, 25 points each): 75 points
   Alcohol Advertisement Report
   Journal Article Review
   Community Agency Paper
   Support Group Paper
   Website Review Paper
Discussion Participation: 25 points
Mid-Term Exam: 50 points
Final Exam: 50 points
TOTAL POINTS: 200 points

A = 180 – 200 points
B = 160 – 179 points
C = 140 – 159 points
D = 120 – 139 points
F = 119 points and below

NOTE: Grades are assigned based on the 200-point scale above.

Students With Disabilities:
If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the University Disability Services Office (646- 6840). If you have already registered, please make sure the instructor receives a copy of the accommodation memorandum from UDS within the first two weeks of classes. It is your responsibility to inform either your instructor or UDS representative in a timely manner if services/accommodations provided are not meeting your needs. All medical information will be treated confidentially.