

**Economics/Geography/History 3318**  
**History and Globalization of the Drug Trade**  
**Spring 2019**

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Hours: Tues. 8:30-10:30, Wed. 1:00-2:00  
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Hours: Tues.Thurs. 8:00-10:30, M/W  
10-12:30, and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course examines the global drug trade, using historical and geographic analysis and perspectives on drugs. In addition, the course applies economic concepts and models to provide students with a multi-dimensional understanding of drug use and drug trade over time. The course is team-taught with a focus on infusing historical, geographic, and economic perspectives on drug trade and debates surrounding drug policy, as well as their impact on communities around the world in the past and present. We will explore these topics and hope to enhance your critical thinking and analysis skills as well.

**Text and Materials**

Douglas Courtwright, *Forces of Habit* [Required]

Tom Wainwright, *Narconomics* [Required]

Course activities, supplemental readings & primary source documents are posted on the course's Blackboard page, <http://blackboard.ualr.edu>

**Grading:** Your grade in this course will be based on the following items

Exams: 100 points, Exam 1: in-class, covers Unit 1. Exam2: take-home, covers units 2 and 3

Multiple choice, short answer, essay. 30% of course grade (15% each)

Article review/discussion: 15% of course grade

Research proposal: 20% of course grade

In-class assignments, participation, and/or quizzes - 35% of grade - lowest grade will be dropped.

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- Identify key drugs and the places and times in which they were traded & consumed;
- Analyze changing ideas about the nature and definition of drugs;
- Understand basic economic concepts and ways in which they can be applied to the drug trade and related issues;
- Apply historical and economic analysis to the production & distribution of opiates, cocaine & marijuana;
- Identify and define key figures, events & policies related to the U.S. War on Drugs, from the late 19th century to the present;
- Evaluate public policies and decisions, using economic and historical analysis;
- Evaluate and analyze media accounts of the drug trade and drug policy; and

- Create a research proposal, using appropriate sources and data, for a topic related to the history or economic analysis of the global drug trade and/or the U.S. War on Drugs.

### **Effort, Attendance and Classroom Etiquette**

- You will get out of this class an amount proportional to what you put into the course. You are paying approximately \$950 for this course, or \$34 per class meeting. We promise to do our parts to make the course as interesting and relevant as possible, and we expect you to do yours. Don't waste your money! In accordance with the guidelines in the UALR student handbook, plan to spend an average of 3-6 hours a week outside of class on readings and assignments for this class.
- Attendance in class is essential to doing well in the course. Refer to Blackboard to keep up with assignments and readings.
- Late work will not be accepted for in-class assignments. You cannot make up missed assignments, but remember we will drop your lowest grade. If you know you will miss an exam please notify us as soon as possible before the exam date (or as soon as you can). Accommodations will be made on an individual basis for excused absences.
- Please focus on class material while you are in class. Please do not text, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or answer phone calls during class, unless you have an emergency. We spend much time preparing for class; please respect this and give the class your full attention.
- Treat class in the same way you would treat a job. If you know you will miss class, or must leave early or arrive late for any reason, please inform us by email or telephone in advance. Laptops and mobile devices should not be used in class for any activities other than assignments for this course (we will often have in-class assignments where a laptop/mobile device may be helpful, but is not required).
- We generally respond to email within the same day during the work week. Please make sure that all communication is professional and follows appropriate conventions of emailing/conversations, not texting.
- In the event that UALR cancels classes due to inclement weather, we will move our class meeting online to Blackboard. You will have an assignment to complete prior to the next class meeting.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Your success in this class is important to me, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of this course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s), and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website.

### **Cheating and plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. When you use others' words or ideas without giving them credit, you are plagiarizing. All sources, including information gathered on the

Internet, must be correctly cited (author, page number) in all assignments. Anyone who is involved in cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero for the assignment and will be turned over to the Integrity and Grievance Committee for disciplinary action. See Section VI of the student handbook for more details.

The Center for Student and Career Services, located on the first floor of the College of Business, is committed to helping business students achieve academic and career success. Students are encouraged to become acquainted with the services offered by the Center early in their academic careers, and participate regularly in its events and programs. Contact Shannon Gwinn, Director, at 371-8009 or [sldrobena@ualr.edu](mailto:sldrobena@ualr.edu).

### Course Schedule - Spring 2019

Date	Topic	Readings to be completed prior to class	Assignments Due
1/22	Course Introduction		
<b>Unit 1: What is a drug?</b>			
1/24	What is a drug?	<a href="#">Courtwright introduction</a>	Intro summary (in class)
1/29	Economic/History & Geography review	Students who have not taken economics courses should review materials on Blackboard Students who have not taken HIST 1311 and HIST 1312 should read Stearns <a href="#">"A World History Skeleton"</a>	
1/31	The "big three"	<a href="#">Courtwright, chapter 1</a>	Chapter summary
2/5	Drug scheduling/Economics of drug trade	Miron, "Government Policy Toward Illegal Drugs" Courtwright 187-195, 199-207	Article summary
2/7	The "little three"	Courtwright, chapter 2	Chapter summary
2/12	Group research - categories of drugs	Begin researching your assigned category of drug	Beginning research
2/14	Group presentations - Google Slides		
2/19	Unit 1 Exam - in class		
<b>Unit 2: Cocaine</b>			
2/21	History of Coca Cultivation in the Andes	Stolberg <a href="#">"The Use of Coca"</a> or Gootenberg <a href="#">"Between Coca and Cocaine"</a>	Article summary
2/26	Cocaine – supply chain (econ)	<i>Narconomics</i> , intro and ch 1	Chapter summary
2/28	Cocaine – Pablo Escobar/ Columbian cartels PR problems of a cartel	<a href="#">"Cocainenomics"</a> <i>Narconomics</i> ch 4	Timeline - cocaine & Columbia

3/5	Cocaine – competition v collusion - cartels (econ)	<i>Narconomics</i> , ch 2	Chapter summary
3/7	Crack/ 1980s Investigating claims - Gary Webb, Clinton/Mena Airport	<a href="#">“The CIA, Contras, Gangs &amp; Crack”</a> <a href="#">Murch, “Crack in Los Angeles”</a>	Article summary
3/12	Prisons & human capital	<i>Narconomics</i> ch 3	Chapter summary
3/14	Article Reviews due - small group discussions		
SPRING BREAK			
<b>Unit 3: Opium</b>			
3/26	19th c. Opium Wars	<i>Forces of Habit</i> , ch 9	Chapter summary
3/28	Networks of distribution	<i>Narconomics</i> ch 8	Chapter summary
4/2	Opiates & Labor Golden Triangle	<i>Forces of Habit</i> , ch 7	Chapter summary
4/4	How did opioid use become a crisis? U.S./Mexico border, pharmaceutical companies	Council on Foreign Relations, <a href="#">“The U.S. Opioid Epidemic”</a>	
4/9	Opioid crisis - economic research/findings	Readings posted on Blackboard	
4/11	Guest lecturer: Paul Marx		Take home exam (covers units 2-3) due
<b>Unit 4: Marijuana</b>			
4/16	Marijuana history	<i>Forces of Habit</i> ch 5	Chapter summary
4/18	Race & class in criminal justice system - econ	Readings posted on Blackboard	
4/23	Moral Panics & prohibition in U.S. History	<a href="#">“Moral Panics”</a>	Chapter section summary (Marijuana, LSD, PCP, crack, ecstasy)

4/25	Unintended consequences of policy decisions - economics	<i>Narconomics</i> ch 7	Chapter summary
4/30	Guest speaker - Dr. Rhet Smith		
5/2	Legalization of Marijuana	<i>Narconomics</i> ch 9-10	Chapter summary
Research proposal due 12:30, Thursday, May 9 via Blackboard			