

History 201A/301A
The Global Drug Wars

Spring 2022-2023
4-5 Units
Tuesday/Thursday 12:00–1:20 PM
Bldg 200, Room 202



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Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1:30-2:30

This course explores the global history of political struggles over the production, circulation, and consumption of illicit drugs from the early modern period to the present. It surveys medical and social controversies over intoxicants; the political economy of drug trafficking; the ethnic and racial politics of policing and interdiction; cultures of drug use, addiction, and treatment; the interplay of 'narcostates,' cartels, and international organizations; the emergence of globalized networks of exchange, regulation, prohibition, and incarceration; and the racialization of legislation on drugs.

- This course counts toward the “Social Inquiry” and “Exploring Difference and Power” *Ways of Thinking/Ways of Doing* requirements.

Requirements and Grading:

- Students will be expected to attend the Seminar, prepare the assigned readings, and take active part in class discussions and writing assignments.

Undergraduate students enrolled in History 201A for **4 units** should respond to at least **4** Canvas Discussion Board prompts (roughly 500 words). Each counts for 25% of final grade.

or

please see me by Week Four to agree upon an **independent research project**, which may take the form of a conventional paper or of a podcast, video essay, online installation, or some other medium and is due at the end of the quarter.

Undergraduate students enrolled in History 201A for **5 units** should respond to at least **5** Canvas Discussion Board prompts (each counts for 20% of final grade).

or

please see me by Week Four to agree upon an **independent research project**, which may take the form of a conventional paper or of a podcast, video essay, online installation, or some other medium and is due at the end of the quarter.

Reading the Drug Wars

When approaching our assigned readings and films for our discussion and papers/presentations, we will read (and write) with the following questions in mind:

- 1) what is the author's central argument?
- 2) how does the author arrive at this analysis? (what kinds of sources and interpretive frameworks does he/she/they rely upon?)
- 3) is the interpretation convincing - and how does it relate to other works we have encountered in this course?

- Texts listed under “Supplementary Readings” are suggestions for further reading but are not required.

Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as

possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae>).

Course Materials

All books and articles are available via Stanford University Libraries with the exception of these four texts:

Carl L. Hart, [Drug Use for Grown-Ups](#) (2021)

Norman Ohler, [Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany](#) (2016)

Javier Valdez Cárdenas, [The Taken: True Stories of the Sinaloa Drug War](#) (2017)

Beth Macy, [Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis](#) (2021)

- Electronic editions are available for purchase or rental. Please note that your local public library may have electronic editions available.
- We will also view three films that are available online via various online streaming services.

April 4 - Introduction

April 6 - Framing the Drug War

["Blitzed by Norman Ohler"](#) (2 mins.)

"How Opioid Addiction in the U.S. Fuels a Crisis for Farmers in Mexico," [The Intercept](#), (10 mins.)

Julien Mercille, "The Media-Entertainment Industry and the "War on Drugs" in Mexico," [Latin American Perspectives](#) 41, no. 2 (2014): 110-29.

[A New Approach - Iran](#) (2006) [9 mins.]

Carl L. Hart, *Drug Use for Grown-Ups*, xiii-39.

April 11 and April 13 - The Psychoactive Revolution, Prohibition, and Modernity

David T. Courtwright, [Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World](#) (2002)

April 18 - The Opium Wars

Timothy Brook and Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, eds., [Opium Regimes: China, Britain, and Japan, 1839-1952](#) (2000), introduction, chpt. 8.

April 20 - Blitzed

Norman Ohler, *Blitzed*

April 25 - The Pitfalls of Prohibition

Alfred McCoy, "The Stimulus of Prohibition: A Critical History of the Global Narcotics Trade" in Michael K. Steinberg, Joseph J. Hobbs, and Kent Mathewson, eds., [Dangerous Harvest: Drug Plants and the Transformation of Indigenous Landscapes](#) (2004), 24-33, 39-55, 85-97.

April 27 - Communism, Crack, and Race

"The Contras, Cocaine, and Covert Operations," [National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 2](#)

[Freeway: Crack in the System](#) (2015) [1 hr., 43 mins.]

May 2 - Recovering from the Past

Angela Garcia, [The Pastoral Clinic: Addiction and Dispossession along the Rio Grande](#) (2010), 1-36, 111-149.

May 9 - Drugs, Racial Politics, and Citizenship

Michelle Alexander, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) (2012), 1-19, 40-139.

[The House I Live In](#) (2012) [1 hr., 50 mins.]

May 16 - 'Mexican' Drug Wars?

Carmen Boullosa and Mike Wallace, [A Narco History: How the United States and Mexico Jointly Created the "Mexican Drug War"](#) (2016)

May 23 - Living the War

Javier Valdez Cárdenas, [The Taken](#)

Mariana Calvo, "The Costs of Cocaine," [The New Paradigm](#), Institute for New Global Politics (March 2023).

May 30 - Aesthetics, Politics, Change

[Birds of Passage](#) (2018) [2 hrs, 6 mins.]

June 1 - Capitalism and Crisis

Beth Macy, [Raising Lazarus](#)

June 6 - Alternatives?

Carl L. Hart, [Drug Use for Grown Ups](#)

Supplementary Reading

Alfred W. McCoy, [The Politics of Heroin: CIA Complicity in the Global Drug Trade, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, Central America, Colombia](#) 2nd rev ed. (2003)

Julia Lovell, [The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China](#) (2011)

Ryan Gingeras, [Heroin, Organized Crime, and the Making of Modern Turkey](#) (2014), 1-18, 239-270.

Jonathan Marshall, [The Lebanese Connection: Corruption, Civil War, and the International Drug Traffic](#) (2012), 1-32, 163-173.

Paul Gootenberg, [Andean Cocaine: The Making of a Global Drug](#) (2008)

Lukasz Kamienski, [Shooting Up: A Short History of Drugs and War](#) (2016)

Ioan Grillo, Gangster Warlords: Drug Dollars, Killing Fields, and The New Politics of Latin America (2016)

Roberto Saviano, Zero Zero Zero: Look at Cocaine and All You See Is Powder. Look Through Cocaine and You See the World, trans. Virginia Jewiss (2015)

Isaac Campos, Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs (2012)

Ana Guadalupe Valenzuela Zapata and Gary Paul Nabhan, ¡Tequila! A Natural and Cultural History (2003)

Mark Cameron Edberg, El Narcotraficante: Narcocorridos and the Construction of a Cultural Persona on the U.S.-Mexico Border (2004)

Peter Maguire and Mike Ritter, Thai Stick: Surfers, Scammers, and the Untold Story of the Marijuana Trade (2014)

Norman Ohler, Blitzed: Drugs in Nazi Germany (2016)

Sam Quinones, Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic (2015)

Kojo Koram, ed. The War on Drugs and the Global Colour Line (2019)

Liat Kozma, "White Drugs in Interwar Egypt: Decadent Pleasures, Emaciated Fellahin, and the Campaign against Drugs," Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East vol. 33, no. 1 (2013): 89-101.

Peter Watt and Roberto Zepeda, Drug War Mexico: Politics, Neoliberalism and Violence in the New Narcoeconomy (2012)

Nick Schou, Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World (2010)

Schumpeter, "Narconomics," The Economist July 28, 2012

Janne Bjerre Christensen, Drugs, Deviancy and Democracy in Iran: The Interaction of State and Civil Society (2011),

Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy, "The Myth of the Narco-state," Space and Polity 20, no. 1 (2016): 26-38.

Neil Carrier and Gernot Klantschnig, "Quasilegality: Khat, Cannabis and Africa's Drug Laws," Third World Quarterly, 39, no. 2 (2018): 350-365.

Suzanna Reiss, We Sell Drugs: The Alchemy of US Empire (2014)

Nick Schou, Orange Sunshine: The Brotherhood of Eternal Love and Its Quest to Spread Peace, Love, and Acid to the World (2010)

Gabriela Polit Dueñas, Narrating Narcos: Culiacán and Medellín (2013)

Hérodote - Géopolitique des drogues illicites

112 (2004) <http://www.herodote.org/spip.php?rubrique9>

Miguel A. Cabañas, "The Global Drug Trade and the War on Drugs in the Americas: A Historical Review," Latin American Perspectives 41, no. 2 (2014): 232-35.

Mazyar Ghiabi, Drugs Politics: Managing Disorder in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2019)

Ashley Neese Bybee, "The Twenty-First Century Expansion of the Transnational Drug Trade in Africa," Journal of International Affairs, vol. 66, no. 1, 2012, pp. 69-84.

Stephen Ellis, "West Africa's International Drug Trade," African Affairs 108, no. 431 (2009): 171-96.

Emmanuel Akyeampong, "Diaspora and Drug Trafficking in West Africa: A Case Study of Ghana," African Affairs 104, no. 416 (2005): 429-47.

David Mansfield, "Turning Deserts into Flowers: Settlement and Poppy Cultivation in Southwest Afghanistan," Third World Quarterly, 39, no. 2 (2018) 331-349.

"Drug Policy as Conservation Policy: Narco-Deforestation," Science 343 (31 January 2014): 489-490.

María Socorro Tabuenca Córdoba, "Mirrors, Ghosts and Violence in Ciudad Juárez," and José Skinner, "The Sicario in the Salon," in Sarah Cortez and Sergio Troncoso, eds., Our Lost Border: Essays on Life amid the Narco-violence (2013)

Miguel A. Cabañas, "Introduction: Imagined Narcoscapes: Narcoculture and the Politics of Representation," Latin American Perspectives 41, no. 2 (2014): 3-17.

Howard Campbell, "Narco-Propaganda in the Mexican "Drug War": An Anthropological Perspective," Latin American Perspectives 41, no. 2 (2014): 60-77..

Julien Mercille, "The Media-Entertainment Industry and the "War on Drugs" in Mexico," Latin American Perspectives 41, no. 2 (2014): 110-29.

Kate Dolan, Shabnam Salimi, Bijan Nassirimanesh, Setareh Mohsenifar, and Azarakhsh Mokri, "The Establishment of a Methadone Treatment Clinic for Women in Tehran, Iran," Journal of Public Health Policy 32, no. 2 (2011): 219-30.

Shaylih Muehlmann, [When I Wear My Alligator Boots: Narco-Culture in the US-Mexico Borderlands](#) (2014)

Carlos A. Pérez Ricart “Mexico and Central America: Flexibility and Frameworks” and John M. Pokoo and Kwesi Aning, “West Africa: Securitized Drugs as an Existential Threat?” in Annette Idler and Juan Carlos Garzón Vergara (eds), [Transforming the War on Drugs: Warriors, Victims and Vulnerable Regions](#) (2021)

Tim Golden, “The Cienfuegos Affair: Inside the Case that Upended America’s Drug War,” December 8, 2022,
<https://www.propublica.org/article/mexico-drug-cartels-cienfuegos-case-dea>

Primary Sources

“Drugs and the Guatemalan Military,” [National Security Archive](#), November 18, 2005

“The Allende Massacre in Mexico: A Decade of Impunity,” [National Security Archive](#), March 18, 2021

“Operation Intercept,” [National Security Archive](#), April 13, 2003.

“War in Colombia: Guerrillas, Drugs, and Human Rights in U.S.-Colombia Policy, 1988-2002,” [National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book](#) No. 69, May 3, 2002.

“Colombia Project,” [National Security Archive](#)

“World Drug Report 2022,” [UNODC](#)

Documentary Films

[The House I Live In](#) (2012) - <http://www.thehouseilivein.org/see-the-film/>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/drugs/archive/>
http://www.wola.org/publications/the_human_face

Policy Resources

<http://www.uicc.org/>
<http://www.soros.org/about/programs/global-drug-policy-program>
<http://www.rand.org/multi/dprc.html>
<http://www.beckleyfoundation.org>
http://www.poppyformedicine.net/modules/need_morphine/home
<http://www.drugsense.org/cms/>

<http://www.unodc.org>
<http://idpc.net>
<http://www.justice.gov/dea/index.shtml>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp>
<http://www.intercambios.org.ar>
http://www.wola.org/program/drug_policy
<http://www.drugpolicy.org>
<http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/reports/>