

History 201A/301A
The Global Drug Wars

Spring 2020-2021
4-5 Units
Wed, Fri 11:30 AM - 12:50 PM



Robert Crews
rcrews@stanford.edu
(650) 520-8245
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 PM PST

Community Engaged Learning Coordinator:
Rhana Hashemi
rhanah@stanford.edu

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” *Ways of Thinking/Ways of Doing* requirement.
- This course has been designated as a Cardinal Course by the Haas Center for Public Service. Cardinal Courses apply classroom knowledge to pressing social and environmental problems through reciprocal community partnerships. The units received through this course can be used towards the 12-unit requirement for the Cardinal Service transcript notation.
- Students who opt to participate in the service component of the course may choose, in consultation with Rhana Hashemi, our Community Engaged Learning Coordinator, to engage with one of the following organizations:

[National Harm Reduction Coalition](#)
[Youth Rise](#)
[Students for Sensible Drug Policy](#)
[Catalyst](#)

Please check in with Rhana (ghanah@stanford.edu) and me by **April 7** to discuss your service activities.

* Students who commit to the community engaged learning component of the course may seek an assessment based on their service work in lieu of the writing assignments described below. Please submit a summary of your service activities at the conclusion of the quarter.

Requirements and Grading:

Students are encouraged to complete readings/film screenings and participate in class discussions via Canvas to the extent possible.

Undergraduate students enrolled in History 201A for **4 units** should respond to at least **4** Canvas Discussion Board prompts (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 two texts:

- * Chris McGreal, [American Overdose: The Opioid Tragedy in Three Acts](#) (2018)
 - * Carl L. Hart, [High Price: A Neuroscientist’s Journey of Self-discovery that Challenges Everything You Know about Drugs and Society](#) (2013)
- 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.

March 31 - Introduction

April 7 - Framing the Drug War

“How Opioid Addiction in the U.S. Fuels a Crisis for Farmers in Mexico,”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KPPuPadomY>
 (10 mins.)

“I Use Heroin to Be a Better Person’: Columbia University Neuroscientist Carl Hart,”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VF-RQLP530M> (7 mins.)

“What’s fueling Afghanistan’s meth boom?”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=suMd4i4LRmI> (25 mins.)

April 9 - The Psychoactive Revolution, Prohibition, and Modernity

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

April 14 - The Opium Wars

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

April 16 - 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 21 - Commies and Crack

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

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

April 23 - Addiction, Politics, Culture

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

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.

[Afghanistan's Secret Heroin Epidemic](#) (2014) [45 mins.]

April 30 - 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 5 - Recovering from the Past

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

May 7 - Alternatives?

Carl L. Hart, [High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self-discovery that Challenges Everything You Know about Drugs and Society](#) (2013), xi-19, 238-332.

May 14 - The Endless Frontier?

Neil C. M. Carrier, and Gernot Klantschnig, [Africa and the War on Drugs](#) (2012)

May 21 - '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 26 - Narco-Cultures

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

May 28 - Living the War

- choose two:

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.

June 2 - Aesthetics, Politics, Change

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

June 4 - Capitalism and Crisis

Chris McGreal, American Overdose: The Opioid Tragedy in Three Acts (2018)

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.

Primary Sources

<http://projects.latimes.com/mexico-drug-war/#/its-a-war>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/interactive/2012/jul/02/drug-use-map-world>
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB86/>
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB69/>
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/colombia/index.htm>
<http://nsarchive.chadwyck.com/collections/content/CD/intro.jsp>
<http://nsarchive.chadwyck.com/collections/content/PE/intro.jsp>
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/mexicos-drug-war-bypassing-growers/2011/10/20/gIQAPKv93L_story.html
<http://duncantonatiuh.wordpress.com/category/drug-smuggling/>
<http://duncantonatiuh.wordpress.com/category/narcos/>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-20625482>

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/>