

HIST 38095-003: Special Topics

---

### A History of Drugs in the Modern World

Kent State University  
Spring 2010  
M, W 12:30-1:45 PM  
219 Satterfield Hall

Matthew J. Crawford, Ph.D.  
Office: 305E Bowman Hall  
Office Hours: M,W 3:00-5:00 or by appointment  
e-mail: mcrawf11@kent.edu

---

#### Course Description and Objectives

What is a “drug”? How are they discovered, produced, circulated and consumed? Why and how do some drugs get distributed widely and others do not? Why do societies and states regulate the distribution and consumption of some drugs and not others? These are some of the central questions that this course seeks to answer. We will employ a comparative and historical approach to examine the ways in which societies identify, develop, produce, consume and regulate (or not) various pharmacological substances. Course readings will cover a range of historical case studies of primarily plant-based drugs from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and North America. One of the main features of world history since 1500 has been globalization, the process of increasing contact and exchange between cultures and societies across the globe. As a result, we will pay special attention to what happens when drugs move across political, social, economic, and cultural boundaries. Possible case studies to be covered include: alcohol, kola, coffee and other forms of caffeine, tobacco, cocaine, opium, quinine, anti-cancer drugs and contraceptives. Members of the course will write a historical narrative on a drug of their choice in order to sharpen their skills at exploring the history of modern societies and cultures through material objects. Our objectives for the course include:

- Be able to describe and discuss major trends in the history of drugs in the early modern and modern periods (c. 1500 to the present)
- Understand the use of material culture and objects in historical understanding of the modern world and its development
- Learn how to identify, evaluate and compare different historical accounts of drugs, their development and their regulation
- Learn how to analyze primary sources and relate them to their historical context
- Learn how to synthesize information from primary and secondary sources into a coherent historical narrative and how to use evidence to support a historical interpretation or argument

---

#### Required Readings (Available for purchase at the KSU Bookstore and from online booksellers)

**NOTE:** All required readings are ON RESERVE at the KSU Main Library.

Brandt, Allan M. *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America*. New York: Basic Books, 2009. Paperback. ISBN: 0465070485

Klein, Axel. *Drugs and the World*. London: Reaktion Books, 2008. Paperback. ISBN: 1861893817

Mancall, Peter C. *Deadly Medicine: Indians and Alcohol in Early America*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997. Paperback. ISBN: 0801480442

Petryna, Adriana, Andrew Lakoff and Arthur Kleinmann, eds. *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006. Paperback. ISBN: 082233741X

Spillane, Joseph. *Cocaine: From Medical Marvel to Modern Menace*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. Paperback. ISBN: 0801871166

**Additional Required Readings on Vista/Blackboard in a folder with the name of the week for which the readings should be completed. Please print copies and bring them to class.**

<b>Assignments and Evaluation</b>
-----------------------------------

Assignment	Percentage of Grade	Due Date(s)
Discussion including Presentation on Readings	25%	N/A
In-Class Reading Responses	15%	(see schedule)
Take-Home Essay Exams (2)	30%	10/17 and 12/5
Research Project	30%	(various; see schedule)

Discussion, Participation, and Professionalism – Drugs and their regulation are controversial topics. There is much to discuss and I expect ALL members of the course to contribute their thoughts on and ask questions about the course material. Success in discussion includes: 1) keeping up with the course readings and taking time to reflect on them; 2) attending class regularly; 3) practicing professionalism in your interactions with me and other members of the course; 4) participating in discussions. **Please turn off and put away ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES while in class including laptops.** If you miss class, contact me via e-mail (mcrawf11@kent.edu) immediately. Except in circumstances beyond your control, absences will not be excused. Professional behavior is expected in your interactions with the professor and other members of the course.

Presentation on Readings: With a few exceptions, our Wednesday meetings will be reserved for student-led discussion of the week's readings. Starting Wednesday, September 7, 2-3 members of the class will each give a short (~5 min.) presentation on some part of the week's readings. The presentation should provide a brief summary of your part of the reading and raise some question for discussion. The student will then be responsible for guiding and developing the discussion that follows. Presentations on Readings will comprise 5% of the total course grade. An unexcused, missed presentation will result in automatic failure for the **entire** discussion grade, which comprises 25% of the course grade.

Reading Responses: On the days indicated on the course plan (mostly Mondays), you will be asked to write an **in-class** response to a question about the week's readings. The lowest reading response grade will be dropped. Dates of the reading responses are indicated on the course plan; however, they may be canceled at the professor's discretion.

Research Project: Each member of the course will write an essay of **at least 10** pages that analyzes a **primary source** relating to any drug or any aspect of the history of drugs that they choose. This analysis will make use of at least **ten** articles or chapters of secondary source material. More information on this project will be made available during the course.

Late Policy: If you miss class on the date that an assignment is due, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements. All late work must be delivered to me in person. I do NOT accept assignments via e-mail. Do not put assignments in my faculty mailbox unless you have made prior arrangements with me. The penalty for work turned in late will be 1/3 of a grade subtracted per day late.

Electronic Readings and Online Materials: There is a webpage for this course on KSU's Vista/Blackboard system (**vista8.kent.edu**). On that page, you will find copies of the syllabus and most assignments or handouts distributed in class. You will also find links to additional electronic readings for the course in pdf format. I will expect you to have access these materials. Technical questions should be directed to: KSU Information Services Helpdesk at: 330-672-4357 if any problems arise.

E-mail and on-line updates: E-mail communications for information related to the course will be sent to your **kent.edu** e-mail account. In addition, announcements will be posted on the course page on Blackboard. **Make sure to check your kent.edu account and the course page at least once a week.**

	Date	Topic	Assignments	Readings
		<b>Course Introduction: Thinking about Drugs</b>		Klein, Ch. 1; <b>Vista:</b> MathewsonK_2004_001.pdf; NeilsonB_BamyehM_2009_001.pdf; VanderGeestSetal_1996_001.pdf;
M	8/29	Course Introduction		
W	8/31	Discussion	Reading Response*	
		<b>Wk 2 Rise of the Global Drug Trade</b>		<b>Vista:</b> NortonM_2006_001.pdf; TopikS_2009_001.pdf; GoodmanJ_1995_001.pdf; DavisW_1985_001.pdf; LaBarreW_1970_001.pdf
M	9/5	<b>NO CLASS LABOR DAY</b>		
W	9/7	Student-Led Discussion	Reading Response*	
Su	9/11	<b>LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES</b>		
		<b>Wk 3 Alcohol: Perceptions and Practices of Indian Drinking</b>		Mancall, Prologue, Chs. 1-4
M	9/12	Discussion		
W	9/14	Student-Led Discussion		
		<b>Wk 4 Alcohol: Drinking in Colonial Contexts</b>		Mancall, Chs. 5-9, Epilogue
M	9/19	<b>LIBRARY SESSION</b>	<b>Topic Selection DUE</b>	
W	9/21	Student-Led Discussion	Reading Response*	
		<b>Wk 5 Tobacco: Consumerism and Cigarettes</b>		Brandt, Chs. 1-3; MancallP_2004_001.pdf
M	9/26	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	9/28	Student-Led Discussion		
		<b>Wk 6 Tobacco: Public Health and the "Science" of Big Tobacco</b>		Brandt, Chs. 4-6, 7
M	10/3	Discussion	<b>Proposal and Bibliography DUE / Reading Response*</b>	
W	10/5	Student-Led Discussion		
		<b>Wk 7 Tobacco: Regulation, Litigation, Politics</b>		Brandt, Chs. 9,10,11 and pp. 440-445
M	10/10	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	10/12	Student-Led Discussion	<b>Exam #1 Questions Available</b>	
		<b>Wk 8 Cocaine: The Rise of a Global Commodity</b>		Spillane, Intro + Chs. 1-4; <b>Vista:</b> AllenC_1981_001.pdf; BoltonR_1976_001.pdf;
M	10/17	Discussion	<b>Exam #1 DUE</b>	
W	10/19	Student-Led Discussion	Reading Response*	
		<b>Wk 9 Cocaine: The Emergence of Global Drug Regulation</b>		Spillane, Chs. 5-8 + Conclusion; <b>Vista:</b> GootenbergP_2003_001.pdf
M	10/24	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	10/26	Student-Led Discussion		
		<b>Wk 10 Drugs and the World: Understanding the Illicit Drug Trade</b>		Klein, Intro + Chs. 1-4
M	10/31	Discussion*	<b>Rough Draft DUE</b>	
W	11/2	Student-Led Discussion	Reading Response*	
Su	11/6	<b>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW</b>		
		<b>Wk 11 Drugs and the World: Perspectives and Policies on the Illicit Drug Trade</b>		Klein, Chs. 5-11
M	11/7	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	11/9	Student-Led Discussion		
		<b>Wk 12 Global Pharmaceuticals: Making People Up?</b>		Petryna, Chs. 1-3
M	11/14	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	11/16	Student-Led Discussion	<b>Peer Review DUE</b>	
		<b>Wk 13 Global Pharmaceuticals: New Drugs, New Markets</b>		Petryna, Chs. 4-6
M	11/21	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	11/23	<b>NO CLASS THANKSGIVING</b>		
		<b>Wk 14 Global Pharmaceuticals: The Challenges of Regulation and Distribution</b>		Petryna, Chs. 7-9
M	11/28	Discussion	Reading Response*	
W	11/30	Student-Led Discussion	<b>Exam #2 Questions Available</b>	
		<b>Wk 15 Drugs on Film: Medical Marijuana</b>		<b>Vista:</b> TakingSidesCh9_001.pdf
M	12/5	Movie + Discussion	<b>Exam #2 DUE</b>	
W	12/7	Movie + Discussion		
W	12/14	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE BY 4:00 PM to Dr. Crawford's Mailbox in 305 Bowman Hall</b>		

**NOTE:** An \* indicates that in-class reading responses will occur at the instructor's discretion.