



SOCI 315.66

Addictions

Winter 2021

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Continuing and Distance Education

Syllabus

Course Overview

In this course we investigate drug and alcohol addiction as an epidemic social problem, from several key perspectives. It is divided into five modules.

In **Lesson 1** we begin with the basic sociological theories of addiction, including the works of Robert Merton, Alfred Lindesmith, E. M. Jellinek, and others. Theories of addiction emerge first through structural functionalism, then develop into what Darin Weinberg (2011) calls “appreciative turn”, then rational choice theory, followed by social constructionist studies of addiction.

In **Lessons 2 and 3** we examine the historical emergence of addiction as an idea. There will be a discussion of well-known historical instances of widespread alcohol and drug addiction, beginning with the gin crisis that ravaged British society in the 17th and 18th centuries, and then the 19th century Opium Wars between England and China. Related to this will be an examination of the historical roots of addiction as a concept.

In **Lessons 4 and 5** we look at some of the subcultures of addiction, which include the influence of drinking and drugs on the arts, popular culture, and street culture. The course will include classic studies of drug and alcohol subcultures such as Nels Anderson’s (1923) *The Hobo*, Elliot Liebow’s *Tally’s Corner* (1967) and Martin Torgoff’s (2004) *Can’t Find My Way Home: America in the Great Stoned Age, 1945-2000*. In a more recent example, CBC Radio launched the Summer 2017 pilot called *On Drugs*. One episode examines the culture of addiction in Vancouver’s infamous “downtown Eastside.”

In **Lessons 6 and 7**, we study the correlation between addiction, ‘race’ and racism. Alcohol and drug addiction remain inextricably linked to ‘race’ and racism, in the historical occasions where addiction has been used to justify oppression of indigenous and Black communities and to perpetuate racialized stereotypes. For example, we look at how the stigma of addiction affected RCMP and police investigations of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada.

Finally, in **Lessons 8-10**, we investigate the impact of addiction on women, the family, and society. We will review the Canadian data that estimates the social cost of alcohol and drug addiction, including family and child well-being (child neglect and abuse), education, mental health, the workplace and the healthcare system.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- have acquired a grasp of the historical evolution of addiction as a concept.
- recognize that the unpleasant realities of the addiction experience have often been minimized and/or idealized through culture.
- understand the relationship between addiction and the perpetuation of racial stereotypes.
- have attained insight into the huge economic and social cost of addiction in Canadian social life.

Course Materials

The course materials include written materials in paper-based and electronic formats, videos, podcasts, and user-generated content. These materials are all mandatory unless they are clearly indicated as being optional. All the required reading material will be derived from scholarly, peer-reviewed literature in PDF files posted directly on the Moodle homepage.

Course Schedule

Online courses allow for some flexibility in how class time is integrated into your routine. **Nevertheless, there is a well-structured and demanding workflow to which you are expected to adhere.** This workflow is captured succinctly by the Schedule at a Glance, which you should review carefully.

The deadlines given in the Schedule should be strictly observed. Late submission of any assessment component, including a late post or reply on a discussion forum, will normally result in a grade of zero on that component.

Getting Ready

Accommodations

If you are a registered Tramble Rooms student, please send an email advising your instructor of this fact within one week of the start of the course and copy this email to the Tramble Rooms (tramble@stfx.ca). This email should also be copied to Continuing and Distance Education (continuinged@stfx.ca), or to Distance Nursing Programs (distance.nursing@stfx.ca) if you are a nursing student. Be sure to say in your email whether you receive time-and-a-half or double-time



for quizzes and exams and specify any other accommodations you may require during the course. If you do not provide enough notice that you are a Tramble Rooms student, you may not get the extra time or other accommodations you need.

Proctoring

A fillable “Proctor Form” must be downloaded from the Proctor Information section on Moodle and submitted to the Program Office (continuinged@stfx.ca) for each proctored exam (i.e., midterm and/or final) that you expect to write **off campus**. Note that if you write off campus, you are responsible for making proctoring arrangements and covering proctoring fees.

If you expect to write **on campus**, you do not have to submit a Proctor Form, but you do have to inform the Program Office by email of your intention to write on campus. In your email, please include the course code (e.g., HIST 227.66) and your student ID number.

You must submit the Proctor Form or let the Program Office know you intend to write on campus within two weeks of the exam date being announced in order to ensure that your exam is available.

Moodle Tutorials

If you have never taken an online course at StFX, you should begin by reviewing the materials in the Moodle Tutorials section on Moodle. There are instructions there on getting started, posting on discussion forums, and uploading assignments.

Course Information

Before you start the first lesson, and as soon as possible after you gain access to the course, you should examine the materials posted in the Course Information section on Moodle, including this Syllabus, the Schedule, and general reference materials. If your instructor has posted a video introduction, you should view that, too. Be sure to click on the Announcements forum and read any announcements that your instructor has made.

Where to Go for Help

Accessibility

If you require accommodations but have not yet registered with the Tramble Rooms (tramble@stfx.ca), please contact them right away. [Click here for more information.](#) Once you



are registered with them, see the Getting Ready section above for additional steps you must take to ensure you get the accommodations you need.

Course-Related Questions

If you have a question about any aspect of the course, the first thing you should do after reviewing the Course Information section on Moodle is to check the *Q&A Forum*. If you are unable to find the answer, you should post your question on this forum. For more information, please see the Communication section of this Syllabus.

Skills Improvement

The Student Success Centre provides advice, tutorials, and resources that can improve your academic writing, time management, and other skills. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Enrollment Issues

If you need general help pertaining to your enrollment in this course, including assistance with registration, withdrawal, prorated refund (if eligible), and proctoring arrangements, please contact Continuing and Distance Education (continuinged@stfx.ca), or Distance Nursing Programs (distance.nursing@stfx.ca) if you are a nursing student.

Technical Help

If you need help with Moodle, please contact CDE Support (cdesupport@stfx.ca). If you encounter difficulties pertaining to your StFX email or Office 365, please contact IT Services (itservices@stfx.ca).

Course Evaluation

The table below shows the points and weighting of each assessment component of the course.

Assessment Component	Description	Weighting (%)
Discussion Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• standard, no groups• Min. length 150 words	30
Reflexive Research Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 pages, double spaced.• Plus 10 scholarly references• MLA style	30
Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• paper-based, proctored, 3-hour• short-answer and essay questions	40

Please see the Course Schedule for the due date of each assessment component.

Discussion Forums

During online discussions, please adhere to Internet etiquette by taking a professional approach to communication with the instructor and/or fellow students. Each student is expected to contribute regularly to online discussions, at least once per lesson, responding to questions and activities provided at the end of each lesson. **You must summarize and comment on the content of the assigned readings and lessons**, making sure to use an in-text reference in MLA style to refer to the required reading for the lesson. In other words, cite the relevant passage as you would in an academic essay using MLA style. The online discussion postings have **individual due dates** that are posted on the left-hand side of the Course Schedule under “Dates.” The discussion postings for each lesson should be no less than 150 words. **Online discussions are due at 11:59 Atlantic Daylight Time on the due date.**

Here are some things to keep in mind when composing and posting your responses and replies:

- Due dates for both responses and replies are in the Schedule. **Late responses or replies will not be accepted!**
- Your responses for each discussion forum should no less than 150 words.
- In general, your posts will focus on specific points in the readings. You should strive to use the terms employed by the authors but be careful to provide in-text citations for any quotes or paraphrases of their ideas, as well as a complete reference list at the end. **Note that all citations and references must be in MLA style.**

- Your posts will be assessed on how well they demonstrate: a solid understanding of the readings; the application of what has been learned to new contexts; the clear articulation and development of a single line of thought; the supporting of your argument with valid disciplinary reasoning and examples; the making of connections to major themes or debates in the literature or in the course; a clear, coherent, and compelling style of writing; the correct use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation; and the completeness and accuracy of in-text citations and references in MLA style.
- To write your response or view the responses of others, you must first click on the discussion forum link on Moodle.
- To write your response, click on the “Add a new discussion topic” button.
- After you have written your response or reply, click on the “Post to forum” button.
- It is recommended that you first write each response or reply in Microsoft Word and save it on your device or OneDrive. That way, you will have a copy of your work in case your internet or server connection fails while you are writing.
- Use ctrl-c (⌘-c on a Mac) to copy your work from your Word document and use ctrl-v (⌘-v on a Mac) to paste your work into the Message box.
- **Do not post your discussion comments in a Word Document or PDF file!**

Reflexive Research Paper

In sociology, the reflexive method includes both a subjective process of self-conscious inquiry (self-awareness) and the study of social behavior (in this case addiction) with reference to relevant theories. In this paper, I would like you to choose one area or instance of the sociology of addiction that interests you. It can be either historical or contemporary. Be sure that the area you choose is focused; it is better to write a lot about a small subject than to try to cover a large research area in a ten-page paper. Begin with a brief introduction (one paragraph) where you state what you intend to cover. Follow with a theoretical framework that we have taken up in the course that is appropriate for your topic (one or two paragraphs). Then thoroughly analyze your choice of subject matter. Your selection of a theoretical framework and the analysis should be well-matched, in other words, you should not have to force fit sociological concepts on the issue to produce the paper. The conceptual framework for this assignment should emerge from the data, the problem itself. To conclude your paper, suggest a possible solution to the social situation or set of circumstances. **Ten pages, double-spaced. Ten (10) scholarly references over and above the ten pages of written text. MLA Style, 8th Edition, 2016. Do not submit your assignment in a PDF file. For grading purposes, I need to be able to edit it! Refer to the schedule for the due date.**



Final Exam

This paper-based, proctored, 3-hour exam consisting of definitions, short-answer and essay questions. A comprehensive outline of the exam will be provided four weeks in advance.

Communication

There are three means of communication for this online course, namely, the *Announcement Forum*, the *Q&A Forum*, and email. Each of these means is considered in its own subsection below.

Announcements Forum

Please check the Announcements forum regularly for important announcements from your instructor.

Q&A Forum

If you have a question, chances are that others have the same question, too. If you cannot find the answer to your question in any of the course materials (such as the Syllabus, the Schedule, the lessons, and the hand outs), check the Announcements forum and the Q&A forum to see if the answer has already been posted there. If you cannot find the answer anywhere and your question is not of a personal nature, please post your question on the Q&A forum.

Please check the Q&A forum regularly, as you may learn something that will help you in completing assignments or studying for quizzes and exams. Moreover, if you know the answer to a question posted by a classmate, please be so kind as to share your answer. The Q&A forum only works if everyone contributes to it.

Email

University policy requires that all email communication between students and faculty or staff take place using StFX email addresses. Please check your StFX account regularly for important notices from your instructor or other StFX departments, and only use your StFX account when sending an email to your instructor.

Before emailing a question to your instructor, please see the Q&A section above. Unless your question is of a personal nature, it should be posted on the Q&A forum.



Please include the course code (e.g., “SOCl 315.66”) and the topic in the subject line, open with a formal salutation (e.g., “Dear Dr. _____”), express yourself politely and respectfully, and sign the email with your full name and student number.

The instructor will try to respond to your email within 24 hours, but it could take 48 hours or longer for you to get a response on weekends and holidays, and in exceptional circumstances.

Course Policies

MLA Style

All written work for this course must adhere to MLA Style. The protocols for MLA Style can be found on the Student Success Center website – the link is on the Moodle Homepage.

Academic Integrity

The highest standard of academic integrity is expected. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of academic offences such as plagiarism, cheating, tampering, and falsification. For more information, please see “Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures” (St. Francis Xavier University, 2006). [Click here to view this document.](#)

Assignment Due Dates

Assignments (including discussion forums posts) that are submitted after the due date stated in the Schedule, and for which no extension has been granted by the instructor in writing, will receive a grade of zero. Assignments for which such an official extension has been granted will be accepted up until the new due date, after which they will receive a grade of zero. Even when an official extension has been granted, a late penalty of up to 10% per day based on the original due date may still be imposed. Note that extensions are granted only in extenuating circumstances, and then only at the discretion of the instructor.

Exam Dates

Every exam and quiz must be written on the date, and within the time frame, that is stipulated in the Schedule. A grade of zero will be given for any exam or quiz that is missed.

Final exams

Changes to Final Exam dates must be requested and approved through the Dean’s Office.



Successful Completion

Please refer to the section of the [Academic Calendar](#) that pertains to your program of study to find out the minimum grade you must achieve in this course to successfully complete it, as well as the academic penalties you will incur if you do not.

Withdrawal

There are deadlines for withdrawing from this course, and possible academic consequences for doing so. [Click here for more information.](#)

Refund Policy

You may or may not be eligible for a prorated refund should you decide to withdraw from this course. [Click here to view the StFX Refund Policy for Continuing & Distance Education.](#)

References

St. Francis Xavier University. (2006). Academic integrity policies and procedures [PDF file]. Antigonish, NS: St. Francis Xavier University. Retrieved from http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/files/academic-integrity-document.pdf