

The Economics of Sex, Drugs, and Crime 3960-01 Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Anne Yeagle Office: OSH 366 Office Hours: T&Th 9-10:00am and by appointment
Class time: T H 7:30-8:50 pm Room OSH 175 Phone#: 801-581-7481(Econ office at U)
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Course objectives The main objective of this class is to use economic principles to examine relationships (which sometimes involve sex), drugs, and crime. Behavioral economics looks at how psychological factors, such as **perception**, influence economic decisions. We will also be looking at the economic consequences of the choices people, societies and government make regarding sex, drugs and crime.

General requirements Completion of all tests and assignments on time and in the manner specified is required. It is extremely important to keep up on course reading. It is expected that you will come to each class prepared, that is, having read the assigned material. If you are not in class, please refer to the syllabus. If you take responsibility it will affect your class performance positively.

Regular attendance is also of the utmost importance. The purpose of this requirement is to insure that you get as much as possible from the course. All tests count. If you have reason to believe you will be unable to attend class regularly, I suggest you not take this class.

Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

Text and Readings

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander 2010 978-1-59558-103-7 The New Press

Opium Nation by Fariba Nawa 2011 978-0-06-193470-4 Harper-Collins

Spousonomics by Szuchman and Anderson 2011 ISBN 978-0-385-34394-7 Random House

There are no prerequisites for this class. You need not have studied economics beforehand. All you need is an interest in the subject, a commitment to work to develop an understanding of the issues concerning inequality, and a commitment to debate and disagree in a principled way about some highly controversial topics.

Grading Grades will be composed of tests, article presentations, presentation, book tests, and group grade.

1. **Attendance** $\frac{1}{4}$ point for being on time and $\frac{3}{4}$ for attending class each day, worth 15 points
2. **Article Summary** *Alternative Economic Phil and Contemporary American Capitalism* worth 15 points
3. **Article Assignment** *Darwin, Swift and Carnegie* worth 20 points
4. Each test will be worth between approximately 8- 20 points each. All tests count—no tests dropped
5. Individual **article presentation**, worth 3 points.
6. **Group Outline** , worth 3 points
7. **Group Presentation**, worth 18 points.
8. **Group Paper**, worth 10 points
9. **Group evaluation grade**, worth 3 points.
10. **Presentation quiz**, participation, etc., 2 points for each presentation
11. If you **miss a student presentation**, you must complete a 3-page report, single space, using at least three journal sources, exploring the pros and cons of the presentation you missed. The paper will be graded on a 0-10 point scale and is due within 1 week of the missed presentation. If you fail to turn in a paper your grade will be docked 10 points. You can make up only one presentation for the semester. Also, if you miss more than 25% of a presentation, it will be considered “missed” and you will need to write a paper.
12. If you are **late** for another groups’ presentation, -2 each time.
13. **Assignment interviews for Spousonomics** 5 points each
14. **Documentary points** will vary with length

Grades

100%-93	A	82-80	B-	69-67	D+
92-90	A-	79-77	C+	66-63	D
89-87	B+	76-73	C	62-60	D-
86-83	B	72-70	C-	59-0	F

Explanation of Assignments, Tests, etc.

Darwin Carnegie and Swift Assignment worth 20 points due Jan 15—see assignment sheet in packet

Summaries of “Alternative Economic Perspectives” and “Contemporary American Capitalism and Its Radical Critics” is due Jan 22. It is worth 15 points. See assignment sheet in packet.

Tests will be composed mostly of essay type questions and some multiple choice. Questions/rebuttals to test questions/answers need to be in written form and submitted no later than one week after tests are handed back. Old test questions/rebuttals will not be entertained

Absence on test days: One time only! If you know you will be unable to attend a class period on which a test takes place, you will need to submit a written request in advance to me (one time max). If you do not make prior such arrangements, tests taken late will receive 50% of the full grade points (unless absence is verified by doctor or police report). If you do not contact me by the next class, no makeup tests will be given.

Book Tests You are assigned to read The New Jim Crow, Opium Nation and Spousonomics. We will discuss the books in class. You can have the book and 1 page of handwritten notes with you during the test.

Article Presentation You will be assigned a date on which you will bring in a current article (newspaper, magazine, internet news) that pertains to the subject we are currently studying. You must relate it to the economic topics we are discussing. You will summarize the article for the class in a 2-3 minute presentation and be prepared to comment on the subject. A typed written outline will also need to be turned in at this time.

Group Outline, Presentation and Paper Please refer to the *Guidelines* page (the outline is due at least one week prior to your presentation and the paper is due the same day as your presentation)

Group grade After your group has presented, please fill out the evaluation sheet found in the back of your notes packet. Grade each person in your group as well as yourself based on responsibility and effort towards the group.

Presentation Quizzes The student audience will be asked to take a quiz or participate in the group presentations which will be worth 2 points for each presentation. These points cannot be made up if you miss the presentation. Also, if I believe that a student in the audience is not paying attention during a presentation, they will not receive the 2 points possible and may need to write a makeup paper.

Absence on presentation days. If you **miss a presentation (this means 25% or more)**, you must complete a 3 page report, single spaced, using at least three sources, of which one must be a journal, exploring the topic you missed. The paper will be graded on a 0-10 point scale. If you fail to do so your grade will be docked 10 points. You can make up only one missed presentation. The makeup paper is due one week after the missed debate.

Class structure. Tests will be given at the beginning of class. If you come to class late, you will not be given extra time. Presentations will also be start at the beginning of class. Please be prepared.

Electronic Devices No electronic devices, such as headphones and cellphones are allowed to be used in the classroom—duh. Computer use is questionable as well since you will have class notes and computers are very distracting to other students. If you must use your computer for taking notes, you need to sit in the back row since students have complained that it is irritating to them.