



THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
College of Arts, Social Sciences, & Humanities
Department of Criminology, Criminal Justice & Legal Studies
11000 University Pkwy
Pensacola, FL 32514

<https://uwf.edu/cassh/departments/criminology-criminal-justice-and-legal-studies/>

CCJ 3651: Drugs, Crime, & Criminal Justice

Professor: Dr. Chrystina Hoffman

Phone: (850) 474-3067

Email: choffman@uwf.edu

Office: Building 85/Room 151

Credit Hours: 3.0

Semester/Year: Spring 2024

Class Day/Time: T/R 1:00pm – 2:15pm

Class Location: Building 86/Room 132

Office Hours: T/R 10:00am – 12:45pm & W 10:00am – 2pm or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT:

Belenko, S. & Spohn, C. (2015). *Drugs, Crime, and Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

**Additional readings may be posted online.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the interactions between drugs, crime, and society. Relevant history, theory, and research related to drug use, prevention, rehabilitation, and the drug-crime link will be explored critically. Additionally, this course will examine the pharmacology of drugs and the prevalence of usage. As such, this course aims to provide a foundation for a better understanding the relationship between drugs, crime, and the criminal justice system.

COURSE TOPICS:

- Moral panics
- Drug use in the United States
 - Prevalence and effects of drugs
- Criminological explanations of drug use and abuse
- Drug policy and the criminal justice system
- History and impacts of the “war on drugs”
- Drugs, offenders, and victims

- Drug treatment strategies
 - Drug courts
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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student must play an active role in meeting student learning outcomes by attending class, completing readings, participating in discussion, excelling in required course work, and being prepared for class sessions. From material covered in this course, both through lectures and assigned readings, students have the ability to meet the following student learning outcomes:

- 1) Discuss moral panic and its influence on society;
 - 2) Identify categories of drugs and explain their effect on the human body;
 - 3) Describe criminological explanations of drug use and abuse;
 - 4) Discuss the relationships between drugs, criminal offending, and victimization;
 - 5) Describe current drug policies and their impact on the criminal justice system;
 - 6) Critically analyze the consequences of the “war on drugs”
 - 7) Read, understand, and summarize scholarly articles.
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EDUCATIONAL GOALS:

Students will be required to critically analyze benefits and consequences of current drug policies in their writing and class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I. *Examinations*. There will be three (3) exams in this course. These exams may consist of multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer questions. Exams will cover material presented in the readings, textbook, and lectures. **Each exam is worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points towards the student’s final grade.**

II. *Writing Assignments*. Each week, the instructor will post a writing prompt related to course material, readings, and/or information provided during lecture. Writing assignments are **due on Canvas by Friday at 11:59 p.m.** A writing assignment rubric is available on Canvas. There are a total of 11 writing prompts. Students are required to complete SIX writing assignments throughout the semester. **Each assignment is worth 10 points each, for a total of 60 points to the student’s final grade.**

III. *PowerPoint Project*. As we will discuss throughout the semester, it is extremely important to enact drug policy that is informed by research and empirically proven to be effective. The best way to ensure this happens is to vote in local elections for candidates who support evidence-based reform. For this project, students are tasked with making an informative and visually appealing PowerPoint presentation highlighting the political stances on drug legalization for two

elected officials from the state of Florida (or your home state). A handout will be provided on Canvas. **The PowerPoint project is worth 25 points towards the student's final grade.**

GRADES AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Grades will be calculated by adding each component together.

	Description	Points
Examinations		
	Exam #1	100
	Exam #2	100
	Exam #3	100
Writing Assignments		
	WA #1	10
	WA #2	10
	WA #3	10
	WA #4	10
	WA #5	10
	WA #6	10
PowerPoint Project	Create an informative and visually appealing PowerPoint presentation highlighting the political stances on drug legalization for two elected officials	25
		TOTAL = 385

Students have the potential to earn 385 points throughout this course. Grades are based on the percentage of points earned out of the points possible. Below is the breakdown for grades based on percentages and total points earned:

Final Grade	Percentage	Total Points
A	93% or higher	358 or above
A-	90-92.9%	347 – 357
B+	87-89.9%	335 – 346
B	83-86.9%	320 – 334
B-	80-82.9%	308 – 319
C+	77-79.9%	296 – 307
C	73-76.9%	281 – 295

C-	70-72.9%	270 – 279
D	60-69.9%	231 – 269
F	Below 60%	Less than 231

Final grades are **NOT** negotiable; however, if you believe there has been a legitimate mistake with your grade, please bring it to my attention and I will be happy to address your concern. *Students will receive the grade that they earn in the class by virtue of their performance.*

EXAMINATIONS/MAKE-UPS:

Make-up exams are uncommon and should not be expected. **No make-up exams will be given without a valid excuse.** Acceptable circumstances for a valid excused absence include: death in your immediate family, serious personal illness, religious observations, military duty, court subpoenas/jury duty, and student athlete releases. For any excuse to be considered valid, the student must contact the instructor **BEFORE** the exam and provide proper documentation (court/police report, doctor's note, etc.) to receive permission for a make-up exam. I reserve the right to offer a different exam than offered during the normal test-taking period. Please refer to the [academic catalog](#) for more information regarding the University of West Florida's policy on class attendance.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments (writing assignments or PowerPoint projects) will **not** be accepted without a University-approved absence or circumstance.

CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR:

The preferred method of communication is via email (choffman@uwf.edu). Students should expect 24 to 48 hours for a response from the instructor, excluding weekends. **You must include the course name and number in the subject line of all emails sent to the professor in order to receive a response!** If you have thoroughly read this syllabus, please email me your favorite meme about being a college student! Memes will be accepted until January 20th, 2024. You will receive +2 points extra credit for completing this task.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This outline is a general overview of the class which includes course topics, assigned readings, exams, and project deadlines. The instructor may alter this outline if needed, and will notify students as soon as possible if this occurs.

Date	Class Topic	Readings/Assignments Due **Readings should be completed BEFORE class!**
Week One January 9 th & 11 th	Syllabus and Course Overview	INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO YOUR PEERS (EXTRA CREDIT +5)
Week Two January 16 th & 18 th	Overview; Moral Panic and Drugs; Reefer Madness	TEXT – Chapter 1 CANVAS – Garland (2008); Schlosser (1994) WA #1
Week Three January 23 rd & 25 th	Psychoactive Drugs; Scheduling; The Effects of Drugs on the Body	TEXT – Chapter 2 WA #2
Week Four January 30 th & February 1 st	Theoretical Explanations of Drug Use	TEXT – Chapter 3 CANVAS – Schroeder & Ford (2012) WA #3
Week Five February 6 th & 8 th	EXAM #1	
Week Six February 13 th & 15 th	The Link between Drugs and Crime	TEXT – Chapter 4 CANVAS – Jacobs et al. (2000); Maxwell & Maxwell (2000) WA #4
Week Seven February 20 th & 22 nd	Drugs and Victimization	CANVAS – Dietz & Wright (2005); Messman & Moore (2009); Hughes et al. (2010); Wright et al. (2013) WA #5
Week Eight February 27 th & 29 th	The War on Drugs – History; Collateral Consequences of the War on Drugs	TEXT – Chapters 5 & 9 WA #6

Week Nine March 5 th & 7 th	Policing the Drug Problem	TEXT – Chapter 6 CANVAS – Beckett et al. (2006) WA #7
Week Ten March 12 th & 14 th	EXAM #2	
Week Eleven March 19 th & 21 st	Prosecuting Drug Offenders in Court	TEXT – Chapter 7 CANVAS – Spohn et al. (2001) WA #8
Week Twelve March 26 th & 28 th	Sentencing and Incarcerating Drug Offenders	TEXT – Chapter 8 WA #9
Week Thirteen April 2 nd & 4 th	Drug Abuse Treatment Strategies	CANVAS – Holloway et al. (2006); Anglin et al. (1999); Mitchell et al. (2007) WA #10
Week Fourteen April 9 th & 11 th	Harm Reduction Models	CANVAS – Vlahov et al. (1997); Ksobiech (2003); Wood et al., (2006) WA #11
Week Fifteen April 16 th & 18 th	The Future of Drug Policy – Decriminalization and Legalization	
Week Sixteen April 23 rd & 25 th	FINAL EXAM	POWERPOINT PROJECT DUE APRIL 27th BY 11:59pm (CST)
Week Seventeen April 28 th – May 4 th		

Important Dates

January 14th – Drop/add period ends
January 15th – MLK Day
March 25th to March 31st – Spring break
April 8th – Withdrawal deadline
April 29th – Final exams begin
May 7th – Final grades due by 9am

Please check [the official UWF Academic Calendar](#) for important dates, including holidays, withdrawal, and registration dates.

Other student resources can be found on the [General Education website](#).

Policy Statements

The following policy statements apply to all syllabi on all UWF campuses and are in effect even if not reproduced on the official course syllabus.

In this section

[[Course Modality](#)] [[Recording in Class](#)] [[Academic Conduct](#)] [[TurnItIn](#)] [[Sexual Discrimination or Harassment Reporting](#)] [[Civil Discourse](#)] [[Health and Safety Protocols](#)]

Course Modality

University of West Florida operations may be disrupted from time to time by weather, pandemics, and other events outside of our control. It is important for faculty and students alike to plan for contingencies that may affect individual course sections. With this in mind, faculty may opt to hold some class meetings in a modality other than that originally planned in order to make certain that the class continues in the best manner possible given the immediate circumstances. It is important to be flexible and understand that we are operating in a dynamic environment.

Recording in Class

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty or guest lecturer, as part of a University of West Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. The following actions are prohibited: recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of UWF-REG 3.010 Student Code of Conduct and may be a violation of the law.

Academic Conduct

The [Student Code of Academic Conduct](#) defines various forms of academic misconduct, including cheating and plagiarism, and describes the process for addressing these types of allegations. All students are expected to read the Student Code of Academic Conduct and comply with the expectations. More information and links to the University regulation governing academic conduct can be found on the Dean of Students website listed under the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Turnitin

UWF maintains a university license agreement for an online text-matching service called Turnitin. Instructors may use the Turnitin service to evaluate the originality of student papers at their discretion. Instructors can employ other services and techniques to evaluate your work for evidence of appropriate authorship practices as needed.

Sexual Discrimination or Harassment Reporting

University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you to, or you may independently access the [University's Title IX website](#).

Civil Discourse

At the University of West Florida, learning involves a variety of ideas, theories, and evidence. Presentation of these ideas does not represent an endorsement of any one idea or perspective. It is vital to the UWF academic mission that we foster an environment that allows for the open exchange of ideas and perspectives to advance the learning objectives for each course. Civil discourse within and outside the classroom is a vital component of the UWF academic environment and is expected of everyone who belongs to the UWF community. Students and faculty may engage with complex ideas in class and students will often be asked to demonstrate an understanding of the ideas. Understanding an idea, concept, or theory does not require endorsing or agreeing with it, but rather hearing and considering its strengths and weaknesses. More information about civil discourse can be found in resources on the [Dean of Students webpage](#).

Health and Safety Protocols

The University of West Florida is dedicated to maintaining the best learning environment possible for our entire community of students, faculty and staff. We are the University of West Florida. Each of us, and all of us, by the act of stepping onto this campus and into a classroom, accept the responsibility as UWF Argonauts to help make this a safe place to learn. The University will continue to rely on guidance from the Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to pass on any changes in protocols for health and safety should the need arise. Students are encouraged to consult with their instructors regarding absences and missed work.

[How can I get the most out of the syllabus?](#) — A course syllabus is an essential roadmap to your success as a student. While each syllabus is unique, they all contain valuable information that will help you succeed and stay organized throughout the semester. To fully benefit from the course syllabus, you need to read it, understand it, and keep it handy, as you will continually refer to it throughout your course.

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Student Support Resources

Your success is the number one priority at UWF! Here are just a few of the many student support resources that can help you succeed.

In this section

[[Student Accessibility Resources](#)] [[Military & Veterans Resource Center](#)] [[Mental Health Support](#)]
[[Ask-a-Librarian](#)] [[Emergency Information](#)] [[Writing Lab](#)] [[Tutoring and Learning Resources](#)]

Student Accessibility Resources

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must [register with Student Accessibility Resources](#) and submit a semester request each semester. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, visit [the SAR website](#), e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Military & Veterans Resource Center

The [UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center \(MVRC\)](#) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through

coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ® education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out-of-state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising, and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550.

Mental Health Support

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive, and flourish; you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources online or on campus.

- For health concerns, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172.
- For mental health or substance use concerns, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420.
- For 24/7 crisis counseling, call 850-474-2420 and press option 6.

Therapy Assistance Online (TAO)

All students are encouraged to utilize Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) to strengthen skills to cope with anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. TAO is an interactive web-based self-help program that is available 24/7. Access TAO anonymously at uwf.edu/tao.

TogetherAll

If you feel like you need somewhere to talk anonymously to others who can support you, peer support is available to all students 24/7 via TogetherAll. TogetherAll is an online community where members are anonymous and can share how they are feeling and support each other. It is an asynchronous program where you can respond to others' posts and you can also share your own posts if you would like. Learn more and join TogetherAll at uwf.edu/togetherall

ArgoWell

Mental Health is one aspect of holistic health, which encompasses all of the eight wellness dimensions. The eight dimensions do not have to be equally balanced. Instead, you should strive to achieve your own authentic personal harmony. You have unique goals, priorities, and aspirations. You determine how to live your best life. ArgoWell is a UWF campus-wide initiative that brings student wellness to the forefront. Learn how ArgoWell can help you make the healthy choice the easy choice and support you in your wellness journey at uwf.edu/argowell.

Ask-a-Librarian

UWF Library staff are available for help through our [Ask-a-Librarian Live Chat](#) monitored from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, and 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Sunday. You can also email a librarian using the left-hand navigation in Canvas under Help or Library Tools or text a librarian at 850-483-0225.

Emergency Information

In the case of severe weather or another emergency, the campus might be closed and classes canceled. UWF uses a variety of communication methods to alert the campus community about emergency situations and safety threats. [Learn more about Emergency Communications from the UWF Police.](#)

Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website, Mobile Alert, and broadcast on WUWF-FM (88.1MHz).

- Mobile Alert is a broadcasting messaging system utilized by the university in emergency situations. To find more information regarding Mobile Alert, visit the [Enroll in Mobile Alert page](#) or locate the application in MyUWF by searching Mobile Alert.
- WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the University. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast.

In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes, and the closing of the University. All students are encouraged to review the [Emergency Procedures Guide from UWF Police](#) as a quick reference for effective and timely action in the event of an emergency.

Writing Lab

[The Writing Lab](#) can help with the projects in this course. Graduate and undergraduate Writing Lab assistants are available to review the mechanics of writing with you and help you upgrade the quality of your papers before you submit assignments.

Paper reading services are offered online and face-to-face either by appointment (through Navigate or 850-474-2229) or as walk-ins at the Main Lab (51/157) and at the satellite Writing Lab at CoB. These services include face-to-face and online Interactive paper reading sessions and paper reading via the OWL/Online Writing Lab that allows students to place their to-be-edited papers in the Canvas dropbox.

Paper reading services, along with one-on-one and interactive group tutoring, Editing Workshops,

the Grammar Hotline (850-474-2129), and Real-Time Writing Assistance, are available during the Writing Lab's regular hours of operation from 10 to 5 daily and occasional weekends.

Visit our webpage at www.uwf.edu/writelab, or email us at writelab@uwf.edu

Note:

It may take up to 48 hours or more to receive your work back from the Writing Lab. It is your responsibility to turn your assignment in on time. Take this into consideration when utilizing the Writing Lab.

Tutoring and Learning Resources

Tutoring and Learning Resources offers free services designed to help you improve your academic performance. Available services include Course-Based Tutoring, Study Skills Assistance, Academic Coaching, Academic Success Workshops, Smartpen Loans, and more. Services are available in Building 52 and the 2nd Floor of Pace Library. For more information, visit www.uwf.edu/tlr, email tutoring@uwf.edu, or call (850) 474-3176.

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Instructional Tools and Technology

Many instructors use instructional tools and technology regardless of course modality. Here are statements about a few of the most popular tools students may be asked to use.

In this section

[[Minimum Technical Skills Needed](#)] [[Technical Support](#)] [[Helpful support links](#)] [[eLearning \(Canvas\)](#)] [[Zoom](#)] [[Test Proctoring & Monitoring Tools](#)] [[Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor](#)] [[Honorlock](#)] [[ProctorU](#)]

Minimum Technical Skills Needed

UWF prepares students for current and future business and life applications using basic technology. Each UWF student is expected to do the following:

- Activate a MyUWF student account
- Access the MyUWF portal a minimum of 2-3 times a week
- Access UWF email account (Gmail) 2-3 times a week
- Have basic word-processing knowledge

Additional technical skills and technology requirements may vary by college, department, and course. Student use of UWF information technology resources is governed by the [Computing Resources Usage Agreement](#) and the Student Communications Policy* (also see the [My Account](#) app in MyUWF).

Visit the [Minimum Technical Skills and Special Technology Utilized by Students](#) to learn more about additional technology requirements for fully online or hybrid courses, general web browser requirements, supported operating systems, additional software you may need, and accessibility and privacy statements for approved UWF technology tools.

Technical Support

ITS offers support to online students via phone (850.474.2075), online request form, and through email (helpdesk@uwf.edu) for non-Canvas (eLearning) questions or problems. Visit the [Help Desk website](#) to learn more about their resources and services.

Helpful support links

- [New to UWF?](#)
- [Computer Specifications for eLearning \(Canvas\)](#)
- [MyUWF & ArgoNet](#)
- [Computer Security](#)
- [Files Storage](#)
- [Google Apps](#)
- [Internet Access](#)
- [Software](#)
- [Student Guide](#) (helpful links to various technology support topics organized by tool)

Instructors may also use third party learning tools from other vendors, like Pearson. Your instructor should be able to provide information about customer support for those tools separately.

eLearning (Canvas)

UWF's online courses are made available through eLearning, which is hosted by Canvas, one of the leaders in online learning. eLearning is widely used by UWF instructors for fully online courses and to supplement traditional courses with online content. Visit the [eLearning Help for Students](#) page to get started and find support for Canvas. **Canvas Support is available 24/7 at the Canvas Support Hotline for Students: 1-844-866-3349.**

Zoom

Zoom is a cloud-based software that allows your instructor to moderate an online meeting with students.

Learn more about [using Zoom as a student](#).