

# SOC 250: The Social Contexts of Substance Use



**Writing Emphasis  
course!**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jacqueline Zalewski

**When:** Fall 2020

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**Have you ever wondered any of the following?**

- What is the historical context for illegal drugs in the United States?
- What are the rates of substance use and dependency among particular populations (adolescents, women, minorities, and the elderly)? Why are certain groups affected differently?
- How is substance use commonly treated?
- What are the structural causes for the opioid and heroin epidemic and the increase in deaths by overdose?

This course will be split into three different sections, each covering their own subject areas related to substance use in society. The first few weeks will be an overview of substance use: what is it, who does it effect and why? The second unit will focus exclusively on college-aged drinking. How is the culture of heavy drinking reproduced and cultivated on campuses? What challenges does this bring students? Finally, the third unit will focus on the use of prescription drugs in society.

This course fulfills the Writing Emphasis requirement, and students will be assessed through a range of written work including response papers, book reviews, quizzes, and a final research proposal and presentation.

**Questions?** Contact Dr. Jacqueline Zalewski at [jzalewski@wcupa.edu](mailto:jzalewski@wcupa.edu)