

The Economics of Sex, Drugs, and Crime 3960-01 Spring 2011

Instructor: Dr. Anne Yeagle Office: OSH 366 Office Hours: T&Th 9-10:00am and by appointment
Class time: T 4:35- 7:25 pm Room BUC 108 Phone# : 801-581-7435(my office) and 801-581-7481(Ecor office at U) email yeagle@economics.utah.edu

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 30 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. **Interviews on group presentations** 3 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.

Summaries of "Alternative Economic Perspectives" and "Contemporary American Capitalism and Its Radical Critics" A two-page, single spaced summary of the conservative, liberal, and radical philosophies is due ~~Aug 30~~. It is worth 15 points. On the first page write 2 short (½ page each) paragraphs summarizing the *Conservative and Liberal Paradigms* using "**Alternative Economic Perspectives**". For the second page, discuss 6 main areas of concern for the *Radicals* using the article "**Contemporary American Capitalism and Its Radical Critics**". Your personal comments are welcome. Papers over 2 pages will be docked points—be concise.

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. There could be test questions relating class material to the books in addition to separate book tests.

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 economics. 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.

Interviews After each presentation please interview someone outside the class as to their views on the topic. 1 page typed.

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.

3960 Economics Outline and Presentation Guidelines

Each group of students will be assigned a topic (same as the paper topic) to construct a presentation that will be given to the class as scheduled on the syllabus.

You are required to prepare a group **Power Point presentation**.
(Your presentation is evaluated on content, organization, and clarity.)

The **Presentation** should be a total of 20-25 minutes (about 5 minutes per person) This time should include the class assignment. You will lose points if you go over your individual time of 5 minutes.

*******YOU NEED TO START ON TIME—PLEASE DO A TEST RUN WITH YOUR COMPUTER BEFOREHAND TO SEE THAT IT WORKS!*******

I suggest that you consider covering the following sections (the appropriateness will vary with the topic):

Background/ History

Objective/ The problem/ The issue

Data

Conclusion/ Policy Recommendation

References

Outline

One week before your scheduled presentation please hand in an outline of what you are planning to present to the class. Include the above information. If I ask you to revise your outline, points will be given after the revised outline is complete. The outline is worth 3 points for each student.

Sources I am expecting most of your sources to be academic in nature. You are required to have at least 3 sources from such as journals and other library sources.

Grading

During the presentation, I will grade each student based on the evaluation guidelines listed below.

The presentation grade is worth 18 points for each individual student.

After (or during, depending on how creative ☺ you are) the presentation, each student in the audience will be required to either fill out a questionnaire relating to the presentation, take a quiz following the presentation or otherwise participate. It is up to the discretion of the presenters as to what this requirement entails. It should be worth 2 points for the student audience.

Evaluation Guideline for Presentations

<u>1. Topic/ Problem stated clearly.</u>	1	2		
<u>2. Quality of information/data</u>	1	2		
<u>3. Facts Support Conclusion</u>	1	2		
<u>4. Policy or learning objective clearly stated.</u>	1	2		
<u>5. Visual presentation of information/ neatness/ effectiveness</u>	1	2		
<u>6. Your individual participation</u>	1	2	3	4
<u>7. Keeping within the time limit and starting on time</u>	1	2		
<u>7. (Preparing/conducting) Student audience assignment/quiz</u>	1	2		

Total (18 possible) _____

3960 Economics Paper Guideline

There will be 5-6 groups with 3-4 people in each group.

Each group of students is required to write a 5 page paper on the subject your group is presenting to the class. Papers longer than 5 pages will be penalized. The paper should be single spaced with a 12 pt font.

Sources

The final paper should use at least 5 different reputable sources (3 of which need to be journal articles) to be cited either with footnotes or include a bibliography.

The paper is worth 10 points for each student.

There will be one paper turned in for each group.

Papers are due the day of your group presentation.

Late papers will not be accepted.

Since there are 3-4 people in each group, the group should decide as to how to divide the topic into research/work components. These components should form a coherent whole as reflected in your paper as well as your class presentation. Your analysis should be economic in nature. Depending on the topic some papers may concentrate on "the numbers" more than others.

If your group has additional ideas, please bring them forward. My wish is that the topic you are assigned is a topic that interests you and something you would like to learn more about.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

If I am Late to class -----since this class starts before the Economics Department is open, please wait for 20 minutes **if I am late** to class (for some strange reason☺)