

RCS4451: REHABILITATION ASPECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

FALL 2025, 3 CREDITS

Instructor: Mike Moorhouse, PhD
Office: HPNP, Room 4154
Student Hours: Thursdays 9a-11a
Phone: 352.273.6564
Email: mmoorhou@phhp.ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Wittich
Email: sarahwittich@ufl.edu

Class Number: 19373
Lecture: Monday 935a-1130a; Wednesday 1040a-1130a
Location: HPNP Auditorium

Class Number: 23656
Lecture: Monday 1250p-245p; Wednesday 1250p-140p
Location: HPNP Auditorium

Prerequisites: Students must be either a Health Science, Communication Science, or Public Health major in the College of Public Health and Health Professions; completing a Public Health minor; or have instructor permission.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course will examine the primary determinants and outcomes associated with substance use from a rehabilitation perspective. We will explore how the evolving social climate has impacted our view of various substances and will examine use patterns and consequences of many illegal and legal substances. Upon successfully completing the course, students will be more aware of substance use behavior and the significance of social contexts related to addiction.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify common substances of abuse, their developmental effects, and the signs and symptoms of intoxication and withdrawal.
- Summarize current and historical perspectives on addiction and substance use.
- Summarize the sociopolitical circumstances that influence the past and future legality of drugs and alcohol.
- Outline emerging medical literature regarding marijuana, stimulants, psychedelics, and empathogens.
- Debate current “hot button” topics related to substance use.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The course is housed in Canvas, a UF e-Learning platform. This course uses face-to-face instruction to maximize learning. Regular class attendance, attentiveness, and engagement is critical to be successful in this course and it is also what makes this class useful for you. While course readings and class presentations are posted on Canvas, understanding the material requires active participation in class, group discussions, and detailed notetaking.

TEXTBOOK



The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star

Author: Nikki Sixx

Publisher: New York: MTV Books

Publication Year: 2008

*Audiobook version is acceptable

TECHNOLOGY

Required Equipment: Computer with high-speed internet access, and use of a supported browser with Lockdown Browser capability. To access this course on Canvas, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login.

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk by:

Calling (352) 392-HELP (option 2),

Emailing helpdesk@ufl.edu, or

Going to <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Syllabus Quiz (5 Points) - Students will complete a 5-question syllabus quiz as many times as needed to earn 100%. This quiz serves as a de facto contract between the student and instructor that ensures the students understands class expectations and procedures.

Exams (45 Points) – Students will complete 3, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams (30 questions each; .5 points per question; 15 points per exam) to assess their understanding of the material. All questions will be taken directly from lecture, PowerPoint, and assigned readings. Exams will be taken during class by way of computer or tablet via Lockdown Browser (a limited number of paper copies will be available).

Reaction Papers (10 Points) – During the semester, the class will participate in 6 class discussions. Following each discussion, students will respond with a minimum 150-word reaction to a prompt provided by the instructor. Each reaction paper will count for 2 points however students only need to complete 5 reaction papers to receive full credit. Only students who attend the discussion in-person are eligible to complete the reaction paper. Students who are excused will be given an opportunity to complete an alternative, in-person assignment to make up the points.

Heroin Diaries Journal (15 Points) – Students will reflect on the Heroin Diaries book throughout the semester and respond to three sets of prompts provided by the instructor. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas.

Random Attendance Checks (10 Points) – Attendance will be randomly taken seven times throughout the semester. Each check will be worth 2 points. Students who are excused will be awarded attendance points. Students only need to be present for 5 of the 7 checks to receive full credit. Students must be physically present at the time of the attendance check to earn credit.

Public Service Announcement (10 Points) – Students will form into groups of up to 5 people and develop a 30 to 90 second PSA related to drugs and/or alcohol. All students are expected to actively contribute to the development of the PSA. Detailed instructions are available on Canvas.

Professionalism (5 Points) – The instructor reserves the right to deduct professionalism points for unprofessional behavior including, but is not limited to, being on a phone, texting during class, repeatedly showing up late, distracting classmates, or using a computer, tablet, or cell phone when not authorized.

Extra Credit (4 Points Maximum) – Students may earn up to 4 points of extra credit through any combination of the following:

- Class Participation – class lectures and discussions are highly engaging. Students who contribute to the conversation may earn .5 points per class. Participating students will sign-in at the end of each class.
- 6th Reaction Paper – students completing all 6 reaction papers will earn 2 points extra credit.
- Perfect Attendance – students with perfect attendance (present/excused for all random attendance checks) will receive 2 points extra credit.
- Outstanding PSA – 3 groups will be awarded extra credit (3, 2, 1 respectively) for outstanding PSAs.
- Assignment – several assignments worth various point totals will be made available after exam 2.

GRADING

The student's final grade will be based on the number of points accumulated during the course:

Syllabus Quiz	05 Points	A	93-100 Points =	4.00
Exams (x3)	45 Points	A-	90-92.99 Points =	3.67
Reaction Responses (x5)	10 Points	B+	87-89.99 Points =	3.33
Heroin Diaries Journal	15 Points	B	83-86.99 Points =	3.00
Attendance (x5)	10 Points	B-	80-82.99 Points =	2.67
Professionalism	05 Points	C+	77-79.99 Points =	2.33
PSA	10 Points	C	70-76.99 Points =	2.00
Total	100 Points	D+	67-69.99 Points =	1.33
		D	63-65.99 Points =	1.00
Extra Credit	4 Points	D-	60-62.99 Points =	0.67
		E	<60 Points =	0.00

Please see the UF Grading Policy for more information, please visit the undergraduate catalog at:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

CALENDAR

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and summary of the lesson/class activities from the missed class. This course schedule is subject to revision. Confirm deadlines in class and always check Canvas for updates.

25-Aug	M	Syllabus Review
27-Aug	W	Addiction Theory; Discussion: Addiction as a Disease RP1 Due 8/28; Syllabus Quiz Due 8/27
1-Sep	M	<i>No Class – Labor Day</i>
3-Sep	W	Diagnostic Criteria, Pharmacodynamics, and Pharmacodynamics
8-Sep	M	The Long Strange History of How Drugs Became Illegal in the US
10-Sep	W	The Legislative Side of the “War on Drugs”
15-Sep	M	The Human Side of the “War on Drugs”
17-Sep	W	Discussion: Prevention - D.A.R.E. to Needle Exchange Programs RP2 Due 9/18; Journal 1 Due 9/17
22-Sep	M	Exam 1 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 1–139; December 1986–April 1987)
24-Sep	W	Alcohol
29-Sep	M	Forming MADD and the Consequences of Binge Drinking on College Campuses
1-Oct	W	Tobacco / MSA
6-Oct	M	Marijuana: Recreational and Medicinal
8-Oct	W	Discussion: Legalizing Marijuana at the Federal Level RP3 Due 10/9
13-Oct	M	Opioids
15-Oct	W	Discussion: Let’s Talk About Nikki RP4 Due 10/16
20-Oct	M	How Prescription Opioids Spiraled Out of Control; Journal 2 Due 10/20
22-Oct	W	Exam 2 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 140–261; May 1987–August 1987)
27-Oct	M	Stimulants: Cocaine and Methamphetamine / Documentary: Cocaine – Trafficked
29-Oct	W	Empathogens (MDMA)
3-Nov	M	Psychedelics (LSD, Psilocybin) & Dissociative Drugs (Ketamine)
5-Nov	W	Discussion: Can You Help Someone Who Doesn’t Want to be Helped? RP5 Due 11/6
10-Nov	M	Motivational Interviewing; PSA Due 10/10
12-Nov	W	Addiction and the Family
17-Nov	M	Discussion: Let’s Talk About Nikki...Again RP6 Due 11/18; Journal 3 Due 11/17
19-Nov	W	Exam 3 (Including Heroin Diaries pages 232–393; September 1987–December 1987)
24-Nov	M	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving</i>
26-Nov	W	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving</i>
1-Dec	M	Public Service Announcements Presentations
3-Dec	W	Class Wrap Up

****Schedule is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Any changes will be announced in class, and the student is personally responsible for obtaining updated information regarding those changes.**

CLASS POLICIES

Technology

Except for exams, the use of any technology, including cell phones, computers, tablets, etc., at any point during class is strictly prohibited unless otherwise approved by the instructor or the DRC. All electronic devices should be stowed away once class begins. Should you need to keep your cell phone on hand due to personal or medical reasons, please inform the instructor prior to class. Unauthorized use of an electronic device during class will result in the loss of 2 points from the student’s Professionalism grade for each infraction.

Punctuality

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared. To maintain a respectful and productive learning environment, if you enter the auditorium after class has begun, please quietly take a seat in one of the designated rows to minimize disruption.

Excused Absences

Regular attendance is essential to your success in this course and students are expected to attend their designated section each week. Only students who are physically present in class will be permitted to complete the reaction papers associated with class discussions. However, students with an approved excused absence are eligible to complete a separate makeup assignment.

Excused Absences: In accordance with the University, the following reasons qualify for an excused absence and students must provide proper and sufficient documentation.

- a. Illness
- b. Serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their family, or their roommates
- c. Title IX-related situations
- d. Military obligations
- e. Religious holidays (*no official documentation required)
- f. Participation in official university activities
- g. Court-imposed legal obligations
- h. Special circumstances (e.g., conference presentations, graduate/professional school interviews, job orientation)

Submission Deadlines for Excused Absence Requests

- For categories a. – c.: Requests should be made as soon as reasonably feasible.
- For categories d. – h.: Requests should be submitted at least 72 hours before the class session.

Make-Up Procedure for Excused Absences

Students with an approved excused absence are eligible to make up the missed in-class assignment. Make-ups will take place at the instructor's office (HPNP, Room 4154) on the first available Thursday during office hours (9a-11a) following the missed class. Alternate arrangements can be made for students with scheduling conflicts due to class or work.

Students should be prepared to spend approximately one hour completing the makeup. Specific instructions will be provided at the session. Assignments will be graded as a zero in the gradebook until the makeup is completed. Unless otherwise approved by the instructor, all makeup assignments must be completed within 14 days of the missed class. Any assignment not made up within this timeframe will remain a zero in the gradebook.

As a reminder, only 5 of the 6 reaction papers count toward your final grade. This means you can have one unexcused reaction paper, receive a zero for the assignment, and it won't negatively affect your grade. You will however be ineligible for the extra credit associated with submitting all reaction papers.

Please refer to UF's absence policy to ensure you meet UF policy on make-up work: [UF Absence Policy](#). Failure to upload an in-class assignment due to severe weather or poor internet connectivity will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you are unable to access consistent internet, please email the instructor ahead of time (if possible); otherwise email the instructor at the earliest time possible.

Late Submissions

Late submissions for any class assignment (i.e., reaction papers, journal entries, or PSAs) will not be accepted. Reaction papers are due the following day before midnight. For example, if we have a class discussion on Wednesday, your reaction paper is due Thursday before midnight. It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct assignment is submitted on time to Canvas. Carefully double-check your submission to avoid penalties and ensure you receive credit for your work.

University Policies & Resources

University policies and information related to the Disability Resource Center, the Counseling and Wellness Center, University Honesty Policy, GatorEvals, In-Class Recording, and general Academic Resources such as the UF Computing Help Desk, the Career Connection Center, and Writing Studio can be found at: [UF Syllabus Policy Links - Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)