

**Addiction, the Brain, History, & Culture**  
**NBB 470s, IDS 485S**  
**Fall, 2005**  
**Revised 31 July 2005**

**Please check the course website frequently for any updates to the syllabus.**

Time: Monday 2-5 PM

Place: Dental School (1462 Clifton Road) room 231

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## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

*Course Goal:*

**This seminar will explore the construction, meaning, and impact of addiction in historical, cultural, psychological, and neurobiological perspective. Particular attention will be given to the putative neurobiological mechanisms associated with addiction and consciousness altering substances and behaviors. Biological and psychological explanations that have been and continue to be used to explain the etiology and meaning of addiction will be examined. This exploration will include considerations of the role of social, cultural, and population differences as they may relate to addictive behaviors.**

### ***Student Involvement:***

As a seminar, this course is designed to be interactive. In order to facilitate a high level of discussion, students are required to:

- I. Come to all class meetings on time. If you are unable to attend class, or will be late, please inform the instructor or teaching assistant in advance. Unexcused absences and lateness will influence your final grade.

- II. Read the assignments prior to the seminar meeting.
- III. Participate in classroom discussions

### **Assignments:**

### **Weekly Postings:**

Each week (except when noted) you will be required to post a 1-3 sentence exposition of the thesis or main claim of *each* reading and 2-3 discussion questions based on these readings. The questions should reflect underlying themes or issues arising from the specific readings for the week or issues that emerge across the semester and are reflected in a given week's readings. These paraphrased theses and questions must be posted on Blackboard (Discussion Board) by 5:00 p.m. on the Sunday prior to the class meeting.

### **Group Projects:**

Students will work in teams of 2 on a project that will culminate in a Powerpoint presentation and a written paper. Projects and papers may examine a variety of topics related to addiction. For example, teams may decide to examine a form of addictive behavior not specifically covered in class (such as sexual addiction, computer addiction, addiction to prescription drugs or food addictions), or teams may choose to conduct an interdisciplinary exploration of a specific addiction and how it has been portrayed over time in the media, film and/or literature. All projects, however, must be placed in the context of the wider issues and topics cover in the readings, discussions, and lectures. Thus, a final project that could have been written by students who did not enroll in this course, read its assignments, or participate in its discussions is unacceptable.

### **Project Abstracts:**

Student teams must post a one paragraph abstract (which includes the research question under investigation and a hypothesis to be tested) and an annotated bibliography of (at least) five sources. The abstract and annotated bibliographies must be posted on the Blackboard discussion board **no later than 5 pm Sunday 16 October**. After review and approval by the instructor, students will revise their abstracts, develop outlines, and expand their annotated bibliographies for posting on Blackboard **no later than 5 pm on Sunday 6 November**.

### **Presentations and Final Written Papers:**

Based on these revisions and further suggestions by the instructors, students will prepare and present a Powerpoint of their project to the class during the last

class session. Final written papers will be **due no later than Saturday 5 pm on 18 December.**

**Grading:**

1. Seminar participation, 15%
2. Weekly postings, 25%
3. Abstract and Annotated Bibliography, 10%
4. Powerpoint 25%
5. Final paper 25%

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

David D. Courtwright, *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002.

Keane, Helen. *What's Wrong With Addiction?* New York: NYU Press, 2002.

Solomon H. Snyder, *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996,

Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. Amherst and Boston, University of Massachusetts Press, 2004.

**Recommended Books;**

Erich Goode, *Drugs in American Society, current edition*

Griffith Edwards, *Alcohol: The Ambiguous Molecule*. New York: St Martins Press, 2002.

**Additional Readings**

Available on the course Blackboard and on Learnlink

**Reading Assignments:**

**September 12: Introduction:**

What is addiction? What is the Brain? What is history? And culture?

**September 19: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World:**

David D. Courtwright, "The Big Three: Alcohol, Tobacco, & Caffeine," Chapter 1 in Courtwright, *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 9-30

David D. Courtwright, "The Little Three: Opium Cannabis and Coca" Chapter 2 in Courtwright, *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 31-52.

David D. Courtwright, "The Puzzle of Distribution" Chapter 3 in Courtwright, *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp.53-66.

### **September 26: Framing Addiction:**

William L. White, "The Lesson of Language: Historical Perspectives on the Language of Addiction" in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. 2004, pp. 33-60.

Helen Keane, "Reading the Signs of Disorder: Diagnosing Dependence," in *What's Wrong With Addiction?* New York: NYU Press, 2002, pp. 36-63.

Ron Roizen, "How Does the Nation's 'Alcohol Problem' Change from Era to Era?" in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. 2004, pp. 61-87.

Howard F. Schaffer. "The Most Important Unresolved Problem in the Addictions: Conceptual Chaos" *Substance Use and Abuse*, 32 (11) 1997, 1573-80.

### **October 3: The Brain and Addiction:**

Eric J. Nestler & Robert C. Malenka, "The Addicted Brain," *Scientific American*; Mar 2004, Vol. 290 Issue 3, 78-83.

Wilkie A. Wilson and Cynthia M. Kuhn, "How Addiction Hijacks Our Reward System," *Cerebrum*, 7 (2005): 53-66.

Solomon H. Snyder, "The Brain and Its Messages," Chapter 1 in *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996, pp. 1-27

Braun, Stephen, "Your Brain on Alcohol," Chapter 3 in *Buzz: The Science and Lore of Alcohol and Caffeine*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, 38-60.

**October 10: NO CLASS FALL BREAK**

**October 16: Abstract and annotated bibliography must be posted on the Blackboard discussion board no later than 5 pm**

**October 17: What's Wrong with addiction?**

Keane, *What's Wrong With Addiction?* Intro, and Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-88.

Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, "Introduction: Psychoactive Drugs—An American Way of Life in *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. pp. 1-30

Vincent J. Felitti, "The origins of Addiction: Evidence from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study," translated from "Urseprünge des Suchtverhaltens—Evidenzen aus einer Studie zu belastenden Kindheitserfahrungen," *Praxis der Kinderpsychologie und Kinderpsychiatrie*, 2003, 52: 547-559.

**October 24: Opiates**

David D. Courtwright, "A Trap Bated with Pleasure" in *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 91-111.

Caroline Jean Acker, "Portrait of an Addicted Family," in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. pp. 165-181

Solomon H. Snyder, "Opiates" chapter 2 in *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996, pp. 28-58,

**October 30: Revised their abstracts and annotated bibliographies posted on Blackboard no later than 5 pm.**

**October 31: Alcohol: Culture, Gender, and "Disease":**

Peter Mancall, "I was addicted to drinking Rum," Four Centuries of Alcohol Consumption in Indian Country, in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. 91-107

Michelle McClellan, "Lady Tipplers: Gendering the Modern Alcoholism Paradigm," in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. 267-297.

Griffith Edwards, "Calling Alcoholism a Disease," Chapter 7 in *Alcohol: The Ambiguous Molecule*. pp. 93-102.

Stanton Peele, "Who Says What the Truths about Alcoholism Are?" from Peele, *Diseasing of America*, San Francisco, Josey Bass Publishers, 1995, pp. 55-83.

**Supplemental, but not required, reading:**

Sander Gilman, "The Problem with Purim: Jews and Alcohol in the Modern Period," in press ,Leo Baeck Yearbook (2005) on BB

Lori E. Rotskoff, Sober Husbands and Supportive Wives: Marital Dramas of Alcoholism in Post-World War II America, in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*. 298-326

**November 7: Smoking, Nicotine, & Addiction:**

Alan Brandt, "From Nicotine to Nicotrol: Addiction, Cigarettes, and American Culture," in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*.,383-402

Keane, "Smoking, Addiction, and Time," chapter 4 in Keane, *What's Wrong With Addiction?* pp. 89-109

Mark Parascandola, "Glimpsing Promise in the Drug We Love to Hate," *Cerebrum*, 2003, 5: 51-64.

Snyder, "Stimulants," chapter 5 in *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996, pp.120-149 (Cocaine, Ritalin, etc)

**Supplement not required but for background:**

Alan Leshner, "The Science of Nicotine Addiction and Why We Should Care," 11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco or Health, slide show on Blackboard, for voice overview see [http://www.conference-cast.com/wctoh/aug8\\_nicotine.htm](http://www.conference-cast.com/wctoh/aug8_nicotine.htm)

### **November 14: Non-Substance Addictions:**

Aviel Goodman, *Sexual Addiction: An Integrated Approach* (International Universities Press, 1998). See blackboard or learnlink

Keane, "Disorders of Eating and the Healthy Diet," *Chapter 5 of Keane, What's Wrong With Addiction?*, pp, 110-136.

Keane, "Sex and Love Addictions, *The Ethics and Erotics of Intimacy*", *Chapter 6 of Keane, What's Wrong With Addiction?*, pp, 137-156

Alex Blaszczynski & Lia Nower "A pathways model of problem and pathological gambling, *Addiction* (2002), 97: 487-499. on BB

### **Supplemental Reading (not required):**

Keane, "The Recovery Habit" Chap 7 in Keane, *What's Wrong With Addiction?*, pp. 157-187

### **November 21: Licit Drugs and Addiction**

David Courtwright, "Licit and Illicit Drugs," chapter 10 in *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp.187-207

Nicholas Weiss, "No One Listened to Imipramine," in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000.*, 329-352

Solomon Snyder, "Mood Disorders," in *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996, Chapter 4, 91-119

### **November 21: Psychedelics and Mind Altering Behavior**

David D. Courtwright, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" Chapter 4 in *Forces of Habit, Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 69-90.

Steven Novak, "LSD Before Leary, Sidney Cohen's Critic of 1950s Psychedelic Drug Research," in Sarah W. Tracy and Caroline Jean Acker, *Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drug Use in the United States, 1800-2000*, 352-383.

Solomon Snyder, "Enlightenment in a Pill," in *Drugs and the Brain*, NY: Scientific American Library, 1996, Chapter 7, 178-205

Edwards, "The Drinker's Dilemma," Chapter 13 in *Alcohol: The Ambiguous Molecule*. pp. 181-190.

Keane, "Conclusion" chapter 8 in Keane, *What's Wrong With Addiction?*, 188-192

**December 5 Team presentations:**

**Post Powerpoints on BB by 5 pm Sunday 4 December**

**December 12 Team presentations:**

**Post Powerpoints on BB by 5 pm Sunday 11 December**

**December 18: Final Papers Due:**

**Post final papers on BB by 6 pm Saturday Dec 18**