**Political Science 145a**

**The Political Economy of the Drug Trade**

**Spring 2015**

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“Drugs” are everywhere and policies to control them differ across time and place. The legal drinking age in some European countries is 16, while in the US it is 21. In The Netherlands a small amount of cannabis can be bought and consumed openly in coffee shops; shop owners, however, cannot advertise, sell large quantities or to minors and must pay taxes. Portugal de-penalized the consumption of any illegal substance, but an addict who is considered to be a threat to himself can be committed to a rehabilitation center. As a result of its “drug wars,” the United States has now become the democratic country with the highest proportion of its citizens behind bars; China and Singapore execute traffickers of illegal drugs. In 1999 New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, a Republican, called for a debate on the legalization of drugs; in 2012 Colorado and Washington voters legalized marijuana at the state level and in 2014 Uruguay became the first country to legalize the substance nationally.

Why is there so much disagreement over how to deal with the consumption of drugs? How have drug policies adopted by different countries varied and why? How might international cooperation in dealing with the drug trade be increased and made more effective?

This course examines the domestic and international aspects of the drug trade in a search for answers to these and other questions. We investigate the drug issue from the perspective of consumers, producers, traffickers, money launderers, law enforcement, and crime victims. The course draws on the experiences of various countries throughout the world and across time with consumption, production, trafficking and money laundering.

**Course Requirements**: **TopHat software:** students are required to purchase a license for using this software. A license good for five years and useable across classes, or for this quarter use only can be purchased. To get started please go to <https://support.tophatmonocle.com/hc/en-us/categories/200000744-Student-Orientation> . You can also find a quick start tutorial at [https://s3.amazonaws.com/thm-corporate/Support/Guides/Student+Quick+Start+Guide+-W2014-.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/thm-corporate/Support/Guides/Student%2BQuick%2BStart%2BGuide%2B-W2014-.pdf)

Grading will be based on class participation (10% via TopHat in-class software) a midterm (40%) and final exam (50%). You are responsible for material in the readings and that which is presented in lecture. PowerPoints summarizing the lectures will be available on the course web site, but lectures are not PodCast. *Cheating on exams will result in failure of the entire course.*

**Readings:** Readings are available through the internet. You should also peruse the statistics on drug use in the US: <http://monitoringthefuture.org/> for 8th, 10th and 12th graders and <http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov/> for the population aged 12 years and older. We will examine the statistical evidence for other countries, but no other country has as extensive an empirical record across time, substance and geography (urban/rural and national in scope).

**Introduction**

**Week 1: Conceptualizing the Issue**

Jonathan Caulkins, “Is Responsible Drug Use Possible?” *Cato Unbound* September 10, 2008 <http://www.cato-unbound.org/2008/09/10/jonathan-caulkins/responsible-drug-use-possible>

Jacob Sullum, “True Temperance” *Cato Unbound* September 12, 2008 <http://www.cato-unbound.org/2008/09/12/jacob-sullum/true-temperance>

Mark Kleiman, “Drug Policy in Principle, and in Practice” *Cato Unbound* September 15, 2008 <http://www.cato-unbound.org/2008/09/15/mark-kleiman/drug-policy-principle-practice>

Douglas Husak and Stanton Peele, “’One of the major problems of our society’: symbolism and evidence of drug harms in U.S. Supreme Court decisions” *Contemporary Drug Problems* 25/Summer 1998 pp. 191-233 [via](http://peele.net/lib/supreme.php) UCSD Libraries – look for the journal

**Part One: Thinking About Drug Markets**

**Week 2: The Consumer**

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Other Drugs: Challenges for Asia and the Pacific 2013* <https://www.unodc.org/documents/southeastasiaandpacific//Publications/2013/ats-2013/2013_Regional_ATS_Report_web.pdf> pp. 9-28

Dickson-Gómez, Julia; Convey, Mark; Hilario, Helena “Hustling and Housing: Drug Users' Strategies to Obtain Shelter and Income in Hartford, Connecticut” *Human Organization Society of Applied Anthropology* Fall 2009 online via UCSD libraries

CATO Institute, “Drug Decriminalization in Portugal” **Policy Forum, Friday, April 3, 2009** <http://www.cato.org/event.php?eventid=5887>

**Week 3: Production Dynamics**

UNODC, *World Drug Report 2013* pp. 17-58 <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/secured/wdr/wdr2013/World_Drug_Report_2013.pdf>

Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook* “Field Listing: Illegal Drugs” <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2086.html>

**Week 4: Domestic Trafficking**

Steven D. Levitt and Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh, “An Economic Analysis of a Drug Selling Gang’s Finances” <http://pricetheory.uchicago.edu/levitt/Papers/LevittVenkateshAnEconomicAnalysis2000.pdf>

Edward R. Kleemans, “Organized Crime, Transit Crime, and Racketeering” *Crime and Justice*, 35: 1, Crime and Justice in the Netherlands (2007), pp. 161-215 via JSTOR

Michael Tonry and Matthew Melewski, “The Malign Effects of Drug and Crime Control Policies on Black Americans” *Crime and Justice*, Vol. 37, No. 1 (2008), pp. 1-44 JSTOR

**Week 5: International Trafficking**

Philip Robins, “Back from the Brink: Turkey's Ambivalent Approaches to the Hard Drugs Issue” *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Autumn, 2008), pp. 630-650 JSTOR

Republic Of Turkey, Ministry Of Interior, *Action Plan For The Implementation Of National Policy And Strategy Document On Counteracting Addictive Substance And Substance Addiction* 2010 <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_138746_EN_Turkey%20Action%20Plan%202010-2012%20English.pdf>

Vanda Felba-Brown, “The Violent Drug Market in Mexico and Lessons from Colombia” Brookings Policy Paper 12 March 2009 <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2009/03/mexico-drug-market-felbabbrown>

**Week 6: Money Laundering**

Peter Alldridge, “Money Laundering and Globalization” *Journal of Law and Society*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Dec., 2008), pp. 437-463 access via UC-eLinks

Michael Levi, Peter Reuter, “Money Laundering” *Crime and Justice*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (2006), pp. 289-375 JSTOR

Financial Action Task Force (FATF), “40 Recommendations” <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/recommendations/pdfs/FATF_Recommendations.pdf> pp. 11-31

U.S. Department of State, “2014 INCSR: Major Money Laundering Countries” <http://www.state.gov/j/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2014/vol2/222471.htm>

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION (Thu May 7)**

**Part Two: *Policies for Dealing with the Drug Trade***

**Week 7: Domestic Control/Prohibition**

Astrid Skretting, “On Writing a White Paper on Drug Policy” (Norway) *Contemporary Drug Problems* 25 (2) summer 1998 pp. 235-252

<http://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/condp25&div=21&g_sent=1&collection=journals>

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Robert MacCoun & Martin, Karin D., “Drug Use and Drug Policy in a Prohibition Regime” 2008 <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/5dz3f135> (download via UCSD site)

Winston Ross, “Inside Obama’s ‘War on Weed’”September 27, 2012 *The Daily Beast* <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/09/27/inside-obama-s-war-on-weed.html>

**Week 8: Domestic Liberalization/Harm Reduction**

Mike McCarron “Drugs: which policies work?” *RSA Journal*, Vol. 153, No. 5521 (February 2006), pp. 28-33 via JSTOR

Cesar Gaviría, Ernesto Zedillo, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, et. al., “Drugs and Democracy: Toward a Paradigm Shift” <http://www.drogasedemocracia.org/Arquivos/declaracao_ingles_site.pdf>

Maria Fernanda Boidi, José Miguel Cruz, Rosario Queirolo, and Emily Bello-Pardo, *Marijuana Legalization in Uruguay and Beyond*. Florida International University <http://news.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/14561_SIPA_Marijuana-research_REPORT2.compressed.compressed.pdf>

**Week 9: Unilateral Policies**

Will Carless, “Uruguay's Year In Marijuana: 3 Successes, 3 Burning Questions” Globalpost <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/uruguays-year-marijuana-3-successes-3-burning-questions-n281311>

Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact.* Vol 2, August 2014pp. 1-18; 59-87; 135-150 <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/August%202014%20Legalization%20of%20MJ%20in%20Colorado%20the%20Impact.pdf>

John Hudak, “Colorado’s Rollout of Legal Marijuana Is Succeeding: A Report on the State’s Implementation of Legalization” Brookings Institution July 2014 <http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2014/07/colorado-marijuana-legalization-succeeding/cepmmjcov2.pdf>

**Week 10: International Cooperation**

Ethan A. Nadelmann, “Global prohibition regimes: The evolution of norms in international society” *International Organization* 44:4 Autumn 1990 pp. 479-526 JSTOR

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *The New EU drugs strategy (2013–20)* <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/pods/eu-drugs-strategy-2013-20>