

COURSE OUTLINE

(1) GENERAL

SCHOOL	Social Sciences		
ACADEMIC UNIT	SOCIOLOGY		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE	ΥΓΑΚ31 4	SEMESTER	7
COURSE TITLE	Special Topics in the Sociology of Addictions		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES <i>if credits are awarded for separate components of the course, e.g. lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If the credits are awarded for the whole of the course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	CREDITS
		3	6
Add rows if necessary. The organisation of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail at (d).			
COURSE TYPE <i>general background, special background, specialised general knowledge, skills development</i>	ΥΕΠΣΒ (Skill-Building and Specialization Seminars in Scientific Area B)		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	ΥΓΑΚ211 "Sociology of Addictions"		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS	Yes, following prior consultation and on the basis of an assignment-based evaluation.		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL)	https://elearn.uoc.gr/course/view.php?id=6260		

(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning outcomes <i>The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate level, which the students will acquire with the successful completion of the course are described.</i> Consult Appendix A • Description of the level of learning outcomes for each qualifications cycle, according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area • Descriptors for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and Appendix B • Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to: <u>Knowledge:</u> • Understand the complexity of addictions as sociocultural and historically shaped phenomena, constructed across time and space • Be familiar with the various theoretical approaches in the sociological study of addiction • Recognize that dominant discourses on addiction are not neutral but reflect broader—and often contradictory—views on the body, health, normality, and deviance • Identify how addictions intersect with social class, race, gender, and inequality • Interpret the meaning and significance of substance use within different social contexts and populations <u>Skills:</u> • Be able to reformulate complex arguments within the field of the Sociology of Addictions • Develop critical thinking regarding dominant medical and criminal discourses on addiction • Deepen their understanding of alternative approaches to the political and social management of

- addictions, with an emphasis on non-stigmatizing and non-punitive strategies
- Connect theoretical tools with applied, real-world examples

General Competences

Taking into consideration the general competences that the degree-holder must acquire (as these appear in the Diploma Supplement and appear below), at which of the following does the course aim?

<i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information, with the use of the necessary technology</i>	<i>Project planning and management</i>
<i>Adapting to new situations</i>	<i>Respect for difference and multiculturalism</i>
<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Respect for the natural environment</i>
<i>Working independently</i>	<i>Showing social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues</i>
<i>Team work</i>	<i>Criticism and self-criticism</i>
<i>Working in an international environment</i>	<i>Production of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>
<i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment</i>	<i>.....</i>
<i>Production of new research ideas</i>	<i>Others...</i>
	<i>.....</i>

- Promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking in relation to the course content
- Independent work
- Teamwork
- Generation of new research ideas
- Practice of critical and self-critical reflection
- Respect for diversity
- Pursuit of social responsibility and empathy on issues of class, gender, and race

(3)SYLLABUS

This seminar addresses contemporary and selected issues related to the phenomenon of addiction, which has re-emerged prominently in public discourse and social research. With an applied focus and a critical orientation, the seminar aims to deepen students' understanding of concepts introduced in the course 'Sociology of Addictions'. Using theoretical tools and empirical examples, students will critically examine dominant medical and criminal discourses surrounding addiction, the associated policies and interventions, and the ways in which addictions intersect with issues of race, gender, class, and social inequality. The course also highlights the economic, social, political, and cultural dimensions of addiction, and how these shape both substance use patterns and our perceptions of addiction, people who use substances, and ultimately, the trajectories and lived experiences of use. Particular emphasis is placed on issues related to the use and misuse of both illicit psychoactive substances and legal substances such as alcohol and prescription drugs. A central premise of the course is the understanding of addiction not as a disease or an individual choice, but as a complex social phenomenon, historically and spatially shaped within specific structures of power and inequality.

Indicative Issues to be explored in the seminar:

- Why have addiction and substance use emerged as major medical and social problems in contemporary societies?
- How do dominant discourses on addiction reflect broader—and often contradictory—understandings of the body, health, normality, and deviance?
- How is substance use represented and given meaning across different socio-cultural contexts and population groups?
- In what ways do class, racial, and gender differences lead to unequal experiences and consequences under prohibitionist drug policies?
- Why are certain forms of substance use more stigmatized than others?
- What alternative approaches have been proposed for preventing and addressing harmful use that avoid stigmatization and exclusion?
- How do people who use drugs organize and advocate for their rights?

The 13 seminar sessions are organized into two main units:

Unit A: Thematic axes

In the first unit, each session is structured around a contemporary topic, explored through participatory activities and guest speakers.

The following broader themes will be examined:

1. Conceptual and theoretical approaches in the sociology of addictions
2. Criminalization–medicalization policies and alternative regulatory frameworks
3. Social inequalities and addiction
4. Gender, identity, and addiction
5. Recreational use and youth cultures
6. Self-organization of people who use drugs
7. Contemporary challenges in the field of addictions

Unit B: Student assignments

The second unit focuses on the students' assignments. Two types of assignments will be required:

- Short assignment: This will involve the participatory design and implementation of a semi-structured interview, followed by collaborative data analysis.
- Major assignment: This will involve the in-depth exploration of a thematic issue through a written paper, the findings of which will be presented and discussed in class.

(4)TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS - EVALUATION

DELIVERY <i>Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.</i>	Face-to-face		
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY <i>Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, communication with students</i>	• Use of video projector and presentation of slides and videos during lectures • Use of technological tools (videos, polls, Jamboard, etc.) for participatory exercises • Support of the learning process through the Moodle (eLearn) online platform		
TEACHING METHODS <i>The manner and methods of teaching are described in detail. Lectures, seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, placements, clinical practice, art workshop, interactive teaching, educational visits, project, essay</i>	Activity	Semester workload	
	Seminar lectures	39	
	Essay writing	32	
	Literature review and analysis	58	
	Course total	150	

writing, artistic creativity, etc. The student's study hours for each learning activity are given as well as the hours of non-directed study according to the principles of the ECTS	
STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION Description of the evaluation procedure Language of evaluation, methods of evaluation, summative or conclusive, multiple choice questionnaires, short-answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral examination, public presentation, laboratory work, clinical examination of patient, art interpretation, other Specifically-defined evaluation criteria are given, and if and where they are accessible to students.	The final grade of the students is based on: 1. Participation in weekly seminar sessions. Attendance is mandatory for all weekly meetings, and active participation is evaluated. 2. Evaluation of submitted assignments. Each student is required to complete and submit: • Weekly exercises • A final written paper • An in-class presentation of their final paper

(5) ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Suggested bibliography:

In greek:

- Rose, N. (2017). Κανονικότητα και παθολογία σε μία βιοιατρική εποχή (μτφ.: Λέκκα, Β.). Αθήνα: Πλέθρον
- Furr, A. (2023). Κοινωνιολογία της ψυχικής υγείας και της ασθένειας. Αθήνα: Πεδίο
- Καγγελάρη, Ρ. (2024). Ο τοξικομανής και ο λόγος. Αθήνα: Εκκρεμές
- Μάτσα, Κ. (2013). Ταπείνωση και ντροπή: γυναίκες τοξικομανείς. Αθήνα: Άγρα
- Nettleton, S. (2002). Κοινωνιολογία της υγείας και της ασθένειας. Αθήνα: Δαρδάνος.
- Foucault, M. (2010). Η γέννηση της βιοπολιτικής: Παραδόσεις στο Κολέγιο της Γαλλίας (1978– 1979). Αθήνα: Πλέθρον.
- Foucault, M. (2011). Οι μη κανονικοί: Παραδόσεις στο Κολέγιο της Γαλλίας (1974–1975). Αθήνα: Εστία.
- Goffman, E. (2001/1963). Στίγμα: Σημειώσεις για τη διαχείριση της φθαρμένης ταυτότητας. Αθήνα: Αλεξάνδρεια.

In english:

- Bessonova, A., Byelyayeva, O., Kurcevič, E., Plotko, M., Dennis, F., Pienaar, K., & Rosengarten, M. (2023). Living and responding at the margins: A conversation with narcofeminist activists. *The Sociological Review*, 71(4), 742-759.
- Blackman, S. (2007). Youth culture, recreational drug use and normalisation. In T. Simpson, T. Shildrick, & R. MacDonald (Eds.), *Drugs in Britain: Supply, consumption and control* (pp. 39– 59). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bourgois, P. (1995). In search of respect: Selling crack in El Barrio. Cambridge University Press.
- Campbell, N. D. (2002). *Using women: Gender, drug policy, and social justice*. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203800324>
- Campbell, N. D. (2012). Medicalization and biomedicalization: Does the diseasing of addiction fit the frame? In J. Netherland (Ed.), *Critical perspectives on addiction* (Vol. 14, pp. 3–25). Emerald Group.
- Campbell, N., & Ettore, E. (2011). Gendering addiction: The politics of drug treatment in a neurochemical world. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fraser, S., & Moore, D. (2011). Introduction: Constructing drugs and addiction. In S. Fraser & D. Moore (Eds.), *The drug effect: Health, crime and society* (pp. 10–16). Cambridge University Press.
- Fraser, S., Moore, D., & Keane, H. (2014). *Habits: Remaking addiction*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Goode, E. (2007). The sociology of drug use. In C. D. Bryant & D. L. Peck (Eds.), *21st century sociology: A reference handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 415–424). Sage Publications.
- Maher, L. (1997). *Sexed work: Gender, race and resistance in a Brooklyn drug market*. Clarendon Press.
- McLean, K. (2016). "There's nothing here": Deindustrialization as risk environment for overdose.

International Journal of Drug Policy, 29, 19–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2016.01.009>

- Neale, J. (2010). Social exclusion, drugs and policy. In R. Hughes, R. Lart, & P. Higate (Eds.), *Drugs: Policy and politics* (pp. 1–17). McGraw-Hill Education / Open University Press.
- Parker, H., Aldridge, J., & Measham, F. (1998). *Illegal leisure: The normalization of adolescent recreational drug use*. London: Routledge.
- Rose, N. (2007). *The politics of life itself: Biomedicine, power, and subjectivity in the twenty-first century*. Princeton University Press.
- Sered, S. (2019). The opioid crisis and the infrastructure of social capital. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 71, 47–55.
- Singer, M. (2008). *Drugging the poor: Legal and illegal drug industries and the structuring of social inequality*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. (pp. 207-254).
- Zigon, J. (2019). *A war on people: Drug user politics and a new ethics of community*. University of California Press.

- Related academic journals:

- International Journal of Drug Policy
- Harm Reduction Journal
- Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy
- The Sociological Review