

Political Science 145a
The Political Economy of the Drug Trade
Winter 2017

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The world is moving in the direction of a new strategy for dealing with the fact that power psychoactive substances exist and are used in non-officially prescribed ways by individuals. With some major exceptions, drug policy today is no longer focused on prohibition but rather combines elements from a prohibitionist and harm reduction strategy. But the popularity of harm reduction among drug policy reformers begs important questions. Harm reduction is not harm elimination, which is embodied in the concept of drug prohibition – so what level of harm reduction is sufficient to justify the policy? Which substances should be subjected to a harm reduction regime and which should continue to a prohibitionist regime – and why the difference? Prohibitionist policies were financed in the context of popularly supported ‘law and order’ strategies, but harm reduction policies belong to less popularly supported public health strategies – so how will a harm reduction strategy be financed? What are the challenges of pursuing a harm reduction strategy at the level of the consumer but continuing with a prohibitionist and punishment oriented strategy at the level of the producer and distributor of these substances? Which harm reduction policies should be integrated into a legalization strategy for marijuana?

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, and do so across time and place. The course draws on the experiences of various countries throughout the world and across time.

Course Requirements: TopHat software: students are required to purchase a license. 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.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide> and to purchase your subscription, go to <https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-a-Top-Hat-Subscription>

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 at TritonEd, 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 <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/population-data-nsduh> 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 UCSD Libraries – look for the journal](#)

Part One: Thinking About Drug Markets

Week 2: The Consumer

UNODC, *World Drug Report 2014* pp. 1-54 https://www.unodc.org/documents/wdr2014/World_Drug_Report_2014_web.pdf

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 2016* pp. 21-22 and 26-51 https://www.unodc.org/doc/wdr2016/WORLD_DRUG_REPORT_2016_web.pdf

UNODC, *World Drug Report 2014* (Precursor Chemicals) pp. 55-93
PERUSE: 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>

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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

Mimi Yagoub, "Argentina Seizes 67,000 Ecstasy Pills Imported from Germany" 07 July 2016 <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/argentina-discovers-67000-ecstasy-pills-imported-from-germany>

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 Feb 16)

Part Two: Policies for Dealing with the Drug Trade

Week 7: Domestic Control/Prohibition

DEA, USDOJ, "2016 National Drug Threat Assessment: Summary" pp. 25-40; 127-134 <https://www.dea.gov/resource-center/2016%20NDTA%20Summary.pdf>

Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, *The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact*. Vol 4, September 2016 pp. 1-34 <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/2016%20FINAL%20Legalization%20of%20Marijuana%20in%20Colorado%20The%20Impact.pdf>

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Robert MacCoun & Martin, Karin D., “Drug Use and Drug Policy in a Prohibition Regime” 2008 Center for the Study of Law and Society Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, UC Berkeley <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

Linda Farthinga, Benjamin Kohlb “Supply-side harm reduction strategies: Bolivia’s experiment with social control” *International Journal of Drug Policy* 23 (2012) 488– 494 access via JSTOR

Week 9: Issues in Harm Reduction

Drug Policy Alliance, “Harm Reduction” <http://www.drugpolicy.org/harm-reduction> click on all 7 of the links

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>

Eric A. Ratliff, Pamela Kaduri, Frank Masao, Jessie K.K. Mbwambob, Sheryl A. McCurdy “Harm reduction as a complex adaptive system: A dynamic framework for analyzing Tanzanian policies concerning heroin use” *International Journal of Drug Policy* 30 (2016) 7–16 via UCSD Libraries website – look for the journal, then issue.

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>