



Introduction to Cannabis Studies Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: CAN 260, 4 credits, 10 Weeks
Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

This course engages students in foundational studies of cannabis in context, drawing upon perspectives from science, medicine, history, sociology, law, ethics, and business. Students will receive a broad introduction to the plant's key facts, uses, status, and controversies in contemporary society, with attention to variations among local, state, federal, and international contexts. We will draw comparisons between cannabis, other drugs, and alcohol. The course focuses on developing students' competencies in critical and ethical analysis, dialog, and civic engagement. Through a major project, students will be guided through a social-justice informed approach to researching a topic that addresses the question of cannabis in relation to their academic or career interests.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Explain fundamental pharmacological facts about cannabis.
- Critically analyze claims about cannabis in popular media.
- Evaluate the legal status of cannabis federally and locally.
- Describe the business opportunities and associated regulations.
- Critique the social impact of cannabis laws through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Analyze information sources concerning a question or problem in the area of cannabis and society.
- Explain social justice research methods applicable in studies of cannabis and society.

- Apply social justice research methods in designing a research study in the area of cannabis and society.

Learning Strategies and Resources

This course is an asynchronous online course. Learning activities include discussion posts made to discussion topics and replies to posts made by other members of class. Short assessments of learning based on engagement with readings, multimedia, and other material presented in the modules.

Required Readings

No textbook is required for purchase.

Readings will be available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

Learning Deliverables

Deliverables include discussion posts, quizzes, learning assessments, reflection essays, and research components.

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Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Online Discussions	30%
5 Quizzes	10%
Prior Knowledge Reflection Essay	10%
Statement of Research Interest	10%
Research Plan Template	30%
Final Reflection Essay	10%

Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC

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Course Schedule

Week and Module Title or Theme	Readings / Activities	Graded Assignments
Week 1, Module 1: Cannabis as a Racial Justice Issue	TBA	Discussion: Introduce Yourself Module 1 Discussion Module 1 Quiz Prior Knowledge Reflection Essay
Week 2, Module 2: The Science of Cannabis, Part 1	TBA	
Week 3, Module 3: The Science of Cannabis, Part 2	TBA	Module 2-3 Discussion Module 2-3 Quiz
Week 4, Module 4:	TBA	Module 4 Discussion Module 4 Quiz

Cannabis and the Law		
Week 5, Module 5: The Business of Cannabis	TBA	Module 5 Discussion Module 5 Quiz
Week 6, Module 6: Restrictions Impacting Cannabis Research	TBA	Module 6 Discussion Module 6 Quiz Statement of Research Interest
Week 7, Module 7: Social Justice Research Methods	TBA	Module 7 Discussion Module 6–7 Quiz
Week 8, Module 8: Developing a Research Plan	TBA	Module 8 Discussion
Week 9, Module 9: Further Developing the Research Plan	TBA	
Week 10, Module 10: Presenting the Research Plan	TBA	Module 10 Discussion Research Plan Final Reflection Essay

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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