Drug Policy

***Spring 2016***

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday

Room:

Discussion sections:

Graduate

Undergraduate

Instructor: Mark A.R. Kleiman

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**Overview**

This course has a double purpose:

-To introduce some ideas about the control of substance abuse and its side-effects

-To illustrate techniques of policy analysis

The goal of the course is to enable you to formulate responsible opinions on drug policy issues, to defend them with good analysis, and to understand the logic behind opinions different from yours. It is neither expected nor desired that your opinions should come to match those of the instructor.

**Requirements and Grading**

There will be a midterm and a final exam that draws heavily on key concepts and questions from the study guides, stressing brief answers that embody analytic ideas rather than essays expressing opinions.

**Short paper - Graduate students**

Each graduate student write a short paper on a current controversy in drug policy.

**Weekly Assignments - Undergraduate students**

In lieu of a paper, undergraduate students will be required to submit one brief written assignment per week (either on Monday or Wednesday), addressing one key concept and one question from that day’s study guide. Each answer should consist of a paragraph of 100 words or less (i.e., 200 words total for each assignment). Each answer should reference the relevant readings by citing at least one argument or piece of evidence furnished by the author. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late submissions will not be accepted. The lowest score will be dropped from the final grading.

You are encouraged to form study groups to work together on the material. But the work you submit should be in your own words and should reflect your own analysis.

**Exams**

The midterm (take-home, open book, open notes) and final (take-home, open book, open notes) exams will draw on the readings as well as the lectures. The exams are to be completed individually: no collaboration or group work is allowed on the exams.

**Grade Calculation**

Weekly Assignments (Undergraduates) 30%

Short Paper (Graduates) 30%

Midterm 20%

Final 40%

Class participation 10%

**Course Website**

The direct address for the course website is:

Online readings and other course documents will be accessible from the course website. We also encourage students to post questions and engage in discussion on the message board of the course website. Contributions to the discussion board will count towards class participation.

**Reading**

The emphasis of the course will be on reading and thinking rather than research and writing. The reading load will be heavy.

Two of the assigned books—Kahnemann’s *Thinking, Fast and Slow* and Mullainathan and Shafir’s *Scarcity*—aren't specifically about drugs. Both are essays in behavioral economics, and apply to a wide range of policy questions. They will form part of the background of our discussions. Specific sections have been assigned for particular class sessions, but it’s probably best to read both books straight through.

The following are the required texts for this course, and where you can find them.

1. The course reader
2. *Against Excess: Drug Policy for Results* by Mark Kleiman

**NOTE:** There are three ways to obtain *Against Excess*:

1. A free e-book version is available at [www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com).

Search for “Against Excess”, set up a free account, and download it.

You can set the purchase price to $0.00.

2. Purchase a Xeroxed copy from Copymat (cost: approximately $24).

3. Buy a used copy online from Amazon.com or another retailer.

It is recommended that you download and read *Against Excess* before the start of the course. This will provide both an overview of the topic and a sample of the sort of thinking the course embodies; if you find the book hard going you will probably find the same about the course.

AVAILABLE AT AMAZON.COM:

1. *An Analytic Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy* by David Boyum and Peter Reuter (AEI Evaluative Studies, 2005)
2. *Drugs and Drug Policy: What Everyone Needs to Know* by Mark Kleiman, Jonathan P. Caulkins and Angela Hawken (Oxford University Press, 2011)
3. *Scarcity* by Sendhil Mullainathan and Eldar Shafir (Picador, 2013)
4. *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2011)
5. *Don’t Shoot* by David Kennedy (Bloomsbury, 2011) (grad/honors students only)
6. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation* by Stephen Rolles

(Also available for free download: http://www.tdpf.org.uk/resources/publications/after-war-drugs-blueprint-regulation)

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|  | **WEEK – 1** |
| **March 21 - Monday** | **CLASS 1** - **Cannabis legalization**  ***Reading:***   1. **ONLINE** Kleiman, Mark. “How Not to Make a Hash out of Cannabis Legalization.” *Washington Monthly* (Mar/Apr/May 2014). (<http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/march_april_may_2014/features/how_not_to_make_a_hash_out_of049291.php?page=all>)   ***Assignment:*** Come to class ready to list the following: (1) three advantages of cannabis legalization; (2) three disadvantages of cannabis legalization; and (3) three policy details—things that could be done differently under the label “legalization.” (These could relate to taxation, age restrictions, laws around cannabis marketing or retail, or any other policy area.) Creativity is encouraged. |
| **March 23 – Wednesday** | **CLASS 2 - Drugs, drug problems, drug policies**  ***Readings:***   1. **READER** Weil, Andrew and Winifred Rosen. *From Chocolate to Morphine*. Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-14). 2. Boyum, David and Peter Reuter. *An Analytic Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy*. Introduction; Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-35). 3. **READER** Schelling, Thomas C. “Ethics, Law, and the Exercise of Self-Command.” (pp. 45-79). 4. Kleiman, Mark, Jonathan Caulkins and Angela Hawken. *Drugs and Drug Policy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Introduction; Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14). 5. Rolles, Stephen. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation* (pp. 1-98) 6. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Introduction; Chapter 1. 7. Mullainathan, Sendhil and Eldar Shafir. *Scarcity*. Chapters 1-6 (pp. 19-121). 8. Kahneman, Daniel. *Thinking Fast and Slow*. Part I: “Two Systems” (pp. 19-105) and Part IV: “Choices” (pp.269-374). |
|  | **WEEK – 2** |
| **March 28 - Monday** | **CLASS 3 - Which drug is most addictive?**  ***Readings:***   1. **READER** Gable, Robert S. “Toward a Comparative Overview of Dependence Potential and Acute Toxicity of Psychoactive Substances Used Nonmedically.” (pp. 263-281). 2. Kleiman, Mark, Jonathan Caulkins and Angela Hawken. *Drugs and Drug Policy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14). 3. Rolles, Stephen. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation*. (pp. 99-164) |
| **March 30 – Wednesday** | **CLASS 4 - Prohibition, regulation, and taxation**  ***Readings:***   1. **ONLINE** Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty*. Chapters I, IV, V. (*Grad section only:* Chapter III). 2. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Chapter 4. |
|  | **WEEK – 3** |
| **April 4 - Monday** | **CLASS 5 - Drug law enforcement and sentencing for drug law violations**  ***Readings:***   1. Boyum, David and Peter Reuter. *An Analytic Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy*. (pp. 45-57; 77-81; 93-99). 2. **READER** Kleiman, Mark. Memos to the Oakland Police Department. 3. **READER** Kleiman, Mark. *When Brute Force Fails: How to Have Less Crime and Less Punishment*. Chapter 6: “Designing Enforcement Strategies.” (pp. 86-116). 4. **READER** “Special Report to Congress: Cocaine and Federal Sentencing Policy.” US Sentencing Commission. (pp. 1-10). 5. **READER** Kennedy, David M. *Don’t Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner City America*. “Boston: Street Knowledge, Street Sense.” (pp. 25-43) 6. **READER** Kleiman, Mark.*When Brute Force Fails*. “Breaking Up Street Drug Markets—The Hard Way: Operation Pressure Point.” (pp. 44-45) 7. **ONLINE** Anderson, David, “Piecing Together New York’s Criminal Justice System: The Response to Crack.” |
| **April 6 - Wednesday** | **CLASS 6 - Low arrest drug crackdowns**  ***Readings:***   1. READER Schoofs, Mark, “New Intervention: Novel Police Tactic Puts Drug Markets Out of Business.” *The Wall Street Journal* (27 Sept 2006). 2. READER Kennedy, David M. *Don’t Shoot: One Man, A Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner City America*. “High Point: Truthtelling and Reconciliation” (pp. 156-184). |
| **April 11 - Monday** | **CLASS 7 - Prevention**  ***Readings:***   1. Boyum, David and Peter Reuter. *An Analytic Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy*. (pp. 66-69; 89-92; 99). 2. Kleiman, Mark, Jonathan Caulkins and Angela Hawken. *Drugs and Drug Policy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Chapter 4: “What Prevents Drug Abuse?” |
| **April 13 – Wednesday** | **CLASS 8 – Treatment, mandates, and desistance mandates: diversion, probation and drug courts**  ***Readings:***   1. Boyum, David and Peter Reuter. *An Analytic Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy*. (pp. 81-82; 100-101). 2. **READER** Kleiman, Mark. *When Brute Force Fails: How to Have Less Crime and Less Punishment*. “Hope.” (pp. 34-48). 3. **READER** UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs. “Evaluation of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act – Final Report.” Executive Summary. (pp. 3-8). 4. **READER** Boyum, David and Mark Kleiman. “Substance Abuse Policy from a Crime-Control Perspective.” (pp. 331-382). |
| **By April 18** | **Midterm Exam**  ***\*\*\* PAPER OUTLINE DUE\*\*\**** |
|  | **WEEK – 5** |
| **April 18 - Monday** | **CLASS 9 – Alcohol**  ***Readings:***   1. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Chapter 8. (pp. 160-173) 2. **READER** Manning, Willard, et. al. “The Taxes of Sin: Do smokers and drinkers pay their way?” *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Mar 1989). Vol. 261, No. 11. (pp. 1604-1609) 3. **READER** Cook, Philip J. “A Free Lunch.” *Journal of Drug Policy Analysis* (2008). Vol. 1, Issue 1. pp. 1-5. 4. **READER** Cook, Philip J. *Paying the Tab: The Economics of Alcohol Policy*. Introduction (pp.1-10); Chapter 13 (pp. 196-201). |
| **April 20 - Wednesday** | **CLASS 10 – Cocaine**  ***Readings:***   1. **READER** Rydell, C. Peter and Susan Everingham. “Controlling Cocaine: Supply versus demand programs.” RAND. (pp. 1-112). 2. **READER** Boyum, David. “Costs and Benefits of Drug Treatment and Drug Enforcement: A review of the CALDATA and RAND studies.” RAND. (pp. 1-16). 3. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Chapter 10 (pp. 286-316). 4. Rolles, Stephen. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation*. Chapter 5.4: “Stimulants.” (pp. 117-146) |
|  | **WEEK – 6** |
| **April 25 - Monday** | **CLASS 11 – Heroin**  ***Readings:***   1. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Chapter 12 (pp. 359-382). 2. Rolles, Stephen. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation*. Chapter 5.4: “Depressants” (pp. 156-164). 3. **READER** “Incidence and Age at Initiation of Prescription Drug Misuse.” Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/prescription/ch4.htm>) 4. **READER** “Prescription and Over-the-Counter Medications.” National Institute on Drug Abuse. (pp. 1-9). (<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/prescription-over-counter-medications>) |
| **April 27 – Wednesday** | **CLASS 12 – Tobacco**  ***Readings:***   1. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*.Chapter 11 (pp. 317-358). 2. **READER** Kleiman, Mark and Jonathan Caulkins. “The Proposed ‘Global Settlement’ of Tobacco Litigation: A Policy Analysis.” (pp. 1-14) 3. **READER** Farrelly, Matthew, Christian Nimsch and Joshua James. “State Cigarette Taxes: Implications for Revenue and Tax Evasion.” (pp. 1-12 and Appendix pp. A-1 to B-4). 4. **READER** Bardach, Eugene. “Noticing the Micro-Distributional Consequences of Cigarette Taxation and its Equivalents.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (2001). Vol. 20, No. 2. (pp. 353-364). (<http://www.rti.org/pubs/8742_excise_taxes_fr_5-03.pdf>) |
|  | **WEEK – 7** |
| **May 2 - Monday** | **CLASS 13 – Hallucinogens**  ***Readings:***   1. Schroth, S., Helfer, J., & Mahone, C. (2011). Hallucinogens. In M. Kleiman, & J. Hawdon (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of drug policy.* (pp. 345-349). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc. (<http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412976961.n149>) 2. **READER** Griffiths, R.R., W. A. Richards, U. McCann and R. Jesse (2006) “Psilocybin can occasion mystical-type experiences having substantial and sustained personal meaning and spiritual significance.”*Psychopharmacology* 187:268–283. 3. **ONLINE** Pollan, Michael *The Trip Treatment,* The New Yorker, 2015 (<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/02/09/trip-treatment>) 4. **ONLINE** Kleiman, Mark *Mushrooms and mysticism,* Huffington Post, 2007(<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-kleiman/mushrooms-and-mysticism_b_39881.html>) |
| **May 4 - Wednesday** | **CLASS 14 – Cannabis**  ***Readings:***   1. Kleiman, Mark. *Against Excess*. Chapter 9 (pp. 253-285) 2. Rolles, Stephen. *After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation*. Chapter 5.3: “Cannabis” (pp. 110-116) 3. **READER** “Designing State-Level Cannabis Legalization.” 2011 MPP class project. 4. **READER** Kleiman, Mark. “Alternative Bases for Limiting Cannabis Production.” (pp. 1-11). 5. **READER** Kleiman, Mark, Celeste Miller and Jeremy Ziskind. “Driving While Stoned: Issues and Policy Options.” (pp. 1-40). 6. **READER** Cuellar, Maria and Jonathan Caulkins. “Heavy Marijuana Use in the United States: A growing policy concern.” (pp. 1-24). |
| **By May 9** | **Final Exam**  **\*\*\*Final papers due\*\*\*** |