

USC School of Pharmacy
RXRS 201: The History and Geography of Drugs

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University Park Campus, UPC – By appointment, tdchurch@usc.edu

Course Weight: 4 units

Days/Time/Location: Tue, Thur; 12:30-1:50pm; SOS B-46

Catalogue description: *Global perspectives; discovery and use of drugs (legal/illegal); poisons. How they helped shape, modify or change history as described in classical literature through present day.*

Introduction

Since the beginning of time, humans have sought out or discovered by accident compounds that have medicinal, hedonic (mood-altering) or deleterious (poisonous) effects. These effects were, in part, due to the coevolution between the animal and botanical kingdoms whose efforts to survive gave us compounds that could have medicinal, mood-altering or poisonous effects. The origins of herbal medicine lie in the common empirical experience of the human race, in observing which plants the animals ate when they were feeling sick, and following their example. The societal consequences of improper drug and poison use have been documented as early as 4500 B.C. and attempts to regulate their uses have been documented as early as 2240 B.C. This course will consider the benefits and consequences of drug use (legal and illegal) from

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both a historical and geographical perspective. Additionally, the course will consider the role of poisons as a political as well as felonious tool. Topics will be presented that highlight how drugs and poisons were used throughout the world to shape, modify or change history.

Objectives

This course is designed to meet the requirements of the GE H (Global Perspectives: Traditions and Historical Foundations) for undergraduates. Students will explore how humans used drugs and poisons to change the economic, political, cultural and/or social settings of their time. Moreover, this course will examine the historical and cultural foundations of drug use from a contemporary and historical perspective by studying literary, political, economic, philosophical, legal, ethical and religious traditions as they relate to drug use. As an example, the “opium wars” of the nineteenth century between Britain and China and the implications of this historical event is one example of how we will explore links between illegal use of prescription opioids and the increase in accidental opioid overdose deaths. Students will also learn about the historical use and misuse of poisons for good and evil. The Sumerians as far back as 4500 B.C. documented the toxic effects of certain plants, and developed poisons such as curare for hunting. In Greek literature, the death of Socrates in 399 B.C. represented one of the earliest recorded incidents where a poison was used for political reasons. In recent time, polonium-210 was used to kill the Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko. A recent public inquiry concluded that President Putin probably approved the assassination. Differences surrounding the ethics of the development and deployment of poisons and biological agents (for example, as a weapon) will be presented that are designed to lead to lively discussions during class.

Chapters from the core textbook will be supplemented with a variety of source materials including online resources, media outlets and cinema.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to participate in a thoughtful debate about:

- The historical nature of the discovery of drugs and poisons throughout the world
- Medicines from ancient Egypt
- Medicines in the Classical Age of Greece and Rome
- The historical and recent biological, psychological, social-psychological, and sociological perspectives related to drug use and abuse
- Modern day pharmaceuticals – the good, the bad, the ugly
- The consequences of improper drug use and abuse and its relationship to health, economy, wellbeing and society as presented in the literature.
- The history of the development of forensic toxicology as a discipline to provide evidence of exposure to poisons
- The use of poison to influence history during the Renaissance Era
- Chemical and biological warfare in antiquity and modern day
- Concurrent practice of Eastern and Western medicines

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Evaluation and Grading:

Evaluation will be based on one midterm examination, a final examination, course quizzes, two take home written essays and class participation.

<i>Description</i>	Points	Weight
<i>Class participation</i>	10 pts	(10%)
<i>Quizzes 4 (@ 10 pts each)</i>	40 pts	(15%)
<i>Midterm exam</i>	50 pts	(20%)
<i>Final exam (partially cumulative)</i>	100 pts	(30%)
<i>Written Essays (@ 25 pts each)</i>	100 pts	(25%)
Total	300 pts	(100%)

Attendance at all classes is expected. Participation will include asking and answering questions and being actively involved in the discussion. It is expected that the students read the assigned papers prior to the lecture and be prepared to discuss background, current understanding, treatments, and gaps in knowledge for the topic in each lecture.

15% Quizzes: There will be 4 quizzes over the course of the semester to count towards their grade. The quizzes will be based on questions from the lecture and from the textbook and will include multiple choice, T/F and fill-in the blank questions.

20% Midterm: There will be 1 midterm for this course that will cover the first 8 weeks of course material. The midterm will consist of a series of questions involving short answers as well as a longer question requiring critical thought and its articulation in written responses. This midterm exam will help students to generate a critical assessment of key topics in this course, to develop a suitable argument, and to convey their ideas and interpretations through the written word.

30% Final: The Final Exam will be in the form of an in-class examination during exam week. The final exam will be composed of two parts, each having equal weight towards the final grade. The first part of the exam will include questions from the lectures and from the textbook in the form of multiple choice, T/F and fill-in the blank questions (15%). The second part of the final examination will consist of short written answers to demonstrate the students' knowledge regarding topics covered in the course (15%). This latter part of the final exam will allow students to express their ideas based on facts derived from the course.

25% Four Short Essays: (each worth 5% of your class grade) The short essays will be written outside of class and submitted via Blackboard under the Assignments Tab. These short essays are designed to help students generate a critical assessment of key topics in this course, to develop a suitable argument, and to convey their ideas and interpretations through the written word. The short essays will be response / reaction papers to the course material and will require two things: summarize the material covered in class and provide a reaction to the material. Students are free to choose which topics they wish to write about and must submit 4 response / reaction papers throughout the semester. **No late essays will be accepted for any reason short of a serious, documented emergency.** An official note explaining why you were unable to write the essay will be required for an extension.

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10% Participation: To receive full credit, you must attend class regularly. It is your responsibility to make sure that you attend class consistently. Attendance will be taken periodically and will be used to determine participation throughout the semester.

Please note, below is the “Approximate” grading scale breakdown. However, this scale is not set in stone and may slightly shift up or down based on overall scores. There are no pluses (+) or minuses (-) assigned to grades in this course.

Percent	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

There are no make-up exams. If exceptional circumstances prevent you from attending an exam, your reason for missing it must be accompanied by a written statement from a third party (e.g. a note from a medical doctor).

Notes, books, calculators, electronic dictionaries, regular dictionaries, cell phones or any other aids are not allowed during exams.

Students will be asked to complete an anonymous critical evaluation of the course at its completion.

Course Readings

Required Readings (selected, short, easy to read chapters)

Antonio Escobedo. (1999). *A brief history of drugs: from the stone age to the stoned age*. Simon and Schuster.

Although not mandatory, several additional texts are strongly suggested to enhance the discussions regarding the use of poisons throughout literature and history. The students will be able to use identified chapters in the text to support their learning process throughout the semester. These texts are very inexpensive.

- <https://www.elsevier.com/books/history-of-toxicology-and-environmental-health/wexler/978-0-12-801506-3>
- <https://www.elsevier.com/books/toxicology-in-the-middle-ages-and->

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[renaissance/wexler/978-0-12-809554-6](https://www.renaissance/wexler/978-0-12-809554-6)

- John Emsley. *Molecules of Murder: Criminal and Classic Cases*. (2008) RCS Publishing, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WF, UK
- John Emsley. *The Elements of Murder: A History of Poisons*. (2005) Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, OX2 6DP

Other topical materials including but not limited to the syllabus, supplemental reading assignments and additional handouts will be posted on <http://blackboard.usc.edu/>. Students will also be encouraged to use the online discussions sessions (via Blackboard) as an additional learning tool.

Course Outline

This course will be in the format of a directed seminar/lecture under the guidance of the instructor for the specific session. During each biweekly session the instructor will engage the students with questions and draw comments or interpretations primarily based on the assigned reading. Students are expected to ask questions and participate in an interactive fashion. Because this is an area of rapid change in policies, the readings may vary from one term to the next. Additional readings for each section that may be of added use are listed in the table below.

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Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 1 <i>Jan 8, 10</i>	Dr. Church Introduction: expectations and goals of this class.	Outline of course and introduction to Pharmacology. Course expectations and review of writing assignment / submission schedule. 8 Jan – Introduction 10 Jan – Course overview and expectations	What is Pharmacology: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ2m-rf2z8&feature=youtu.be Basics on Pharmacokinetics (PK) / pharmacodynamics (PD): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKV5iaUVBUI Very brief overview of PK and PD: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tobx537kFaI
Week 2 <i>Jan 15, 17</i>	Dr. Church Remote Antiquity	Humans discover the medicinal and hedonic effects of plants. The discovery of opium The discovery of fermented plants – wine in the old testament 15 Jan – Paleolithic Age 17 Jan – Neolithic Age	A Brief History of Drugs Chapter 1
Week 3 <i>Jan 22, 24</i> Quiz #1 – Jan 24	Dr. Church Ancient Egyptian Medicine	The healers from pharaonic times are poorly documented as compared with those from Greece and Rome -- the understanding and use of medicines is only partially understood. 22 Jan – Dynastic Egypt 24 Jan – Ptolemaic Kingdom	“Herbal Medicine in Ancient Egypt” Aboelsoud, NH (2010) – on Blackboard

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Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Weeks 4 <i>Jan 29, 31</i>	Dr. Church Graeco-Roman Medicine	Understand the early development of medicines in Ancient Greece and Rome Gain insights into the practices of Greek and Roman healers regarding their understanding of disease and remedies 29 Jan – Greece 31 Jan - Rome	A Brief History of Drugs Chapters 2 & 3 http://www.greekmedicine.net/therapies/Herbal_Medicine.html
Week 5 <i>Feb 5, 7</i> Quiz #2 – 7 Feb	Dr. Church Silk Road Drug Exchanges & The Discovery of the Americas	Discuss the ancient networks of trade of drugs, ideas, and culture. Understand how Arabian civilization curated medical knowledge after the fall of Rome. Introduction to Ayurvedic medicine. Introduction to Nei-Jing and Daoist herbal medicines. The conquistadors and the colonizers. Maya, Aztec, and Inca Medicines: Herbs of the America’s for healing, pleasure and sacrifice 5 Feb – Silk Road 7 Feb - Americas	A Brief History of Drugs Chapters 3 & 4 A Brief History of Drugs Chapter 8 “Physicians of Ancient India” Saini, A (2016) – on Blackboard “The Use and Abuse of Wine in Ancient China” Poo, MC (1999) – on Blackboard Aztec Medicine: http://ambergiscaye.com/pages/mayan/aztec_medicine.html
Week 6 <i>Feb 12, 14</i>	Dr. Church Maritime Empires and The Opium Wars	The Age of Discovery led to geographical and political conflicts over trade in an era where pirates vied for their share of the bounty. Two armed conflicts in China in the mid-19th century between the forces of Western countries and of the Qing dynasty. 12 Feb – Maritime Empires 14 Feb – Celestial Empire and Opium Trade	A Brief History of Drugs Chapter 9

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Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 7 <i>Feb 19, 21</i>	Dr. Church History and use of toxins from court intrigue to international espionage. Dr. Culty The history of the development of forensic toxicology as a discipline to provide evidence of exposure to poisons. The use of poison to influence history during the Renaissance Era.	Understand the development of assays to measure poisons Understand how forensic toxicology has progressed with time to enable determination of cause of death Understand how poisoning developed as an art during the Renaissance Era and evaluate how the Dinner Party poisonings of the Borgia family influence history 19 Feb – Poisons for Political Power (Church) 21 Feb – Forensic toxicology & Renaissance poisons (Culty)	Introductory Chapter, Emsley, 2008 Langman and Kapur, 2006 https://www.elsevier.com/books/toxicology-in-the-middle-ages-and-renaissance/wexler/978-0-12-809554-6
Week 8 <i>Feb 26, 28</i>	Dr. Church The 19 th Century	The influence of dye companies; chemists, pharmacists and doctors and their influence on psycho active drugs. “Snake Oil” 26 Feb – Quackery, Charlatans, and Pseudomedicine 28 Feb – Scientific Advances, Chemical Compounds, and Technical Advances	A Brief History of Drugs Chapters 10 & 11
Week 9 <i>Mar 5</i>	Review Game for Mid Term		
Week 9 <i>Mar 7</i>	Mid Term Exam – 7 March 2019		
Week 10	Spring Break – 10 March – 15 March 2019		

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Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 11 <i>Mar 19, 21</i>	Dr. Church Drug enforcement, legal action, and ethical considerations of the 20 th and 21 st Centuries.	An overview of drug enforcement. This will include discussions of legal and ethical concerns. These events led to the establishment the Drug Enforcement Agency. 19 Mar – Legal Actions 21 Mar – Ethical Consequences	Required reading to prepare for class lecture: “Drug Enforcement in the United States: History, Policy, and Trends”, Sacco (2014) – uploaded to Blackboard
Week 12 <i>Mar 26, 28</i> Quiz #3 – 28 Mar	Dr. Jakowec The Era of substitutes Dr. Church 1980s Drug Panic	Societies attempts to regulate illicit drug trade. War on Drugs. Recent events discussed – The Killing Time: Inside Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs Intense public concern about drug abuse between 1986 and 1989 – the new synthetics on the block. 26 Mar – Era of Substitutes (Jakowec) 28 Mar – Drug Panic (Church)	A Brief History of Drugs Chapter 17 http://time.com/4462352/rodrigo-duterte-drug-war-drugs-philippines-killing/ http://druglibrary.org/special/goode/drugpanic.htm
Week 13 <i>Apr 2, 4</i>	Dr. Jakowec Psychedelics Return of the Repressed Dr. Church New Drugs; 20 th Century	The discovery of the amines and their euphoric and toxic effects – amphetamines and others. The influence of psychedelics and how they changed the course of history. The golden years and the societal pushback. 2 Apr – Psychedelics (Jakowec) 4 Apr – New Drugs; 20 th Century (Church)	A Brief History of Drugs Chapter 12 A Brief History of Drugs Chapters 15 & 16
Week 14 <i>Apr 9, 11</i>	Dr. Church Raves, EDM, and the rise of festivals.	Music festivals and raves have grown more popular in recent years. Festival drugs, music, and synthetic drugs will be discussed. 9 Apr – Music festivals and Raves 11 Apr – Synthetic music and Synthetic drugs	Articles - TBA

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Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 15 <i>Apr 16, 18</i> Quiz #4 – 18 Apr	Dr. Church Chemical and biological warfare in antiquity and modern day Environmental pollutants, Chemical spills, and Drugging the Youth.	Understand the development and uses of chemical and biological warfare Discuss the ethical considerations of the use of chemical agents on populations and the data collected. 16 Apr – Chemical and biological warfare 18 Apr – Environmental pollutants	EPA's 2006 Human-Subjects Rule for Pesticide Experiments http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08989620701670161?mobileUi=0& The Ethical Use of Unethical Human Research http://bioethics.as.nyu.edu/docs/10/30171/Steinberg.HumanResearch.pdf
Week 16 <i>Apr 23, 25</i>	Dr. Davies Dr. Church History of the Diagnosis of Addiction Alcohol Clinical Case Review	Understand how the modern concept of addiction came to be 23 Apr – Diagnosis of Addiction (Church) 25 Apr – Alcohol Clinical Case Review (Davies)	“History of the Concept of Addiction” Nathan, P. (2016) – uploaded to Blackboard
<i>Final Exam Week</i> <i>Wednesday, 8 May; 2pm-4pm</i>			

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STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

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Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

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Short Essays (4 in total)

Grading will be based upon the quality of your analysis and how clearly you present the information within your answers. You are expected to incorporate key terms and concepts you have learned in this course. Points will be deducted for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. You should start with a brief outline for each answer, create a rough draft, and then produce a final draft. **The final draft of each essay is the only document you need to submit.**

These are reaction / response essays to the material covered in lecture; your essays must consist of:

- A. **An Introduction paragraph**, which contains a minimum of two sentences that introduces your answer to the reader and establishes a foundation for the remainder of your answer.
- B. **Body paragraph(s)**, which present the major content of your answer. Include at least one body paragraph with three or four sentences within the paragraph.
- C. **A conclusion paragraph**, which contains a minimum of two sentences and summarizes the major points contained in the body paragraphs.

Format Requirements

Carefully follow the format requirements below. Any variation will result in lost points or no credit.

- Margins = 1 inch
- Font type = Arial, Times New Roman, or any Sans type font
- Font size = 11 point
- **2 pages (double spaced) – (references not included)**
- Use week number to indicate your topic (e.g. Week 3 – Rome)
- Filename should have your last name and first name (e.g. Trojan_Tommy_ShortEssay1)
- Acceptable file formats:
 - Word (DOC or DOCX)
 - **No other formats will be accepted!**

Direct Quotations

These essays are expected to be written in your own words therefore no more than 5% of the essay should be quoted or copied word – for – word. If you submit an essay with more than 5% quoted material, you will be penalized one point for each percentage above 5%. If you submit an essay with more than 15% quoted material, you will receive an automatic zero.

APA Citations

THIS IS NOT AN APA paper; however, you are expected to demonstrate understanding of the rules of plagiarism and expected to use APA style citations appropriately, which include in-text and full citations with a Reference page.

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You are expected to cite at least 2 sources (class books and articles, articles from journals, books, etc) per essay. You will be penalized -5 points for each missing resource.

Do NOT use Wikipedia or any other similar form of wiki to write these essays.

General Topics and Weekly Submission Dates

Week Number	Essay Topic	Due Date
2	Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages	22 Jan
3	Dynastic Egypt and Ptolemaic Kingdom	29 Jan
4	Greco-Roman Ethics and Blood	5 Feb
5	Silk Road and the Americas	12 Feb
6	Maritime Empires and the Opium Wars	19 Feb
7	History of Poisons and Forensic Toxicology	26 Feb
8	Industrial Revolution of 19 th Century	5 Mar
11	Drug Enforcement, Legal Actions, and Ethical Considerations	26 Mar
12	1980s: Substitutes and Drug Panic	2 Apr
13	Psychedelics and New Drugs	9 Apr
14	Synthetic Music and Drugs	16 Apr
15	Duck and cover – atomic, biological, and chemical war.	23 Apr

Students will sign up to submit topics through Blackboard by going to the Content tab; selecting the Weekly Topic Sign-up link and will add their name to the weekly list for the topics they choose.

Students are required to submit 4 reaction / response papers based on the weekly class topics summarized in the table above. Once the due date has passed, no papers will be accepted for that topical week. Which means an essay on prehistoric drugs (Week 2) cannot be submitted when we are in Week 8.

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Essay Template

Introduction
<p>Your essay needs a thesis statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a <i>boundary</i> around the subject that keeps the writer from wandering from the subject--about this--not about that. • Can chart an <i>orderly course</i> for the paper and make it easier to write--not just about this--but HOW it is --about this. • Gives the reader an idea of what to <i>expect</i>, makes it easier for the reader to follow. <p style="text-align: center;">All topic sentences should relate to the thesis statement.</p>

Body Paragraph 1 <i>(repeat format for each of the body paragraphs)</i>
<p>Topic Sentence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence... <i>Citation -</i> • Evidence... <i>Citation -</i> • Evidence... <i>Citation -</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis...

Concluding Paragraph
Does it develop from the thesis statement?
Does it build on the information / ideas presented as topic sentences?
Does the conclusion take the reader “one step further”? Is a unique idea or statement being made?

Paragraph Transitions
Do the paragraphs build directly on the one before? How?