

USC Mann

Alfred E. Mann School of Pharmacy
and Pharmaceutical Sciences

SP-2024: RXRS-201: The History and Geography of Drugs

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Course Weight: 4 units

Days/Time/Location: Mon; Wed; 11am-12:20pm

Location: THH-101

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 humanity, 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 both a

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

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.

Objectives for this course include:

- Compare the historical nature of the discovery of drugs and poisons throughout the world
- Associate the historical and recent biological, psychological, social-psychological, and sociological perspectives related to drug use and abuse
- Evaluate the consequences of improper drug use and abuse and its relationship to health, economy, wellbeing, and society as presented in the literature
- Describe the use of chemical and biological warfare in antiquity and modern day
- Compare and contrast the concurrent practice of Eastern and Western medicines
- Summarize course material and explore connections across historical eras in the development of drugs
- Identify and detail the historical conceptions of drug addiction and drug abuse

Communication Method

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Church via email (tdchurch@usc.edu). Your email will be attended to as quickly as possible within a 48-hour window. For more urgent or pressing issues, please contact Dr. Church via telephone at 323.442.0241. Voicemail messages will be addressed within a 24-hour window during the work week.

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

Evaluation and Grading:

Evaluation will be based on one midterm examination, a final examination, four in class projects, and two written reaction / reflection essays.

Description	Points	Weight
<i>Midterm exam</i>	70 pts	(25%)
<i>In class projects (@ 20 pts each)</i>	80 pts	(15%)
<i>Final exam (partially cumulative)</i>	100 pts	(30%)
<i>Written Essays (@ 25 pts each)</i>	50 pts	(30%)
Total	300 pts	(100%)

25% 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 multiple choice, T/F and fill-in the blank questions (60%). There will also be short answers and longer questions requiring critical thought and its articulation in written responses (40%). 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.

15% In Class Projects: (each worth 3.75% of your class grade) There will be 4 in class projects over the course of the semester. These projects are designed to reinforce course material by having students work in small groups to accomplish specific objectives and apply knowledge from lecture and readings. Specific details will be provided for each in class project.

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 (40%). The second part of the final examination will consist of short written answers to demonstrate the students' knowledge regarding topics covered in the course (60%). This latter part of the final exam will allow students to express their ideas based on facts derived from the course.

30% Two Short Essays: (each worth 15% 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 from the predefined topic blocks and must submit 2 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.

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. This includes the potential for there to be no pluses (+) or minuses (-) assigned to grades in this course.

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

Percent	Letter Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
88-89%	B+
83-87%	B
80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+
73-77%	C
70-72%	C-
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

Make-up exams. Makeup exams will be allowed only with pre-approval of the instructor or with an acceptable, documented reason. Acceptable reasons for makeup exams include severe illness, family emergencies or other unavoidable events including dangerous weather conditions and car accidents. Exam format for makeup exams may be different than the original exam and will likely utilize a short answer format.

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

Use of Artificial Intelligence

There is an expectation about AI (e.g., ChatGPT and image generation tools) use for this class. Learning to use AI is an emerging skill, and discussions about appropriate use are welcome. It is recommended that you take the opportunity to meet with your professor to get guidance with the use of these tools during office hours or after class. Keep in mind the following:

- AI tools are allowed to help you brainstorm topics or revise work you have already written.
- If you supply minimum-effort prompts, you will get low-quality results. You will need to refine your prompts to get good outcomes. This will take work.
- Proceed with caution when using AI tools and do not assume the information provided is accurate or trustworthy. If it gives you a number or fact, assume it is incorrect unless you either know the correct answer or can verify its accuracy with another source. You will be responsible for any errors or omissions provided by the tool. It works best for topics you understand.
- AI is a tool, but one that you need to acknowledge using. Please include a paragraph at the end of any assignment that uses AI explaining how (and why) you used AI and

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

indicate / specify the prompts you used to obtain the results what prompts you used to get the results. Failure to do so is a violation of academic integrity policies.

- Be thoughtful about when AI is useful. Consider its appropriateness for each assignment or circumstance. The use of AI tools requires attribution. You are expected to clearly attribute any material generated by the tool used.

Course Readings

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

Terry David Church. (2023). *Hidden History: Drugs, Geography, and Human Addiction*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.

Supplemental Readings (selected essays, videos, and other media)

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.

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

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 – Course overview & Introduction 10 Jan – Introduction	Hidden History, Chapter 1
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 fruits Jan 15 – No Class Jan 17 – Neolithic and Paleolithic	Hidden History, Chapter 2 “Pharmacological Influences on the Neolithic Transition” Wadley, G and Hayden B (2015) – on Blackboard
Week 3 <i>Jan 22, 24</i>	Dr. Church Ancient Egypt	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. Explore the Ptolemaic period in Egypt and the changes it brought for drug culture. 22 Jan –Ancient Egypt 24 Jan – In class Project	Hidden History, Chapter 3 “Herbal Medicine in Ancient Egypt” Aboelsoud, NH (2010) – in Blackboard * - In Class project, 24 Jan

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

Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Weeks 4 <i>Jan 29, 31</i>	Dr. Church Ancient Greece and Rome	Gain insights into the practices of Roman healers regarding their understanding of disease and remedies 29 Jan – Ancient Greece 29 Jan – Recorded Lecture; Ancient Rome 31 Jan – In Class Project	Hidden History, Chapter 4 and 5 * - In Class Project; 31 Jan
Week 5 <i>Feb 5, 7</i>	Dr. Church Trade and Smuggling Routes	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 Age of Discovery led to geographical and political conflicts over trade in an era where pirates vied for their share of the bounty. 5 Feb – Silk Road Drug Exchanges 7 Feb – Maritime Empires	Hidden History, Chapter 6 and 7 “Physicians of Ancient India” Saini, A (2016) – in Blackboard “The Use and Abuse of Wine in Ancient China” Poo, MC (1999) – in Blackboard
Week 6 <i>Feb 12, 14</i>	Dr. Church Exploited Peoples and Drug Wars	Maya, Aztec, and Inca Medicines: Herbs of the America’s for healing, pleasure, and sacrifice. The conquistadors and the colonizers exploit new lands. Two armed conflicts in China in the mid-19th century between the forces of Western coalitions and of the Eastern Qing dynasty. 12 Feb – Americas – The New World Exploited 14 Feb – Opium Wars	Hidden History, Chapter 8 and 9 Aztec Medicine: http://ambergiscaye.com/pages/mayan/aztec_medicine.html

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

Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 7 <i>Feb 19, 21</i>	Dr. Culy Renaissance 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 how the Borgia and de'Medici families influenced history. 19 Feb – No Class 21 Feb – Renaissance Poisons (Culy)	Hidden History, Chapter 10
Week 8 <i>Feb 26,28</i>	Dr. Church 19 th Century Quackery 19 th Century Scientific Innovation	The influence of dye companies; chemists, pharmacists and doctors and their influence on psycho active drugs. “Snake Oil”. Scientific advances of the 19 th Century. 26 Feb – 19 th Century Quackery 26 Feb – Recorded Lecture 19 th Century Scientific Innovation 28 Feb – In-Class Project	Hidden History, Chapter 11 * - In Class Project; 28 Feb
Week 9 <i>Mar 4, 6</i>	Review for Mid Term – 4 Mar Mid Term Exam – 6 Mar		
Spring Break	11 Mar – 13 Mar		
Week 10 <i>Mar 18, 20</i>	Dr. Church Ethical Consequences Legal Concerns	Ethical issues related to drugs in the modern age. An overview of drug enforcement. This will include discussions of legal and ethical concerns. These events led to the establishment the Drug Enforcement Agency. 18 Mar – Ethical Issues 20 Mar – Legal Concerns	Hidden History, Chapter 13

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

Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 11 <i>Mar 25, 27</i>	Dr. Church 20 th Century Regulations Drug Panic	Establishment of the Food and Drug Administration and the regulation of medical products in the 20 th Century. The big drug scare of 1980s and how media and politics changed drug education policy. Intense public concern about drug abuse between 1986 and 1989 – the new synthetics on the block. 25 Mar – 20 th Century Regulations 27 Mar – Drug Panic of 1980s	Hidden History, Chapter 12 “One hundred years of drug regulation: where do we go from here”, Woosley (2013) – uploaded to Blackboard
Week 12 <i>Apr 1, 3</i>	Dr. Church Disco Raves and EDM	Synthetic Music and Synthetic Drugs, the combination of sex, music, and cocaine Music festivals and raves have grown more popular in recent years. Festival drugs, music, and synthetic drugs will be discussed. 1 Apr – 1970s and Disco 3 Apr – Raves and EDM	Hidden History, Chapter 12 “Adolescents and Drug Abuse: 21 st Century Synthetic Substances”, Yin (2019) – uploaded to Blackboard
Week 13 <i>Apr 8, 10</i>	Dr. Jakowec Pain and Opioids Dr. Church Bioterrorism	Opioids were once the cornerstone in treating severe disabling pain and are now known to underlie an epidemic of substance use disorders and overdose deaths. 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. 8 Apr – Pain and the Opioid Crisis (Jakowec) 10 Apr – Biological, Chemical, and Atomic Warfare (Church)	Hidden History, Chapter 14 “The dynamic interaction between pain and opioid misuse”, Wilson-Poe (2018) – uploaded to Blackboard

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

Week & Date	Topic	Subtopics to be Included	Assigned and Supplemental Reading
Week 14 <i>Apr 15, 19</i>	Dr. Davies Alcohol Dr. Church Cannabis	Clinical Case review of alcohol at LAC+USC Discussion of the legalization of cannabis and the historic uses of cannabis in the United States. 15 Apr – Alcohol Case Review 19 Apr – Cannabis	“Assessing the public health impacts of legalizing recreational cannabis use: the US experience” Hall, W & Lynskey, M. (2020) – uploaded to Blackboard
Week 15 <i>Apr 22, 24</i>	Dr. Church	Explore the history of the diagnosis of addiction. 22 Apr – Student Reports (In-Class / Take-Home Project) 24 Apr – History of Addiction	Hidden History, Chapter 15 * - In Class / Take-Home Project Written Report Due by 2pm on 24 Apr
<i>FINAL EXAM: Monday, 1 May 11 AM to 1 PM</i>			

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

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

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

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

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to

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

campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call
Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

Short Essays (2 in total)

Grading will be based upon the quality of your analysis and how clearly you present the information within your essay. You are expected to incorporate key terms and concepts you have learned in this course. Points will be deducted for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and technical errors. You should start with a brief outline for your essay, 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 question or topic; and establishes a foundation for the remainder of your essay. This section functions like a roadmap to tell us what you will be discussing in the body of your essay.
- 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.

In writing a good reaction paper, it is not enough to simply praise the strengths or criticize the weakness of the lecture or reading material. More than that, students must be able to justify their “reaction”. It is important to provide the reasons why, for example, the information related to prohibition was compelling, or why the argument of a particular historical figure resonates a strong message with you.

How to Write a Reflection Paper

Step One: To beginning working on a reflection paper, you need to read the article thoroughly while taking notes. No matter what type of article you are reflecting on, for example, an activity, book/newspaper, or academic essay, you will want to highlight key ideas and concepts.

Step Two: Start writing your reflection paper by summarizing the main concept(s) from your notes. Your essay should include all the information needed for your readers to understand the main points of the article on which you are reflecting. It can be helpful to add charts, diagrams, and lists to deliver your ideas to the reader in a better fashion.

Step Three: Reflection papers require that you write your opinion on the report week topic, supporting it with your observations from the assigned article combined with your individual experiences. As opposed to an academic essay where you present your reader with the views of other academics and writers, in a reflective essay, you get an opportunity to share your point of view—however, avoid using “I” statements. It is **YOUR** opinion, and it is incumbent upon you to express your thoughts in a manner that is understandable and clear for your reader. To help get started, answer some of the basic questions below:

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

- How did the material (article, chapter, lecture, etc) affect you?
- How does the material catch your attention (or does it all)?
- Has the material changed your mind about something? If so, explain how.
- Has the material left you with any questions? If so, what are those questions?
- Were there any unaddressed critical issues that did not appear in the material?
- Does the material relate to anything from your past experiences?
- Does the material agree or disagree with any of your past reading experiences?

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 sources (in-text and works cited / bibliography)
- **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.

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.

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

General Topics and Weekly Submission Dates

(Essays are due the week after their presentation date, see table below for submission dates)

Essay Topic Week Number	Essay Topic	Essay Topic Selection	Due Date <i>(by 2pm)</i>
3	Ancient Egypt	<i>Essay 01</i> <i>Choose a topic week</i>	29 Jan
4	Greece & Rome		5 Feb
5	Silk Road & Maritime Empires		12 Feb
6	Opium Wars & Americas		20 Feb
7	Renaissance Poisons		26 Feb
8	19 th Century – Quackery & Scientific Innovation	<i>Essay 02</i> <i>Choose a topic week</i>	4 Mar
10	Ethical and Legal Issues		1 Apr
11	20 th Century Regulations & 1980s		8 Apr
12	Disco and EDM		15 Apr
13	Pain & Bioterrorism		22 Apr

Students will sign up to submit topics through Blackboard by going to the Content tab and selecting the Reaction Paper Sign-up link.

Students are required to submit 2 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 9.

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

Penalties for Late Submissions –

Starting Grade	Description
On Time	No penalties
1 Day – 3 Days Past Deadline	20% reduction of score
4 Days – 7 Days Past Deadline	40% reduction of score
8 Days – 11 Days Past Deadline	60 % reduction of score
>12 Days Past Deadline	Will not be accepted for grading

General Essay Template

Introduction
<p>The introduction serves two key functions –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) it gets your reader interested in the topic and encourages them to read your argument; and2) it acts as a roadmap of what you are going to say and provides the overarching point you plan on making – i.e. your thesis statement. <p>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
<p>In a concluding paragraph, you must summarize what you have written about in your essay.</p> <p>You should bring back your main statement.</p> <p>The conclusion should leave the readers with something to consider.</p> <p>Concluding paragraphs should convey a sense of completeness and closure to the topics discussed.</p> <p>There should be a sense of the lingering possibilities of the topic, perhaps its broader meaning... or its implications.</p> <p>The final paragraph should close your topic without closing it off.</p>

Paragraph Transitions
<p>Do the paragraphs build directly on the one before? How?</p>

REFERENCES – use in-text citations throughout your essay and provide a complete Works Cited / Bibliography at the end.