Professor Renata Keller  
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Course Description:

Drug trafficking is one of the greatest current threats to security and stability in the Americas. This illicit trade and the efforts to counter it have taken a devastating toll on individuals, societies, and nations. In this class, we will attempt to gain a greater understanding of how drug trafficking became such an immense problem and why it has been so difficult to combat.

After a general introduction to the theme, we will begin by the exploring the origins of the international narcotics trade. Why is there such a great demand for drugs? How did the demand for and supply of narcotics develop? We will then focus on the three drugs that historically have had the greatest impact on the Americas: cocaine, marijuana, and opiates. After that, we will address the issue of control and supply, focusing on Latin American and U.S. providers and participants in trafficking networks. How do illegal drugs make their way from producers to consumers? Who participates in trafficking, and why? How did the Americas become involved in a War on Drugs, and why have we been unable to win that war? We will begin the second half of the semester studying the myriad consequences of drug trafficking, including militarization, violence, destabilization, and international tensions. We will conclude by exploring possible solutions to the pressing problem of drug trafficking in the Americas.

Prerequisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students in HIST 229 will:

1. Analyze the historical, social, and cultural dynamics of drug trafficking and security in the Americas
2. Evaluate how historians interpret how drug trafficking affects society, such as its role in gender relations, economics, public policy, and international relations
3. Interpret popular media depictions of drugs and security in analytical writing using peer-reviewed journal articles

This course satisfies CO11: Global Context

In courses satisfying CO11, students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways that historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.

Students in HIST 229 will:
4. Articulate connections between Latin American history and Latin America’s past and current role in drug trafficking
5. Analyze the different global perspectives involved in popular media depictions of drugs and security in the Americas in analytical writing using from peer-reviewed journal articles

Grading:
1) Mid-term exam: (15%) (Assessment for SLO 1 and 4)
2) Final Exam: (25%) (Assessment for SLO 1 and 4)
3) Book Review of Women Drug Traffickers: (20%) (Assessment for SLO 2)
4) Popular Media Analysis Paper: (20%) (Assessment for SLO 3 and 5)
5) Attendance and Participation: (20%)

The Plus/Minus system of grading applies in this course.
93-100  A  80-82  B-  67-69  D+
92-90  A-  77-79  C+  63-66  D
87-89  B+  73-76  C  62-60  D-
83-86  B  70-72  C-  59-0  F

Assignment Descriptions:
1. Midterm Exam: In-class, short ID questions. I will distribute a list of possible ID terms one week before the exam. February 23.
2. Final Exam: Same as midterm. Estimated May 3.
4. Drugs as Entertainment Analysis Paper: Write a 5-page analysis of a popular fictional film or TV show that focuses on drugs and security in the Americas. Analyze the show/movie’s accuracy, significance, and contribution to popular understandings of drugs and security. Due April 12.
5. Attendance and Participation: Active participation will account for a large proportion of the final grade. This means not only coming to classes, but also actively participating in class discussions. I will subtract 5% from your attendance and participation grade for each unexcused absence after the first. If you are sick, DO NOT COME TO CLASS OR OFFICE HOURS. Let me know, and I will mark your absence as excused.

All assignments should be double-spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font with a one-inch margin on all sides. Number your pages. Use Chicago Style footnote citations (for guidelines on proper citation format, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

**Late Work and Make-Up Exams:** There will be a penalty of 5% for each day that an assignment is late beyond the start of class on the assigned due date. You will only be allowed to turn in an assignment late or take a make-up exam without penalty if you have an emergency, religious holy day observance, or university approved extracurricular activity. You must provide written notice before religious holy day observances and extracurricular activities and within a week of emergencies. For the UNR policy on absences, see: https://www.unr.edu/administrative-manual/3000-3999-students/3020-class-absence-policy.

**Expectations:**

1. Participation. I expect you to do the readings and participate in discussions.
2. Attention. I expect you to close your laptops and put them away during lectures and presentations. Take notes by hand.
3. Punctuality: I do not tolerate tardiness. If you are late, you will be counted as absent.
4. Communication: If you have a question, don’t hesitate to raise your hand and ask or contact me privately. If you have a problem or an emergency arises, let me know and I will be very willing to work with you.

**Academic Dishonesty**

**UNR Statement on Academic Dishonesty:** “Cheating, plagiarism or otherwise obtaining grades under false pretenses constitute academic dishonesty according to the code of this university. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and penalties can include filing a final grade of "F"; reducing the student's final course grade one or two full grade points; awarding a failing mark on the coursework in question; or requiring the student to retake or resubmit the coursework.”

Plagiarism is a serious form of academic misconduct and it will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism, according to the UNR catalog, is defined as “submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one's own.” The “work of another” includes any material used in your essays (e.g. books, articles, internet sites, documents, lecture notes, or handouts from this and other courses, etc.) Acknowledge all such material – even if you paraphrase it or summarize certain sections and don't quote it directly. For the first offense of plagiarism, you will receive a zero for that assignment. For the second offense, you will receive an F for the class.
Required Reading:

- News coverage of current events related to drugs and security in the Americas. We will discuss current events at the beginning of class every Monday. If you are interested, you can also earn participation credit for the class by Tweeting stories about drugs and security using the hashtag #UNRdrugsclass and my handle (@RenataNKeller) to make sure I see your posts.
- In addition, there are a number of articles and book chapters assigned for specific classes. These may be found on the class Webcampus web site under Course Reserves or in specified library databases (noted in syllabus).

Class Reminders

- **Cell-phones and Computers:** Please remember to turn **off** your cell phones and computers during class. Take notes by hand, unless you are unable to do so and obtain permission from me to use your computer. On the cognitive advantages of taking notes by hand, see: https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/.

- **Packing Up:** Please refrain from packing books and other items until I formally end the class.

- **Email Correspondence:** Please make sure that you identify yourself when you send a message to me, as well as use proper salutations (Dear Professor Keller).

- **Students with Disabilities:** The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. If you have a documented disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me and the Disability Resource Center (Pennington Student Achievement Center Suite 230) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

- **Taping Class:** Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with my written permission. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.

- **Academic Assistance:** The Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring-center) and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center) are available to assist you.
- **Equal Opportunity and Title IX**: The University of Nevada, Reno is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment for all. If you believe you have experienced discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, or stalking, whether on or off campus, or need information related to immigration concerns, please contact the University's Equal Opportunity & Title IX office at 775-784-1547. Resources and interim measures are available to assist you. For more information, please visit: https://www.unr.edu/equal-opportunity-title-ix.

**Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments**

**T, Jan 19**  **Introduction**
- Course Overview

**Th, Jan 21**  **Demand**

**T, Jan 26**  **Origins I: Cocaine**

**Th, Jan 28**  **Origins II: Opiates**

**T, Feb 2**  **Origins III: Marijuana**

**Th, Feb 4**  **Control: Latin American Efforts**
- Campos, Isaac, “Degeneration and the Origins of Mexico’s War on Drugs,” *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 26:2 (Summer 2010), 379-408

**T, Feb 9**  **Control: Early U.S. Anti-Drug Efforts**
- Musto, David F. *American Disease: Origins of Narcotic Control* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 1-23

**Th, Feb 11**  **Supply and Trafficking I**
T, Feb 16       NO CLASS

TH, Feb 18 Supply and Trafficking II

T, Feb 23       MIDTERM EXAM

Th, Feb 25 Control: The War on Drugs

T, Mar 1 Control: The U.S. War on Drugs at Home

Th, Mar 3 Control: The U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America
- Bagley, Bruce Michael, “U.S. Foreign Policy and the War on Drugs: Analysis of a Policy Failure,” *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 30: 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1988), 189-212

March 7-11      Spring Break

T, Mar 15 Supply: Women Drug Traffickers
- BOOK REVIEW OF WOMEN DRUG TRAFFICKERS DUE

Th, Mar 17 Consequences: Militarization

T, Mar 22 Consequences: Economic Distortion

Th, Mar 24 Consequences: Political Destabilization
T, Mar 29  **Consequences: Violence**

Th, Mar 31  **Consequences: Corruption**

T, Apr 5  **Consequences: Narcocultures**

Th, Apr 7  Movie: “Cartel Land”

T, Apr 12  Movie: “Cartel Land”
- **DRUGS AS ENTERTAINMENT ANALYSIS PAPER DUE**

Th, Apr 14  **Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Introduction and Community Policing**

T, Apr 19  **Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Conservation**

Th, Apr 21  **Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Legalization**

T, Apr 26  **Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Local Measures**

Th, Apr 28  Conclusions: The War on Drugs Today

**Estimated Final Exam Date and Time: Tuesday, May 3, 12:30-2:30pm**