

# History of Opioid Use in America

History 434

Credits: 3

Grue 409

Wintermester 2019

**INSTRUCTOR:** John Heaton

**OFFICE LOCATION:** 605B Gruening

**OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment only

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The United States is in the throes of Opioid that has been raging for years. This class looks at the historical context of Opioid use in American history as a means to understand the precursors of today's problem. It is an upper division reading seminar that will examine the key works of historians and journalists who have examined opioid use. It will also connect that past to the present crisis with a focus on the problem locally in Alaska's Interior.

## COURSE GOALS

The fundamental goal of this course is to familiarize students with the literature on Opioid use in America, to help students understand the causes of the current crisis, the ways in which Americans have understood and responded to opioid use in earlier eras, and to get a better sense of the nature and challenges of the current crisis.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will have the tools to:

- See the power of history to shape the present and the future
- Recognize the inherent biases that color historical perspectives
- Critically examine various historical narratives and approaches

Articulate an historical perspective on key modern issues

Acquire an appreciation for the complexity of a current national crisis and its local iterations

## REQUIRED COURSE READINGS (You will need to have these books in your possession for class!)

David T. Courtwright, *Dark Paradise: A History of Opiate Addiction in America* ISBN:0674005856

David T. Courtwright, *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*  
ISBN:0674004582

Martin Booth, *Opium: A History* ISBN:0312186436

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS (You don't have to buy these—copies will be available for us to work with in class discussions)

Barbara Hodgson, *In the Arms of Morpheus: The Tragic History of Laudanum, Morphine, and Patent Medicines* ISBN:1552975401

Barbara Hodgson, *Opium: A Portrait of the Heavenly Demon* ISBN: 081182411X

David Musto, ed., *One Hundred Years of Heroin* ISBN:0865693242

Sam Quinones, *Dream Land: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* ISBN:  
9781620402528

Gary G. Shattuck: *Green Mountain Opium Eaters: A History of Early Addiction in Vermont*  
ISBN:9781467136945

John Temple, *American Pain: How A Young Felon And His Ring of Doctors Unleashed America's Deadliest Drug Epidemic* ISBN:9781493026661

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Students will be asked to read all or portions of the books on the required reading list and some of the materials on the supplemental list, write short reading response essays, participate in small group and large group discussions, and do a small research project that they then present to the class on a topic related to the course theme.

## COURSE POLICIES:

### Assignments:

**Writing Portfolio**                      **100 points**

**Participation**                              **100 points**

**Research Project/Oral Presentation**                      **50 points**

**Total Points**    **250**

Student grades will be based on the following criteria.:

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>	
<b>A</b>	100%-90%
<b>B</b>	89%-80%
<b>C</b>	79% -70%
<b>D</b>	69% - 60 %
<b>F</b>	59% and below

#### **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Due dates are indicated for each Unit, which includes the readings and assignments. Assignments may be penalized for each day late.

#### **Withdrawal:**

Students are expected to formally withdraw from the class if they cannot complete the course.

I will not automatically withdraw students who do not attend or fall behind. Students who do not successfully complete the class and do not withdraw will receive a grade of "F."

#### **Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:**

"The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

#### **Student Responsibility:**

As students, you must accept the responsibility of ensuring your own success. It is your responsibility to know what you need to do and when you need to do it. This requires a great deal of initiative on your part. Always ask if you do not know what is expected of you. Never wait for someone to tell you. "I didn't know" or "No one told me" are not acceptable reasons for failing to fulfill your student obligations. I am here to help and support students who take the initiative to help themselves.

#### **PLAGIARISM:**

We take plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism occurs when you utilize the words and language from a source without properly attributing those words and language to the source. Plagiarism is against UAF policy and can result in significant penalties.

Throughout this course, I will ask you to read the course materials, synthesize the materials, and then provide a critical, written analysis of those materials. I may also ask you to perform research on historical concepts and issues from time to time. Where appropriate, quotation of, and citation to, relevant sources may be very effective and helpful. However, simply stringing together a series of quotations and submitting such work as an assignment is insufficient and will not satisfy the requirements of this course.



Jan 3 Courtwright, *Forces of Habit*

Jan 4 Courtwright *Dark Paradise*

Jan 5 Musto, *One Hundred Years of Heroin*

Jan 7 Musto, *One Hundred Years of Heroin*

Jan 8 Shattuck, *Green Mountain Opium Eaters*

Jan 9 Hodgson, *In the Arms of Morpheus* Hodgson, *Opium: A Portrait of the Heavenly Demon*

Jan 10 Temple, *American Pain*

Presentations

Jan 11 Quinones, *Dream Land*

Presentations