

# Skyline College

## Official Course Outline

**Date:** August 2008

**1. TITLE:**

**ADMJ 135 – Narcotics and Special Investigations**

3.0 units. Three lecture hours per week

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 836

**2. COURSE CLASSIFICATION:**

Credit course applicable to the Associate Degree, and to the Criminal Justice Certificate

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

This course is designed to acquaint the criminal justice student with background and historical information that involves identification of drugs, drug abuses, mental and physical effects, and addiction. There will also be special emphasis on vice and deviant behavior, including victimless crimes.

**Schedule of Classes Description:**

Emphasis on vice and deviant behavior, including victimless crimes, identifications of drugs, drug abuse, mental and physical effects, and addiction.

**4. COURSE JUSTIFICATION:**

This is a transfer course to fulfill General Education requirements of the Associate Degree (F3), and is transferable as follows: CSU. This course is an elective course in the Administration of Justice Program curriculum for students seeking a Criminal Justice Certificate.

**5. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe the history, development, and current status of federal and state legislation and policies relating to the possession, use, and abuse of drugs and narcotics, and the methods of investigation used by law enforcement agencies.
- Differentiate from among a variety of the more common types of abuse substances, identify their origins, and recognize their potential effects on drug users, including tolerance, and physical and psychological dependence.
- Compare and contrast the various response policies and programs concerning drug abuse prevention, treatment, and enforcement, and assess correlative and causative factors involving drugs and drug abuse to crime in our society.

**6. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

To assist students in reaching the goals outlined in the course SLO's, this course will include:

- Study of the history and evolution of American society's perceptions and distinctions concerning substances of abuse, and its legal and social responses to those perceptions and distinctions.

- Exploration of the various types of abuse substances, including their origins, names, uses, and effects, to include narcotics and drugs, both legal and illegal, and “gateway drugs.”
- Consideration of the impact that drug use and abuse have on the human body, both physical and psychological, and more largely on society.
- Discussion of the role of criminal justice in society’s “war on drugs”, including its policies and effectiveness, and its relationship to vice and other deviant behavior in society.
- Analysis of the moral, legal, and practical considerations involved in drug control, and the impact of drugs on crime in the United States.
- Examination and evaluation of the effectiveness of the three most common responses to the “drug problem”, which are: (1) prevention, (2) treatment, and (3) enforcement.

## **7. COURSE CONTENT:**

- An Introduction to Drug Abuse
- History of Drug Use and Legislation
- Drugs and the Nervous System
- Depressants
- Stimulants
- Hallucinogens, Club Drugs, Marijuana, and Inhalants
- The Sociology of Drug Abuse
- The Psychology of Drug Abuse
- Drug Abuse Treatment
- Drug Abuse Prevention
- The Business of Drugs and the Drug-Terrorism Connection
- Drug Laws and Law Enforcement
- Drug Abuse Policy
- Drug Decriminalization and Harm Reduction

## **8. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Methods of instruction will include:

- Lectures on course lessons, text readings (25-50 pages assigned per week), and related topics, combined with class discussions to stimulate critical thinking and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate understanding of course material. Students are expected to take notes and engage in class and group discussions to maximize retention of the course material.
- Reviews of course related handouts, articles, illustrations, and current events to enhance the students’ experience by exploring and applying material to a contemporary real-world setting.
- Audiovisual presentations which illustrate and enhance the concepts of topics covered in class.
- Tests, quizzes, research papers, and writing assignments to demonstrate comprehension of the course material through hands-on applications and written examinations.

Methods of instruction may also be augmented by:

- Practical demonstrations, displays, and in-class role-playing exercises, as applicable to the topic.
- Student interviews of criminal justice professionals and preparing a written report on the results.

- Guest speakers with expertise in various areas of criminal justice, to provide diverse and unique perspectives on a variety of controversial issues in their field.
- Field trips to law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, courts, jails, and prisons.
- Individual student consultations, as necessary, to ensure that student learning is taking place.
- Practical work experience such as ride-alongs or other applicable site work to enhance learning.

## **9. ASSIGNMENTS:**

Typical assignments:

- a. Research and Writing or Oral assignments about course related topics which demonstrate student knowledge, comprehension, and application skills, may include:
  - term papers, short papers, research papers, essay papers, and oral presentation reports.
  - reports on field interviews, site visits, observations, work performed, or film critiques.
- b. Case Study assignments to develop critical thinking and concept application, may include:
  - reviewing and critiquing Supreme Court, appellate court, and trial court cases.
  - responding to the questions, scenarios, or case studies included in text chapters.
- c. Tests and Quizzes, consisting of the written, oral, and/or practical application variety to assess comprehension of assigned readings, course content, and other related course activities.

## **10. EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

Typical methods of evaluation of student performance may include the following:

- a. Written examinations, such as quizzes, midterm exams, and final exams to demonstrate student understanding and proficiency skills concerning the material presented in the course.
- b. In-class and out of class assignments to demonstrate student ability to apply course concepts to assigned tasks utilizing comprehension, application, analysis, and critical thinking skills.
- c. Case study exercises to demonstrate student ability to integrate multiple concepts to solve realistic situations.
- d. Class discussions of course material to permit the exchange of ideas involving a variety of course related issues and concerns.
- e. Attendance and promptness, class citizenship and conduct, and participation and cooperation.
- f. Grading Method: Letter Grade.

## **11. RECOMMENDED or REQUIRED TEXT(S):**

The recommended or required course textbook, selected at the discretion of the course instructor, may include (but is not limited to) the following suggested current editions on the subject matter:

- *Drug Use and Abuse*, by Howard Abadinsky; published by Thompson-Wadsworth.
- *Drugs, Society, and Criminal Justice*, by Charles F. Levinthal; published by Allyn & Bacon.
- *Drugs in Modern Society*, by Charles R. Carroll; published by McGraw-Hill.

- *Concepts of Chemical Dependency*, Harold E. Doweiko; published by Wadsworth-Cengage Learning.
- *Sense and Non-Sense About Crime and Drugs: A Policy Guide*, Samuel Walker; published by Wadsworth-Cengage Learning.