What??

There haven’t been many topics more controversial than drugs in North America. Drug use is one of those features of humanity than goes back into prehistory, and in many ways our current drug use isn’t significantly different in a lot of ways. This course seeks to examine present-day debates about drugs through historical, sociological and ethical perspectives.

Mark Breakdown

Academic Book Review: *Forces of Habit* by David Courtright = 25% (DUE: March 14, in class)
Mid-term exam: in class, multiple-choice = 25%
Final exam: 2 hour final, multiple-choice = 50%

Course Schedule

January 3rd – Course introduction, syllabus review, etc

January 10th – Moral Panics (*Movie: Reefer Madness: 67 mins*)

January 14-17th – Moral Panics & Tobacco
Read: 1.) Moral Panics
2.) Tobacco Use and the Construction of the Canadian Citizen

January 21-24th – Cannabis
Read: Cannabis Law Reform in Canada

January 28-31st – Alcohol
Read: 1.) Joe Beef of Montreal
2.) From Beverage to Drug

February 4-7th – Opium & Heroin
Read: 1.) Deporting ‘Ah Sin’ to Save the White Race

February 11-18th – Theories of Addiction (*Documentary: Fix: 92 mins*)
Read: 1.) Addiction: A Disease of Learning and Memory
2.) A Hard Habit to Break

February 21-25th – Reading Week!

February 28th – Harm Reduction (*Documentary: Through a Blue Lens: 52 mins*)
Read: 1.) Harm Reduction: Come as you are

March 4th – In-class mid-term
March 7-11th – Performance-Enhancing Drugs: Mind & Body
   Read: 1.) Popping Pills to Study
         2.) Gremlins of Sport

March 14-18th – Cocaine
   Read: 1.) Cocaine History, Use, Abuse.
         2.) The Setting for the Crack Era

March 21-25th – LSD, Theophany & The Good Friday Experiment
   Read: 1.) Do Drugs have Religious Import?
         2.) Mission of Madness

March 28-April 1st – Disease Promotion? (Research & Advertising of Pharmaceuticals)
   Read: 1.) Leopards in the Temple
         2.) Conflicting Interests in Toronto

April 4th – Exam Review, Q & A

Readings
- readings assigned on WebCT

Plagiarism
“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the
commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection
of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in
the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently
submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently
between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).”

Late Penalties
Forgetting to submit an assignment, or trying to submit it in another fashion not
approved by Dr. Kirkwood will result in a grade of 0% without exception.

Other Academic Discipline Issues
Please see the document on WebCT about all expectations and obligations you have
as students, and what remedies or penalties you might expect.