WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Drugs and Society
COURSE NUMBER: MAJ 6612

I. RATIONALE:

For many Americans, the drug problem is an abstract issue because it seems to affect other people from some other places. For the criminal justice professional it is one of the most visible correlates of crime and a constant challenge at all levels of the criminal justice system. An understanding of illegal drugs and all of the attendant issues is essential for success in the field.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:
Students will conduct an exhausting review of the history of drug abuse and the growth of the illicit drug trade in the United States.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

A-1 Examine and discuss the opium trade of the 1800's.
A-2 Analyze and discuss the drug trade in the Prohibition Era.
A-3 Analyze and discuss the drug trade in the Post war years.
A-4 Analyze and discuss the drug trade in the 1960's.
A-5 Examine and discuss the current drug trade.
A-6 Create a list of the effects of specific drugs that individuals abuse including stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, narcotics, cannabis, steroids, inhalants, mood drugs, date rape drugs, and the diet drug controversy.
A-7 Develop an understanding of the domestic criminal drug trade.

GOAL B:
Students will study several criminological theories relative to criminal behavior. The student will apply these theories and discuss how they explain the behavior associated with drug abuse and other drug related activity. The student will examine victimless crimes as they relate to drugs, vice and prostitution.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

B-1 Debate the argument that vice, drugs and other bad habits are “victimless crimes” when viewed in the aggregate of criminal activity.
B-2 Analyze and discuss Shaw and McKays work on cultural transmission within the context of the use of drugs.

B-3 Demonstrate an understanding of Merton’s Anomie Theory to the drug business and the “pathology of materialism.”

B-4 Explore the availability of criminal opportunity in the drug culture as stated in Cloward and Ohlin’s Opportunity Theory.

B-5 Compare the process of acceptable legal behavior in main stream to the Differential Association Theory as applied to criminal drug groups.

GOAL C:
The student will explore past, current and future strategies utilized to combat drug issues. The student will compare and contrast the numerous categories of drug treatment. The student will learn about the many synergetic efforts utilized in education, treatment and law enforcement to combat the issue of drug use and abuse.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

C-1 Examine the drug control initiative as it pertains to the passage of new laws, dedication of resources, and the response of federal law enforcement.

C-2 Analyze and discuss the current critical issues in drug control and the various “players” involved.

C-3 Assess and debate public opinion and the arguments for legalization.

C-4 Critique the current strategies being utilized to control the drug problem through treatment and prevention.

C-5 Analyze and discuss current and future strategies that are being developed to address the drug issues in our society.

GOAL D:
The student will continue their analysis and discussion of drug addiction, prostitutes and their children. The student will examine the criminal ramifications of the drug trade with an emphasis on the effects that it has on law enforcement, organized groups and foreign influence.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

D-1 Analyze and discuss the impact that the drug trade has had on police corruption, corruption of foreign governments and money laundering.

D-2 Examine the conditions that lend cohesiveness to the “modern day” drug trafficking organization.

D-3 Assess and discuss the following questions: Who are the drug users and why do people get high.

D-4 Compare the role of traditional organized crime organizations to today’s drug trafficking cartels.

D-5 Examine and discuss the social costs of drug abuse including violence, lost productivity, addicted babies and the HIV drug problem.

D-6 Analyze and discuss the growth of foreign influence in the drug business.
including groups from Columbia, Mexico, Nicaragua and the Asian countries.

**GOAL E:**
The student will examine how the U.S. consumerism of drugs contributes to gang violence especially as it relates to drug trafficking. The student will investigate why the U.S. is so attractive to drug traffickers. The student will also examine the information surrounding drug trafficking and the relationship with funding terrorist activity and their groups operations.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- **E-1** Demonstrate an understanding of drug consumerism and how it contributes to the drug violence in neighboring countries.
- **E-2** Demonstrate an understanding of the link between drug trafficking and terrorist groups.

**GOAL F:**
Students will demonstrate appropriate written and oral communication skills.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- **F-1** Utilize professional writing skills to analyze and cite appropriate sources (e.g. APA format) to express and convey empirical research.
- **F-2** Research, construct, and deliver professional presentations using a variety of communication tools and techniques.