



O.P. Jindal Global University
A Private University Promoting Public Service



COURSE TITLE: Illicit Drug Use and its implications

Course Instructor: Ms. Kritika Swami

Jindal Institute of Behavioral Sciences (JIBS)

4 Credit Course

FALL SEMESTER 2026

Faculty Contact: Ms. Kritika Swami

Email: kritika.swami@jgu.edu.in

Office Hours:

Classroom:

The information provided herein is by the Course Coordinator. The following information contains the official record of the details of the course.

PART I

Course Title: Gendered Approaches to Crime and Punishment		
Course Code	BE-E- 007	
Course Duration	1 Semester	
No. of Credit Units	4	
Level	UG	
Pre-Requisites	Nil	
Pre-Cursors	Nil	
Equivalent Courses	Nil	
Exclusive Courses	Nil	
Class Timing

PART II

Course Description:

Illicit Drug Use and its implications is an interdisciplinary elective that examines drug use and drug control through the intersecting lenses of law, sociology, criminology, gender studies, and public health, with a primary focus on India. The course situates contemporary debates within the framework of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 while critically engaging with global policy regimes shaped by institutions such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Moving beyond narrow criminal justice approaches, the course explores how drug use is socially constructed, policed, and punished, and how these processes disproportionately affect marginalized communities along lines of class, caste, gender, and region. It analyses the tension between punitive frameworks and public health approaches, including harm reduction, rehabilitation, and rights-based interventions. Special attention is given to gendered pathways into drug use and drug-related offenses, drawing on feminist and abolitionist critiques.

Through engagement with empirical reports, case laws, policy documents, and media representations, students will analyze how criminal legal institutions—police, courts, and prisons—shape the lived realities of drug users and offenders. The course also introduces emerging challenges such as synthetic drugs, digital drug markets, and evolving enforcement technologies.

Key Takeaways:

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Explain the structure and implications of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and related policies.
2. Assess the impacts of punitive drug laws on incarceration, policing, and access to justice.
3. Examine how drug policies affect women, transgender persons, and marginalized communities differently.
4. Compare criminal justice responses with harm reduction and treatment-based models.

Assessment Process:

The course will be majorly taught using class discussions, anecdotes, presentations, readings, and experiential exercises. The evaluations will include in-class activities, individual and group presentations, written assignments, quizzes, and projects.

Percentage and weightage Breakdown of Grades:

70% Internal Exam (70 marks)

- 20% for movie analysis * (20 Marks)
- 20% for Quiz* (20 Marks)
- 20% for Presentations* (20 marks); will be based on case studies or topics from across the modules.
- Class participation (10 marks)

30% End Semester Exam (Closed book and timed)

(*Please note that absenteeism on day of assessment will not be entertained and no assessments shall be rescheduled.)

Grading of Student Assessment

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Interpretation
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O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 - 69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.

F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.
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Course Outline

Unit I: Understanding drugs and substance use (Week 1)

Defining illicit drugs, overview of Indian and global scenario, historical perspectives: cultural use vs. criminalization, and interdisciplinary approaches.

Unit II: Theoretical approaches (Week 2-4)

Criminological theories (strain theory, social learning theory, Sociological theories, feminist perspectives

Unit III: Legal frameworks on drug control (Week 5-6)

Overview of drug laws in India (NDPS Act), International conventions on drugs, Criminalization vs decriminalization debates, Policing, surveillance, and enforcement practices, Bail, sentencing, and proportionality

Unit IV: Crime, Migration and Trafficking (Week 7)

Global drug cartels and organized crime, Pathways of women and children into drug-related offenses, methods, and challenges in detection.

Unit V: Drugs in Prisons and Corrections (Week 8-9)

Prevalence of drug abuse among incarcerated prisoners, challenges: smuggling, addiction, and violence in prisons, correctional responses: de-addiction efforts, rehabilitation and reintegration issues.

Unit VI: Public Health Perspectives on Drug Abuse (Week 10)

Epidemiology of drug abuse, risk and protective factors across the life course, public health campaigns and prevention models, youth, campus, and community interventions.

Unit VII: Alternatives and Policy Reform (Week 11-12)

Decriminalization and legalization models (global case studies), Restorative justice approaches, Community-based interventions, Abolitionist perspectives on drug punishment

Unit VIII: Media, Culture, and Representation (Week 13-14)

Drug narratives in popular culture, Stigma and stereotyping

Reading List:

1. Kolind, T., & Duke, K. (2016). Drugs in prisons: Exploring use, control, treatment and policy. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 23(2), 89-92.
2. Bagley, B. (2013). The evolution of drug trafficking and organized crime in Latin America. *Sociología, problemas e prácticas*, (71), 99-123.

3. Global Prison Trends Reports by PRI
4. “From Addict to Convict - the working of the NDPS Act in Punjab” (2018) Report by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy
5. “Drug Policy in India” by Tripti Tandon (2015) Briefing Paper International Drug Policy Consortium (http://fileserver.idpc.net/library/IDPC-briefing-paper_Drug-policy-in-India.pdf)
6. *Are Prisons Obsolete* by Angela Davis
7. *Women beyond Walls* podcast on Spotify

Professional Conduct in Classroom

You are expected to arrive on time in the classroom and follow the classroom decorum. It is expected that you are punctual in class and be seated immediately within the first two minutes so that the class can start on time. **Students arriving after a ten minute window from the designated start time will be refused entry/attendance.** You are expected to participate in the classroom discussions, activities and presentation. Participation is essential in this class. You are also expected to be respectful when the instructor is teaching. Furthermore, you are welcomed to share your thoughts in the class but you are expected to do that respectfully and be welcoming of other perspectives in the class even if you disagree with the same.

Notes on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not acceptable! Please refrain from copying and pasting paragraphs and sentences from your reading materials. This includes copying someone’s words, structure, grammar, ideas, thoughts, and phrases and passing them as your own. Too many quotes are not acceptable!

What is acceptable? Using one quote which is not more than 40 words with proper citation. Use citation! It’s a must! Present the content you read from your reading materials in your own words! Think and critically analyse the content! The source should be always acknowledged in your written material and presentation. All papers in this class will be checked electronically for plagiarism.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance in classes is strongly recommended. There could be components of internal assessment based on class participation. A student who fails to attend a class is expected to inform the Course Instructor of the reason for their absence. Any medical leave for missing classes will be granted with prior approval from the respective school only and upon submission of a valid medical certificate. Students are required to contact the Academic Office of their respective School to recommend any such requests. A minimum of 75% attendance is mandatory. Please note that in case students are found to be below the 75% attendance marks even after attempting the end term examination. They will still be held debarred due to shortage in attendance and the answer scripts will be considered null and void and will not be evaluated. Parents email/appeals or any other request will not be considered in case of debarment due to shortage of attendance.

Safe Space Pledge

Some parts of this course may discuss a range of issues that might result in distress for some students. Discussions and images in the course might also provoke strong emotional responses. To make sure that all students collectively benefit from the course, and do not feel troubled due to either the contents of the course, or the conduct of the discussions, it is incumbent upon all within the classroom to pledge to maintain respect towards our peers. This does not mean that you need to feel restrained about what

you feel and what you want to say. Conversely, this is about creating a safe space where everyone can speak and learn without inhibition and fear. This responsibility lies not only on students, but also the instructor.

Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements

JGU endeavors to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations are required to register with the Disability Support Committee dsc@jgu.edu.in. The Committee has so far identified the following conditions that could possibly hinder student's overall well-being. These include: physical and mobility related difficulties; visual impairment; hearing impairment; medical conditions; specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia; mental health.

The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. The students should preferably register with the Committee in the first week of the semester as disability accommodation requires early planning. DSC will approve and coordinate all the disability related services such as appointment of academic mentors, specialized interventions and course related requirements such as accessible classrooms for lectures, tutorials and examinations.

All faculty members are required to refer students with any of the above-mentioned conditions to the Disability Support Committee for addressing disability-related accommodation requirements.

Centre for Wellness and Counseling Services:

Contact: Email ID:

cwcs@jgu.edu.in

Mobile:

+918396907312