

Syllabus for Seminar

BIOL 4110

LDB 220; W 4-5:00 pm

Instructors:

Dr. Justin Williams

4-2226; bio_jkw@shsu.edu

Description:

This seminar is a wide-ranging course that will broadly cover the subject of secondary compounds in plants used for drug purposes. In particular the class will cover the three main categories of recreational/mind altering: Hallucinogens, Stimulants, and Depressants. We will discuss the effects of drugs on culture, economies, religions, and health. Many formats will be used, including lecture, films, readings, and written assignments.

Required Texts:

The Doors of Perception. By Aldous Huxley

Assignments and Grading:

Each student will be graded on participation, attendance and their oral presentation.

Attendance 25% of grade

Participation 25% of grade

Presentation 50% of grade

Schedule:

Section 1

Dr. Williams Unit: Hallucinogenic Plants.

Dr. Williams will lecture on the various species of plants from which Hallucinogenic drugs are derived. The class will then read two different accounts of an individual's experience while hallucinating on Peyote: Aldous Huxley and Carlos Castaneda. This section will also discuss some of the religious and metaphysical aspects of various drug cultures.

The Doors of Perception. By Aldous Huxley

Tentative Schedule*

Date	Instructor	Topic
Aug 23	All	Introduction to Course
Aug 30	Williams	Introduction to Psychoactive Plants
Sep 6	Williams	Introduction to Psychoactive Plants
Sep 13	Williams	Discuss Aldous Huxley's Doors of Perception
Sep 20	Williams	Research assigned plant
Sep 27	Williams	Research assigned plant
Oct 4	Williams	Research assigned plant
Oct 11	Williams	Presentation 1-2
Oct 18	Williams	Presentation 3-4
Oct 25	Williams	Presentation 5-6
Nov 1	Williams	Presentation 7-8
Nov 8	Williams	Presentation 8-10
Nov 15	Williams	Presentation 10-12
Nov 22	Williams	Thanksgiving Break
Nov 29	Williams	Wrap up, open discussion with the students

*Dates and assignments should all be considered tentative and may change.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones must be turned off and put away before class begins. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program of activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 264-1720. Students who have disabilities that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure the students educational opportunity. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of

a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.