

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY**  
**Spring 2016 IR 290/HI 331: Drugs and Security in the Americas**  
**T/Th 12:30-2pm**  
**Location: EPC 209**

**Professor Renata Keller**  
**Pardee School of Global Studies**  
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**Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4, Thursdays 2-3, and by appointment**

### **Course Description:**

Drug trafficking is one of the greatest current threats to security and stability in the Americas. This illicit trade and the efforts to counter it have taken a devastating toll on individuals, societies, and nations. In this class, we will attempt to gain a greater understanding of how drug trafficking became such an immense problem and why it has been so difficult to combat.

After a general introduction to the theme, we will begin by exploring the origins of the international narcotics trade. Why is there such a great demand for drugs? How did the demand for and supply of narcotics develop? We will then focus on the three drugs that historically have had the greatest impact on the Americas: cocaine, marijuana, and opiates. After that, we will address the issue of control and supply, focusing on Latin American and U.S. providers and participants in trafficking networks. How do illegal drugs make their way from producers to consumers? Who participates in trafficking, and why? How did the Americas become involved in a War on Drugs, and why have we been unable to win that war? We will begin the second half of the semester studying the myriad consequences of drug trafficking, including militarization, violence, destabilization, and international tensions. We will conclude by exploring possible solutions to the pressing problem of drug trafficking in the Americas.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. You will gain knowledge about the historical dynamics and contemporary characteristics of drug trafficking and security in the Americas.
2. You will develop reading, writing, and communication skills that will serve you in your college career and beyond.

### **Grading:**

- 1) **Mid-term exam:** (15%)
- 2) **Final Exam:** (25%)
- 3) **Book Review of *Women Drug Traffickers*:** (20%)
- 4) **Popular Media Analysis Paper:** (20%)
- 5) **Attendance and Participation:** (20%)

The Plus/Minus system of grading applies in this course.

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
92-90	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	62-60	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	59-0	F

### **Assignment Descriptions:**

1. Midterm Exam: In-class, short ID questions. I will distribute a list of possible ID terms one week before the exam. **February 23.**
2. Final Exam: Same as midterm. **Estimated May 3.**
3. Book Review: Write a 3-page review of Elaine Carey's book *Women Drug Traffickers*. Your review should provide an overview of the book and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses. **Due March 15.**
4. Drugs as Entertainment Analysis Paper: Write a 5-page analysis of a popular fictional film or TV show that focuses on drugs and security in the Americas. Analyze the show/movie's accuracy, significance, and contribution to popular understandings of drugs and security. **Due April 12.**
5. Attendance and Participation: Active participation will account for a large proportion of the final grade. This means not only coming to classes and actively participating in class discussions, but also turning in a daily file card (directions below). If you do not turn in a file card, you will be marked as absent for that class session. I will subtract 5% from your attendance and participation grade for each unexcused absence after the first. If you are sick, **DO NOT COME TO CLASS**. Let me know, and I will mark your absence as excused.
  - File-Card Requirement
    - At the beginning of each class (except on days when assignments are due) please turn in, in person, a 3 x 5 white file card with your name and the date on one side. On the other side of the file card, please include from the day's readings (1) a quotation, noting the author and page number, and (2) a comment on why your quotation raises an important issue. Make sure that your writing is legible and that your quotation and comment fits on one side of a single file card.
    - You may not turn in a file card if you do not attend class, or turn in a file card for anyone else, under any circumstances.
    - File cards will not be returned to you, but each will be recorded as satisfactory (check) or good (check plus) according to how carefully and thoughtfully it was done. At the end of the semester each student will get a class participation grade that will be based in part on the file card marks.

All assignments should be double-spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font with a one-inch margin on all sides. Number your pages. Use Chicago Style footnote citations (for guidelines on proper citation format, see guide on Blackboard under Content and [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)). **Turn in your assignments on**

**time—there will be a penalty of 5% for each day that an assignment is late.** You will only be allowed to turn in an assignment late without penalty if you have a documented emergency.

### **Expectations:**

1. Participation. I expect you to do the readings and participate in discussions.
2. Attention. I expect you to close your laptops and put them away during lectures and presentations. Take notes by hand.
3. Punctuality: I do not tolerate tardiness. If you are late, you will be counted as absent.
4. Communication.
  - a. If you have a question, don't hesitate to raise your hand and ask or contact me privately. If you have a problem or an emergency arises, let me know and I will be very willing to work with you.
  - b. If you need an accommodation for any type of physical or learning disability, medical needs, or any other reason, you should meet with the student disability services office and then meet with me privately to discuss the modifications necessary to ensure your full participation in the course.
5. Proper Academic Conduct. It is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the College of Arts and Science's Academic Conduct Code, available at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>. I will refer cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Dean's Office.

### **Office Hours Policy**

I strongly encourage you to come to office hours if you have any questions about the course—or if you would just like to talk! In order to avoid lines outside my office door, please reserve a time to meet me at <https://renatakeller.youcanbook.me/>. If you have classes or other conflicts during my normally scheduled office hours, let me know and we can set up another time to meet.

### **Required Reading:**

- Elaine Carey, *Women Drug Traffickers: Mules, Bosses, and Organized Crime* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2014). Available at the BU Bookstore and as an e-book through the BU Libraries website.
- News coverage of current events related to drugs and security in the Americas. We will discuss current events at the beginning of class every Tuesday. If you are interested, you can also earn participation credit for the class by Tweeting stories about drugs and security using the hashtag #BUdrugsclass and my handle (@RenataNKeller) to make sure I see your posts.
- In addition, there are a number of articles and book chapters assigned for specific classes. These may be found on the class Blackboard web site under Content or in specified library databases (noted in syllabus).

## Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments

- T, Jan 19      Introduction
- Course Overview
- Th, Jan 21      Demand
- Courtwright, David T., *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001), 91-111 (Blackboard)
  - Morley, Jefferson, "What Crack is Like," *The New Republic* (October 2, 1989), 12-13 (Blackboard)
- T, Jan 26      Origins I: Cocaine
- Grinspoon, Lester and James B. Bakalar, "Coca and Cocaine as Medicines: An Historical Overview," *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 3:2 (1981), 149-159 (Elsevier)
- Th, Jan 28      Origins II: Opiates
- Courtwright, David T., *Dark Paradise: A History of Opiate Addiction in America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982), 1-34 (ProQuest ebrary)
- T, Feb 2      Origins III: Marijuana
- Campos, Isaac, *Home Grown: Marijuana and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2012), 1-65 (Blackboard)
- Th, Feb 4      Control: Latin American Efforts
- Campos, Isaac, "Degeneration and the Origins of Mexico's War on Drugs," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos* 26:2 (Summer 2010), 379-408 (JSTOR)
- T, Feb 9      Control: Early U.S. Anti-Drug Efforts
- Musto, David F. *American Disease: Origins of Narcotic Control* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 1-23 (ProQuest ebrary)
- Th, Feb 11      Supply and Trafficking I
- Gootenberg, Paul, "Cocaine's Long March North, 1900-2010," *Latin American Politics and Society* 54:1 (Spring 2012), 159-180 (EBSCOhost)
- T, Feb 16      NO CLASS—MONDAY SCHEDULE**
- TH, Feb 18      Supply and Trafficking II
- Bunck, Julie Marie and Michael Ross Fowler, *Bribes, Bullets, and Intimidation: Drug Trafficking and the Law in Central America*

(University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2012), 15-69 (Blackboard)

- Scott, Peter Dale and Jonathan Marshall, *Cocaine Politics: Drugs, Armies, and the CIA in Central America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), 23-50 (Blackboard)

T, Feb 23      **MIDTERM EXAM**

Th, Feb 25      Control: The War on Drugs

- Kuzmarov, Jeremy, "From Counter-Insurgency to Narco-Insurgency: Vietnam and the International War on Drugs," *Journal of Policy History* 20:3 (2008), 344-378 (EBSCOhost)

T, Mar 1      Control: The U.S. War on Drugs at Home

- Thompson, Heather, "Why Mass Incarceration Matters: Rethinking Crisis, Decline, and Transformation in Postwar American History" *Journal of American History* 97:3 (December 2010), 703-734 (EBSCOhost)

Th, Mar 3      Control: The U.S. War on Drugs in Latin America

- Bagley, Bruce Michael, "U.S. Foreign Policy and the War on Drugs: Analysis of a Policy Failure," *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 30: 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1988), 189-212 (JSTOR)

**March 7-11      Spring Break**

T, Mar 15      Supply: Women Drug Traffickers (Visit from Elaine Carey)

- **BOOK REVIEW OF *WOMEN DRUG TRAFFICKERS* DUE**

Th, Mar 17      Consequences: Militarization

- Isacson, Adam, "The U.S. Military in the War on Drugs," in Coletta A. Youngers and Eileen Rosin, eds., *Drugs and Democracy in Latin America: The Impact of U.S. Policy* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005), 15-60 (Blackboard)

T, Mar 22      Consequences: Economic Distortion

- Thoumi, Francisco E., "The Economic Impact of Narcotics in Colombia" in Peter H. Smith, ed., *Drug Policy in the Americas* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1992), 57-71 (Blackboard)

Th, Mar 24      Consequences: Political Destabilization

- Diane E. Davis, "Irregular Armed Forces, Shifting Patterns of Commitment, and Fragmented Sovereignty in the Developing World," *Theory and Society* Vol. 39, No. 3/4 (May 2010), 397-413 (JSTOR)

T, Mar 29      Consequences: Violence

- Kenny, Paul and Mónica Serrano, “Introduction: Security Failure Versus State Failure,” in Paul Kenny and Mónica Serrano, eds., *Mexico’s Security Failure: Collapse into Criminal Violence* (New York: Routledge, 2012), 1-25 (Blackboard)
- Knight, Alan. “Narco-Violence and the State in Modern Mexico,” in *Violence, Coercion, and State-Making in Twentieth-Century Mexico: The Other Half of the Centaur*, Wil G. Pansters, ed. (Stanford, 2012), 115-134 (ebrary)

Th, Mar 31

Consequences: Corruption

- Maingot, Anthony P., “Laundering the Gains of the Drug Trade: Miami and Caribbean Tax Havens,” *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs* 30: 2/3 (Summer-Autumn 1988), 167-187 (JSTOR)
- Eells, Josh, “America’s Dirtiest Cops: Cash, Cocaine, and Corruption on the Texas Border,” *Rolling Stone*, January 5, 2015 (EBSCOhost)

T, Apr 5

Consequences: Narcocultures

- Morrison, Amanda Maria, “Musical Trafficking: Urban Youth and the Narcocorrido-Hardcore Rap Nexus,” *Western Folklore* 67:4 (Fall 2008), 379-396 (JSTOR)
- Penn, Sean, “El Chapo Speaks: A Secret Visit with the Most Wanted Man in the World,” *Rolling Stone*, January 9, 2016, <http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/el-chapo-speaks-20160109>

Th, Apr 7

Movie: “American Drug War”

T, Apr 12

Movie: “American Drug War”

- **DRUGS AS ENTERTAINMENT ANALYSIS PAPER DUE**

Th, Apr 14

Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Introduction and Community Policing

- Robert MacCoun and Peter Reuter, “The Varieties of Drug Control at the Dawn of the Twenty-First Century,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* Vol. 582 (July 2002), 7-19 (JSTOR)
- Enrique Desmond Arias and Mark Ungar, “Community Policing and Latin America’s Citizen Security Crisis,” *Comparative Politics* 41: 4 (July 2009), 409-429 (JSTOR)

T, Apr 19

Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Conservation (Visit from Anne Short)

- Carah, et al, “High Time for Conservation: Adding the Environment to the Debate on Marijuana Legalization,” *BioScience* advanced access 2015 (Blackboard)
- McSweeney, et al “Drug Policy as Conservation Policy: Narco-Deforestation” *Science* 343 (January 31, 2014) (Blackboard)

Th, Apr 21

Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Legalization

- MacCoun, Robert and Peter Reuter, “Interpreting Dutch Cannabis Policy: Reasoning by Analogy in the Legalization Debate,” *Science*, New Series, 278: 5335 (Oct 1997), 47-52 (JSTOR)

T, Apr 26     Alternatives to the War on Drugs: Local Measures

- Haaga, John G. and Peter Reuter, “The Limits of the Czar’s Ukase: Drug Policy at the Local Level,” *Drug Policy at the Local Level*,” *Yale Law and Policy Review* 8:1 (1990), 36-74 (JSTOR)

Th, Apr 28     Conclusions: The War on Drugs Today

**Estimated Final Exam Date and Time: Tuesday, May 3, 12:30-2:30pm**