

Selected Issues: Drug Policy (B001652)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time** 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture group work
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M (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture group work
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Colman, Charlotte	RE23	lecturer-in-charge
Decorte, Tom	RE23	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences (main subject Criminological Sciences)	5	A
Master of Science in Criminological Sciences	5	A
Micro-credential Selected Issues: Drug Policy	5	M

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

drug phenomena, drug supply chain, criminal policy, international policy, policy strategies, drug policy

Position of the course

In this course, we will discuss the drug phenomenon in depth based on topical cases and international empirical research. First, the course specifically focus on drug supply and will explore the different echelons of the supply chain (production, wholesale, middle market and retail market) of specific drug markets (opiates, synthetic drugs, cocaine and cannabis). Second, the course highlights some of the mechanisms according to which drug markets function, and the discussion on alternative regulatory models for drug markets. The course strives to promote the critical insight of the students in the possibilities and restrictions of the (international) drug policy as an answer to the drug phenomenon.

Contents

- Overview of the international policy towards the drug phenomenon and fundamental concepts
- Study of (the operation of) different levels of the drug markets: retail, middle level, wholesale and production.
- Studying specific drug supply cases. These cases could be changed every year, such as opium and methamphetamine production in Aghanistan, tackling of New Psychoactive Substances, opioid crisis in the US, drug couriers, trafficking of cocaine and the role of the

port of Rotterdam, patterns of local cannabis cultivation, etc.

- Critical appraisal of different regulation models of the cannabis phenomenon.

Initial competences

No specific competences are required to start this course. This course builds on the knowledge students have acquired in various courses over the past few years.

Final competences

- 1 Understanding of basic concepts and theoretical insights used by the prominent disciplines who contribute(d) to the criminological study of the drug phenomenon.
- 2 Insight into the possibilities and limitations of the drug policy as an answer to a societal phenomenon.
- 3 A multidisciplinary insight into the quantitative, qualitative en contextual aspects of the drug phenomenon, including an EU and international dimension.
- 4 Formulate a personal, scientifically based opinion about how to approach drug phenomena.
- 5 Independently consult, analyse and judge scientific sources from criminology in the framework of the drug supply side and the international and European drug policy.
- 6 Formulate personal, original and critical reflections on the international and EU policy concerning drug problems, based on group discussions.
- 7 Present, in writing and orally, a theme on the supply side of a drug phenomenon within the framework of the international and EU policy.
- 8 A critical and scientific attitude towards (historical) sources, (scientific) literature and (empirical) data concerning the drug supply side.
- 9 Insights into the mechanisms according to which drug markets function, and the debate on alternative regulatory models for drug markets.
- 10 Demonstrate a sense for pluralism, diversity and tolerance when identifying and assessing existing, new or evolving phenomena within the drug phenomenon.
- 11 A thorough knowledge of the scientific and drug related English technical jargon.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Because of COVID19 modified forms can be rolled out if necessary. Communication in this respect will take place via Ufora.

Lectures (35h)

Group work (10h)

The group work consists of preparing a scientifically based group presentation on a supply-oriented policy topic. This presentation will then be presented in group.

The lifelong learner enrolled in this micro-credential has the ability to take the lectures on campus or online. Regular students cannot enroll in the micro-credential and must follow the regular course.

Learning materials and price

Partim prof. Colman:

- The syllabus is an e-reader consisting of scientific contributions and slides that are distributed for free via Ufora.

Partim prof. Decorte:

- DECORTE, T. (2018). Regulating cannabis. A detailed scenario for a nonprofit cannabis market. Archway Publishing. (Price:15,00 euro) – available during first lecture of partim prof. Decorte

References

- COLMAN, C. (2018). Naar een geïntegreerde aanpak van de invoer en doorvoer van (Proposal)

cocaïne via de haven via Antwerpen. *Panopticon*, 39(2), 130-140.

- STARING, R., BISSCHOP, L., COLMAN, C., JANSSENS, J., & ROKS, R. (2021). De Scheldestad of Manhattan aan de Maas? Een vergelijkende analyse van de Antwerpse en Rotterdamse havens bij de in-en doorvoer van cocaïne. *Tijdschrift voor Criminologie*, 63(2).
- FIJNAUT, C., & DE RUYVER, B. (2014). De derde weg. Een pleidooi voor een evenwichtig cannabisbeleid. Morsel: Intersentia.
- DE RUYVER, B., VERMEULEN, G., VANDER BEKEN, T., VANDER LAENEN F. & GEENENS, K., Multidisciplinary Drug Policies and the UN Drug Treaties, Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy, Ghent University, Ghent, 2002, 156p.
- DECORTE, T., LENTON, S. & WILKINS, C. (2020). Legalizing cannabis. Experiences, lessons and scenarios. London/New York: Routledge Publishers. ISBN 978-1-138-37090-6
- DECORTE, T., DE GRAUWE, P. en TYTGAT, J. (2014), Het Belgisch cannabisbeleid maakt zijn doelstellingen niet waar, *Panopticon*, jrg. 35, nr. 2, 151-155.
- DECORTE, T., PARDAL, M., QUEIROLO, R., BOIDI, M.F., SANCHEZ AVILES, C. en PARES FRANQUERO, O. (2017). Regulating Cannabis Social Clubs: a comparative analysis of legal and self-regulatory practices in Spain, Belgium and Uruguay. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 43, 44-56.
- PARDAL, M. (2018). An analysis of Belgian Cannabis Social Clubs' supply practices: a shapeshifting model? *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 57, 32-41.
- DE RUYVER, B. VERMEULEN, G., VANDER BEKEN, T., VANDER LAENEN, F., International Drug Policy, Status Quaestionis, Compendium of Articles, Antwerpen-Apeldoorn, Maklu, 2003, 255 p.
- DE RUYVER, B. & VAN PUYENBROECK, L. The United Nations Drug Conventions regime and licensed Opium production in Afghanistan. In D. Spivack (Ed.), Feasibility study on opium licensing in Afghanistan for the production of morphine and other essential medicines, The Sentis Council, London, 2006, p384- 438.
- WILSON, L & STEVENS, A., Understanding drug markets and how to influence them, The Beckley Foundation drug Policy Programme, 2008

Course content-related study coaching

The students may receive information on the subject matter during or after the lectures and during the practical exercise. Furthermore, Ufora provides interactive support. Personal interactive support is possible by mail or individual support after making an appointment. Interaction is encouraged during lectures. During the practical exercise, students have to work in group. This boosts critical reflection.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Peer and/or self assessment, participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodical evaluation (75%): oral examination, consists of two parts:

- Part of prof. Colman: oral exam
- Part of prof. Decorte: oral exam with written preparation (short paper beforehand)

Non-periodic evaluation (25%): Students have to write a paper (in group), which they will present orally. Students get credits for:

- the paper (group)
- the oral presentation of the paper (individually)
- Peer feedback and assessment are also taken into account in the final quotation.

When a student does not pass in the first-term examination periode, only the obtained grades of the non-periodical evaluation will be transferred

The lifelong learner enrolled in this micro-credential takes the exam along with the regular students.

Calculation of the examination mark

- **Periodical evaluation (75%, 15/20):** oral examination, consists of two parts:

(Proposal)

- Part of prof. Colman: 7.5/15
- Part of prof. Decorte: 7.5/15
- **Non-periodic evaluation (25%, 5/20):**
 - The paper: 2.5/5
 - The oral presentation: 2/5
 - Peer evaluation: 0.5/5

Students are required to participate in all evaluation components (both periodic and non-periodic evaluation). Students who do not participate in all evaluations, can not pass for this course, which means they can achieve a maximum 7/20 for this course.

Facilities for Working Students

Students may contact the lecturer in the course of the semester to gain more detailed information on the course matter and the topics that are to be studied for the exam. The academic assistants are also available to provide more information (via mail or after making an appointment).