

Shame of a Nation: Opium Derivatives and Detox in Modern China Spring 2018



Instructor: Samantha Scott
smscott@loyola.edu
410-617-5290

Class meetings: To be Determined

Recommended Texts

Baumler, A. (2002). *Modern China and Opium: a Reader*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. (Selections will be provided)

Chen, S. (2017). *Merchants of war and peace: British knowledge of China in the making of the Opium War*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. (Selections will be provided)

Various selections (Will be provided)

Course Overview

"Druggie"... "Junkie"... "Ingrate"... "Too weak to say no"...

Addiction is something that almost every person in this world will come into contact with, whether that be through seeing it on the "Big-Screen", through watching a friend or family member deal with the struggle, or living with an addiction themselves. Through an interdisciplinary look into the drug epidemic in modern China, this class will aim to look at the causes and trends that led to the world's largest Methadone program and answering the big question: Why are opiates still a problem today in China? The fiery history of the Opium Wars sowed the seed that grew into a wide-spread stigma towards anyone who has any association with opiates. By looking at the history and changing political ideologies of the last century into today, this class will tackle the opium crisis from different angles, the pros and cons of methadone clinics in China, and whether or not the claims of "We have solved our opium crisis" are true. The course will finish by looking at case studies into the lives of drug addicts struggling to live from day to day in the streets of China. The final class will be a case study of a heroin addict's life in the streets of Baltimore, finishing out the seminar with a discussion about the similarities and differences between the two cultures and methods of treatment.

Course Goals and Objectives

The primary goals of the course are to;

1) Expand knowledge of the political movements of the last 100 years that led to today's laws regarding drug use. By understanding the political and philosophical processes behind the movement from the traditional Chinese emperor-based monarchy battling with English industrialization all the way through current day Chinese Communism.

2) Promote understanding of the handling and treatment of addiction disorders and their prevention. This will be looked at through a largely historical lens, analyzing the evolution of drug treatment and social implications in the general public. The differences in attitudes towards opium

before and after the Chinese's loss in the Opium Wars will be emphasized, then compared with present day stigma.

3) Promote awareness of and critical reflection about the assumptions you personally hold about such behavior, as well as the ways in which social structures and policies perpetuate stigma against those with addiction. The political agendas of modern day China will be briefly covered, so as to have a more rounded view of the current drug crisis in everyday China and the effects in the global sphere.

The goal is to broaden our looks into what opium does to the lives of Chinese citizens and the struggles that face these people and to then use that knowledge in our everyday existence, being mindful when we come across those facing drug addiction.

Class Format

Your learning in this course will be facilitated through reading and lectures, videos, first-person articles, and critical reflection and active dialogue with each other. You will be expected to think critically about the information presented in class and in the readings, and to develop an integrative understanding of drug use and treatment in China that considers the influence of biological, sociological, and cultural factors. You are expected to complete readings prior to the date to which they are assigned so that you may participate confidently in class discussions.

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance is expected for all sessions. Although no formal grade is assigned, students who miss a class will be contacted and asked to explain their repeated absences.

Although in-class participation is not graded, students who share their opinions, ask questions, and critically evaluate the information presented in the readings and in class will learn more about the material, and be in a better position to reflect on their own personal experiences with some of the topics we cover. Each class period will offer plenty of opportunities for discussion and dialogue, so you should come prepared to share your thoughts or questions.

Course Communication

E-mail is the official mode of communication for this class and Loyola email the official communications portal. As a result, all students are required to check their Loyola e-mail for course announcements and updates. Questions regarding assignments, grades, course material and other logistical matters related to this course should be directed to the instructor via the e-mail address provided above. In most instances, you will receive a response within 24 hours.

Honor Code

Students in all courses are expected to understand and uphold the ideals of academic honesty as stated in the Honor Code. According to the Honor Code, honor violations include cheating, stealing, lying, forgery, plagiarism, duplicate submission and the failure to report a violation. Determination of whether an Honor Code violation has occurred rests with the instructor, who may impose academic sanctions for suspected violations after consultation with the department chair. Possible sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a failing grade on the assignment/exam, a lowered grade on the assignment/exam, being required to redo an assignment or exam for reduced credit, or failure of the course. It is departmental policy that cases of suspected honor violations will be reported to the Honor Council through the Dean of First-Year Students and Academic Services. Students are expected to be familiar with the university Honor Code, which may be found at <http://www.loyola.edu/academic/honorcode.aspx> and in the Undergraduate Catalogue. Ignorance of the Code is not a valid reason for committing an act of academic dishonesty.

Course Contract

This syllabus represents a contract between you, as the student, and me, as the course instructor. Should you remain in this class, this contract obligates me to fulfill the course goals listed above to the best of my ability so that the course objectives are met. It also ensures that you have all the necessary information to meet the stated requirements of the course. I may not, and will not, make any substantive changes to this syllabus without first consulting you. As students in my course, you may expect me to be on-time and prepared, and available to meet during my stated office hours. You also are entitled to a classroom environment of respect and sensitivity where you feel safe to ask questions or offer your opinion. In return, your continued enrollment in my class conveys your acceptance of the terms outlined in this syllabus, and your commitment to be a respectful, engaged, and honest participant in the class. You are expected to arrive on-time for class and to respect the effort I put into preparing for class by being prepared yourself. If you know you will be late or absent for class, please let me know ahead of time. Please turn off all cell phones prior to class, and be mindful of how your actions during class impact the learning environment for your fellow students. You are expected to be respectful of others' opinions and sensitive to issues of diversity at all times

Statement of Professional Behavior

- * Be respectful of the learning environment and the educational experiences of others. If you arrive after the class has started, enter in as non-disruptive and quiet manner as possible. Do not leave the class or professional presentation/meeting once seated unless necessary so as not to disrupt the instructor or your classmates. Wait until the instructor indicates that the class meeting is over before starting to pack your books and other materials.
- * Arrive on time for class. If due to unforeseen circumstances you will be late attending class or with an assignment, or will miss a class altogether, notify all relevant parties as soon as possible.
- * Turn your cell phone to "off" or on "vibrate" while attending class or professional meetings or workshops.
- * Abstain from inappropriate use of computers and other electronic devices during class, professional meetings, or workshops (e.g., text messaging, e-mailing, surfing the internet, updating your Facebook status).
- * Be mindful and respectful of the privacy and feelings of others (e.g., do not make light of personal information disclosed by another during a class or to others after class).
- * Be judicious when disclosing information about oneself in a public domain (e.g., posting information on personal websites or via social media, such as Facebook). In addition, refrain from posting unprofessional statements or pictures that may be viewed by supervisors, instructors, other students, etc.

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- Various articles (Will be provided)

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Budget:

- Baumlér, A. (2002). *Modern China and Opium: a Reader*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
\$26.25
- Chen, S. (2017). *Merchants of war and peace: British knowledge of China in the making of the Opium War*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
\$43.90
- No more than \$20 per night to order dinner for participants

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Expected Student Name (Major: Graduation Year)

Nathaniel Hong (Biology: 2018)

Christian de los Santos (Psychology: 2018)

Nicole Borzym (Biology: 2018)

Daniel Burbank (Psychology: 2018)

Clara More (Photography: 2018)

Lewis Erikson (Global Studies: 2017)