

COURSE TITLE: Drug Addiction – the hell on earth and how to not lose hope

COURSE NUMBER: IDH2930

MEETING TIME: Online via BigBlueButton in Canvas (microphone required),
Wednesday, period 10 (5:10-6:00 PM)

CREDIT HOURS: 1

REQUIRED: No

PREREQUISITES: None, accepted into the Honors program as an undergraduate student

**COURSE
DESCRIPTION:**

Drug addiction may often seem far away, unless it gets personal and affects somebody close by. We will be reading “Beautiful Boy: A Father’s Journey through his Son’s Addiction” and discuss the various aspects of how drug addiction affects the individual, their loved ones, friends, and society. Some of the topics will include the underlying biological mechanisms of addiction, the impact of addiction on society, treatment approaches, with a major part spend on sharing our views on what can be done moving forward to find solutions. This class is taught entirely online over a 6-week period using Canvas, BigBlueButton, and VoiceThread.

JUSTIFICATION:

Addiction is a misnomer for a serious disorder with many symptoms that can be devastating, at worst leading to the death of the person directly affected by it. In the US the rate of substance use disorders is estimated to be directly affecting 5% of the population but only about 10% actually seek treatment and 40-60% of those who undergo treatment relapse within a year.

David Sheff is an award-winning writer and journalist for the New York Times and chronicled in his book the incredible personal, heartbreaking, but also sobering story of his son’s struggle with addiction. The book follows the father, his thoughts, his struggles, his frustrations, over the years as he lives through the ups and downs of helping his son deal with the disorder while at the same time having to deal with the effects it has on him and the rest of the family. This personal account is especially relevant given the ongoing public discussion of the “war on drugs”, the “opioid crisis”, and how we as a society and as individuals should respond to people with a substance use disorder.

INSTRUCTOR:

Oliver Grundmann, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor
Program Director Pharmaceutical Chemistry & Clinical Toxicology
Department of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy
University of Florida
Email: grundman@ufl.edu
Office hours: Mondays & Thursdays from 9-10 PM via BigBlueButton (see Canvas course platform)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Course Objective	Bloom's Taxonomy Category
1. Discuss & explain substance use disorders in the context of pathophysiological and psychological models.	Comprehension (II), synthesis (V)
2. Relate concepts of drug addiction to social context and current efforts of prevention and treatment.	Application (III), evaluation (VI)
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the abuse potential and harm of drugs relative to their availability and their regulation.	Comprehension (II), analysis (IV)
4. Recommend & justify a treatment approach based on the literature and the discussions in the course.	Synthesis (V), evaluation (VI)

ACTIVE LEARNING METHODS:

Group discussion forums, weekly online chat sessions, asynchronous mini-lectures, and individual e-mail contact between student and instructor. Students will be required to submit weekly written discussion board contributions, and one recorded oral presentation, and attend six weekly online chat sessions via BigBlueButton (BBB).

GRADING:

6 written discussion board contributions	25 % or 30 points
1 oral recorded presentation	25 % or 30 points
6 attendances at BigBlueButton meetings	50 % or 60 points
<u>Total points</u>	100% or 120 points

Week	Topic	Reading assignment	Point value
Week 1 January 10 th	Introductions Basics of substance use disorders & addiction	None	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance
Week 2 January 17 th	Marijuana Discussion on personal and society's perception of drug use	Read Beautiful Boy: Introduction & Part I "Stay up late"	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance
Week 3 January 24 th	Methamphetamine Discussion on meth epidemic and designer stimulant drugs	Read Beautiful Boy: Part II "His drug of choice"	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance
Week 4 January 31 st	Substance use disorder treatment Discussion on drug treatment programs	Read Beautiful Boy: Part III "Whatever"	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance
Week 5 February 7 th	Impact of drug abuse to society Discussion on current drug trends and impact on communities	Read Beautiful Boy: Part IV "If only"	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance
Week 6 February 14 th	Prevention of drug mis- and abuse Discussion on individual experiences, closing remarks & resources	Read Beautiful Boy: Part V "Never any knowing" & Epilogue	5 points discussion board, 10 points BBB attendance,
Weeks 2-6, online asynchronous presentations	Discuss aspect of drug misuse, abuse, substance use disorder, social, psychological, medical, physiological aspects in 10 minute long presentation following evaluation rubric	Post link to VoiceThread presentation on discussion board	30 points VoiceThread presentation

REQUIRED TEXT: *Beautiful Boy – A father’s journey through his son’s addiction*
Author: David Sheff
Publisher: Mariner Books Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2009)
ISBN: 978-0-618-68335-2

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT:

All students irrespective of their gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, physical or mental ability, political affiliation, or any other perceived generalized differentiator is welcome to this course. It is expected that we treat each other with respect and as equals. Treat one another as you want to be treated and we will have a blast and valuable discussions in this course. Intolerant, inflammatory, or personally insulting behavior or speech is not acceptable and may lead to dismissal from the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Requirements for class attendance and make-up of assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. One excused absence is allowed as long as the student informs the instructor per email of the absence at least 12 hours in advance of the scheduled class session.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor via email when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

GRADING POLICY:

Grades will be assigned as follows (please be aware that Canvas does not round):

A	90% or above	108-120 points
A-	88 - 89%	106-107 points
B+	85 - 87%	102-105 points
B	80 - 84%	96-101 points
B-	78 - 79%	94-95 points
C+	75 - 77%	90-93 points
C	70 - 74%	84-89 points
C-	68 - 69 %	82-83 points
D+	65 - 67%	78-81 points
D	60 - 64%	72-77 points
D-	58 - 59%	70-71 points
E	< 58	0-69 points

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

HONORS PLEDGE:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

CAMPUS RESOURCES: *U Matter, We Care:*

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center.

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.