

EXAM 3 NOTES

DRUGS AND SOCIETY

Drugs in social context

□ History

- LSD, MDMA, and historical contingency
 - Albert Hoffman, CIA, LSD, 60s Youth Culture.

History – scientific progress, opening & closing of drug markets, contingencies & unpredictable events

Social structure – laws & the criminal justice system, politics (state, national, & global), race, ethnicity, gender, & class

The group & the individual – human agency & rationality, becoming a drug dealer or user

The body – brain chemistry: dopamine & serotonin, addiction, tolerance, & withdrawal

1938. He creates it. Hallucinates for 8 hours. CIA is involved in hopes to be used in an interrogation or war setting, truth serum. CIA experiments with LSD in 1950's. In the 1960s, LSD is distributed to hippies and free spirits.

- Alexander Shulgin, MDMA, Dance music culture. 1980-1990s it was considered the underground, but now it is upfront and a party drug. It was thought of as a chemical that could be combined with other chemicals to be useful. Alexander synthesized MDMA and experimented on himself. It was being synthesized and spread across the country. Seen as a tool in psychotherapy, then used recreationally, it was legal. Molly.

○ Contemporary drug epidemics

- Crack in 1980s
- Prescription drug use
- Heroin
- Krokodil (similar to heroin but it is extremely contaminated and causes infections)
- Bath salts

□ Social structure: when and why did heroin and cocaine become illegal in the US? Law, the economy, politics, organizations. Factors that are larger than the individual but shape the experience. Race is a consistent factor.

- The Harrison Narcotics Act of 1914: criminalized heroin and cocaine. There was concern that people were getting negative effects from patent medicine. Stories of African American men getting high on cocaine and going on shooting sprees.
- The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986: instituted mandatory minimum sentences for different amounts of drugs. Removed discretion of judges and demanded mandatory sentences

□ The group

- The moral economy in Edgewater
- Most homeless heroin injectors cannot survive as solo operators on the street. They are constantly seeking to exchange heroin, wine, and spare change. Mutual obligations
- Gifts of money, blankets, and food were the primary means – aside from sharing drugs – they used to define and express friendships, hierarchies, and exclude outsiders
- Hustling to be able to recognize, when to give, help, say no, and when to be angry

Righteous Dopefiend

- Moral economy
- Structure/agency

- Habitus: the process where distinctions and the distinction-making processes seem natural and taken-for-granted. The structural side of culture. Refers to our deepest likes, dislikes, and permanent dispositions, including those of our preconscious bodies. Grounded historically in the collective frameworks of culture and society, misrecognized as instinct, common sense, or character, which becomes the basis for how we feel things and why we act.
- Symbolic violence: the mechanisms that lead those who are subordinated to misrecognize inequality as the natural order of things and blame themselves for their location in their society's hierarchies.
 - Iatrogenic pathology
 - Harm reduction - inadvertently created a dynamic of unproductive self-blame among Edgewater homeless. Being willfully and oppositionally- self-destructive feels like an empowering alternative to conceiving of oneself as a sick failure who lacks self-control
- Lumpen abuse:
- Intimate apartheid: manifests itself explicitly in the special demarcations of the Edgewater homeless drew between blacks and whites in their encampments. It also operates at the preconscious level, expressing itself as embodied emotions, attitudes, and ways of acting that reinforce distinctions, which become misrecognized as natural racial attributes
- Neoliberalism: negative connotations employed by critics of market reforms. Used to mean a moderate form of liberalism. Now means a more radical and laissez-faire capitalist set of ideas. Pejorative way of referring to a set of economic/political policies based on a strong faith in the beneficent effects of free markets. Philosophy in which the existence and operation of a market are valued in themselves, separately from any previous relationship with the production of goods and services... and where the operation of a market or market-like structure is seen as an ethic in itself, capable of acting as a guide for all human action, and substituting for all previously existing ethical beliefs. A belief in the importance of unregulated capitalism and free enterprise. Thomas Friedman. Private markets are best equipped to handle social problems. Similar to libertarian economic principles. Describes the reigning economic and political practices of Western democracies from the 1980s to present. Reagan firing FAA air traffic controllers; Clinton signing free trade agreements with Latin American countries; fighting the Iraq war using private contractors, and decline in state funding for housing and education.
 - Neoliberalism & drug abuse: Consistent with the consolidation of neoliberalism in the United States, most forms of federal assistance to local governments that funded social programs for the poor – such as job training, legal services, public transit, and Community Development Block Grants – were also reduced. The Edgewater homeless were unable to adapt to the economic metamorphosis of the 1970s and 1980s. The structural adjustments caused by globalization were rendered even more disruptive by the historical shift in the U.S. mode of governance away from rehabilitative social service provision toward punitive commitment.
- Ethnography and risk

READING RIGHTEOUS DOPEFIEND

Ethnography and risk – studying criminality

- “Our challenge is to portray the full details of the agony and the ecstasy of surviving on the street as a heroin injector without beatifying or making a spectacle of the individuals involved and without reifying the larger forces enveloping them.”
- Liberal (common) – left, democrat
- Liberal (original) – advocate market/state relationship.
 - o Adam Smith:
- Neo liberal – advocate pure free market; loosening of government regulation of the economy
 - o Milton Friedman
 - o Thomas Friedman

The Rise and Fall of America’s Crack Epidemic

Early Cocaine History

- Early medicinal ad for cocaine (toothache drops)

The Incubation Phase

- The Medellin Cartel and the popularization of cocaine in the US. Pablo Escobar -> Carlos Lehder and Rafa. Carlos -> George Jung. Rafa -> Jon Roberts

The Expansion Phase

- Cocaine becomes a middle class drug by the early 80's. Whatever the price, by whatever name, cocaine is becoming the all-American drug. No longer is it a sinful secret of the moneyed elite, nor merely an elusive glitter of decadence in raffish society circles, as it seemed in decades past. No longer is it primarily an exotic and ballyhooed indulgence of high-gloss entrepreneurs, Hollywood types and high rollers, as it was only three or four years. Today, in part precisely because it is such an emblem of wealth and status, coke is the drug of choice for perhaps millions of solid, conventional and often upwardly mobile citizens — lawyers, businessmen, students, government bureaucrats, politicians, policemen, secretaries, bankers, mechanics, real estate brokers, waitresses
- On the cover of Time magazine
- The nonmedical intranasal use of cocaine has resulted in remarkably few problems demanding clinical attention. Recently I have discovered a growing trend towards increased use of cocaine by smoking, a practice associated with considerable dependency and toxicity
- Knowledge about how to make crack cocaine begins to spread in the early 80's.
- Early 80's crack entrepreneurs. It is very possible Yayo was the first mass marketer of crack in the United States,” said Robert Jackall, a Williams College sociologist who has researched the crack trade. “One has to recognize his particular and peculiar genius even if one doesn’t honor it. Rick Ross.
- Gary Webb and the “Dark Alliance” Series

Crack Panic and the Incarceration Boom

- A new, purified form of cocaine causes alarm as abuse increases
- All American basketball star, dies suddenly