

## **Justice Institute of British Columbia COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Code:** AD408

**Course Title:** Compassion and Policy: The Heart and Mind of Drug Policy Reform

**Prerequisite Courses:** Understanding Substance Use (AD400)

**School:** School of Community and Social Justice

**Division/Academy/Centre:** Centre for Counselling and Community Safety – Counselling and Capacity Building

**Previous Course Code & Title:**

**Course First Offered:**

<b># of Credits:</b>	<b>0.5</b>
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**Course Description:**

This 7 hour course explores international and local drug policy reform movements, looking at both the history and present consequences of the global “war on drugs” and the European and Canadian movement towards more balanced, evidence-based drug policies. Research in supervised injection sites, maintenance treatment (e.g. prescription of heroin and stimulants), and the concept of a regulated drug market are explored. The course concludes that public health tools are an effective way of controlling drugs and this approach is also appropriate when dealing with the health and social problems associated with drug use than the current enforcement dominated approaches.

**Course Goal(s):**

At the end of this 7 hour, one day course, participants will be able to discuss issues and problems with our current drug policies with a focus on more efficient/effective public health approaches.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Discuss and reflect on current drug policies and their limitations, including policies in the United States, Europe and Canada.
2. Explore the consequences of the “War on Drugs” and current issues around harm reduction and abstinence and supervised injection facilities.
3. Identify our legal options for controlling drugs and cooperative enforcement/health approaches.

**Course Topics/Content:**

- An examination of drug policies around the globe and how we can learn from their strengths and weaknesses.
- The following issues will be discussed:
  - The consequences of the “War on Drugs.”
  - What is Harm Reduction?
  - What are our legal options for controlling drugs?
  - Lessons from Europe
  - Supervised injection facilities.
  - Harm reduction and abstinence.
  - Why the enforcement and health approaches need to cooperate.
  - How both public health and human rights approaches are needed in the new paradigm.

**Text and Resource Materials:** Use APA style; specify chapters where applicable. ([APA Style Guidelines](#))

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

**Course Level:**

x	First Year		Second Year		Third Year		Fourth Year
	Graduate		Other (describe):				

**Equivalent Course(s) within the JIBC:**

**Class Delivery Methods:**

<b>Delivery Methods</b>	<b>Class Option A (Hours)</b>	<b>Class Option B (Hours)</b>	<b>Class Option C (Hours)</b>	<b>Class Option D (Hours)</b>
Classroom/Lecture/Discussion	7.0			
Simulation/Lab	N/A			
Practicum/Fieldwork	N/A			
Online	N/A			
Correspondence	N/A			
<b>Total Class Hours</b>	7.0			

**Comments on Delivery Methods:**

**Course Grading System:**

	Letter Grades		Percentage	x	Pass/Fail
	Complete/Incomplete		Attendance Only		

<b>Passing Grade:</b>	Pass
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**Evaluation Activities and Weighting:**

Final Exam	%	Assignments	%	Project	%	Capstone Project	%
Midterm Exam	%	Portfolio	%	Participation	100%	Other	%
Quizzes/Test	%	Simulations	%	Practicum	%	TOTAL	100%

**Comments on Evaluation Activities and Weighting:**

100% attendance.

Active participation in all classes.

Successful completion of written assignment for Substance Use Certificate.

**Other Course Guidelines, Procedures and Comments:**

This course is required for the Substance Use Certificate.

View official versions of related JIBC academic regulations and student policies in the *JIBC Calendar* on the following pages of the JIBC website:

**Academic Regulations:**

<http://www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/jibc-calendar/academic-regulations>

Student Academic Integrity Policy  
 Academic Progression Policy  
 Admissions Policy  
 Academic Appeals Policy  
 Evaluation Policy  
 Grading Policy

**Student Policies:**

<http://www.jibc.ca/programs-courses/jibc-calendar/student-policies>

Access Policy  
 Harassment Policy – Students  
 Student Records Policy  
 Student Code of Conduct Policy

**JIBC Core Competencies**

The JIBC promotes the development of core and specialized competencies in its programs. Graduates of our programs will demonstrate high levels of competence in the following areas:

**Critical thinking**

Identify and examine issues and ideas; analyze and evaluate options in a variety of fields with differing assumptions, contents and methods.

**Communication, oral and written**

Demonstrate effective communication skills by selecting the appropriate style, language and form of communication suitable for different audiences and mediums.

**Leadership**

Inspire individuals and teams to reach their potential by embracing innovation through strategic thinking and shared responsibility.

**Independent learning**

Show initiative by acting independently in choosing effective, efficient and appropriate applied learning, research and problem solving strategies.

**Problem solving**

State problems clearly; effectively and efficiently evaluate alternative solutions; choose solutions that maximize positive and minimize negative outcomes.

**Interpersonal relations**

Know and manage oneself; recognize and acknowledge the needs and emotions of others including those with diverse backgrounds and capabilities.

**Inter-professional teamwork**

Understand and work productively within and between groups, respect others' perspectives and provide constructive feedback with special attention to inter-professional relationships.

**Information literacy**

Recognize and analyze the extent and nature of an information need; efficiently locate and retrieve information; evaluate it and its sources critically, and use information effectively and ethically.