

A Cultural History of Alcohol

HIST 341-970

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Welcome to “A Cultural History of Alcohol,” colloquially known as “The Beer Class” at WKU. The intent of this course is not to study the history of beer or bourbon or any individual kind of liquor, but rather to ask a series of interrelated questions. How was history affected and effected by alcohol? What was the relationship of various groups, including the Greeks, the Romans, or the Puritans to alcohol? How did alcohol shape the events prior to the American Revolution? How did Americans’ relationship with alcohol change over time? Why Prohibition? Most importantly, what was the meaning of drink and drinking over the course of world history?

To answer these questions you’re going to analyze a great deal of literature on the subject.

This is structured as a WKU On Demand course, which means that you can go at your own pace. Each week you will have some readings specific to a given topic. Because this is a WKU On Demand class, there is no classroom contact time, and no lectures. So, the only way I can gauge that you are learning about the history of alcohol through your analysis of various readings. Completing the readings is therefore important, and failure to complete the readings will likely lead to failure in the class.

Because this is a 300-level (upper-division) class, the structure of this course takes for granted that students have a basic, college-level understanding of United States and world history. If you think you do not have the basic knowledge, don’t worry. I would recommend finding one or (even better) two recently-published, college-level world history and U.S. history textbooks. Then read the chapters that cover the period of history up through the 1930s. There are many such textbooks out there, and if you cannot find one at a local library, most can be purchased online, in used condition, for just a few dollars. Any college-level text, any edition, will do. What follows are a few that have been used at Western Kentucky University:

1. Faragher, et al., *Out of Many: A History of the American People, Combined Volume*. Pearson Publishing, 2010
2. Roark, et al., *The American Promise, Combined Volume*. Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2011
3. Duiker & Spielvogel, *World History, Combined Volume*, Wadsworth, 2006
4. McKay, et. al., *A History of World Societies, Combined Volume*, Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2012

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact Student Disability Services in Downing University Center, A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from Student Disability Services.

READINGS:

There are three monographs and a number of journal articles assigned for this class. All are required—the tests will require you to have read, digested, and analyzed the readings.

Monographs (all available via online retailers):

- Gately, Iain. *Drink: A Cultural History of Alcohol*. ISBN: 1592404642
- Rorabaugh, W.J. *The Alcoholic Republic: An American Tradition*. ISBN 0195029909
- Pegram, Thomas. *Battling Demon Rum: The Struggle for a Dry America, 1800 – 1933*. ISBN: 1566632099

Articles:

- Baker, R.A. “Wine in the Ancient World.” Accessed 10/14/2011, <http://www.churchhistory101.com/docs/Wine-Ancient-World.pdf>
- Bennett, Judith, Chapters One Through Three in *Ale, Beer, and Brewsters in England*. New York; Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Chartes, “The Eighteenth-Century English Inn: A Transient ‘Golden Age’?” in *The World of the Tavern: Public Houses in Early Modern Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2002), 205 – 226.
- Hamilakis, Yannis. “Food Technologies/Technologies of the Body: The Social Context of Wine and Oil Production and Consumption in Bronze Age Crete,” *World Archaeology*, Vol. 31, No. 1, Food Technology in Its Social Context: Production, Processing and Storage (Jun., 1999), pp. 38-54
- Homan, Michael. “Beer and Its Drinkers: An Ancient Near Eastern Love Story,” *Near Eastern Archaeology*, Vol. 67, No. 2 (Jun., 2004), pp. 84-95.
- Hunter, Judith. “English Inns, Taverns, Alehouses and Brandy Shops: The Legislative Framework, 1495 – 1797” in *The World of the Tavern: Public Houses in Early Modern Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2002), 65 – 82.
- Ishii, Izumi. “Alcohol and Politics in the Cherokee Nation before Removal,” *Ethnohistory*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Fall, 2003), 671-695.
- Jellinek, E.M. “Drinkers and Alcoholics in Ancient Rome,” *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, Vol. 37, No. 11 (1976), pp. 1718 – 1741.
- Kingsdale, Jon. “The ‘Poor Man's Club’: Social Functions of the Urban Working-Class Saloon,” *American Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 4. (Oct., 1973), pp. 472-489
- Mancall, Peter. *Journal of the Early Republic*. Vol. 15, No. 3, Special Issue on Gender in the Early Republic (Autumn, 1995), pp. 425-448.
- McCusker, John. “The Rum Trade and the Balance of Payments of the Thirteen Continental Colonies, 1650-1775,” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 30, No. 1, The Tasks of Economic History. (Mar., 1970), pp. 244-247
- Melendy, Royal L., “The Saloon in Chicago,” *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 6, No. 3. (Nov., 1900), pp. 289-306
- Murphy, Mary. “Bootlegging Mothers and Drinking Daughters: Gender and Prohibition in Butte, Montana,” *American Quarterly*, Vol. 46, No. 2. (Jun., 1994), pp. 174-194

- Pegram, Thomas R. and Loyola College, “Hoodwinked: The Anti-Saloon League and the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Prohibition Enforcement,” *Journal of Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. January 2008
- Pennington, Janet. “The Inns and Taverns of Western Sussex, 1550 – 1700: A Documentary and Architectural Investigation” in *The World of the Tavern: Public Houses in Early Modern Europe* (Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing, 2002), 116 – 135.
- Salinger, Sharon V. “Inside the Tavern: Knots of Men Rightly Sorted” in *Taverns and Drinking in Early America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002)
- Smith, Gregg, Introduction and Chapters One through Three in *Beer in America: The Early Years—1587 – 1840*. Boulder, Co: Siris Books, 1986.
- Trenk, Marin. “Religious Uses of Alcohol Among The Woodland Indians of North America.” *Anthropos*. Bd. 96, H. 1. (2001), pp. 73-86
- Tucker, Abigail. “The Beer Archaeologist.” *Smithsonian Magazine*, August, 2001.
- Wallace, Daniel B. “The Bible and Alcohol.” Accessed 1/14/2011, <http://bible.org/article/bible-and-alcohol>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: At the end of each unit you will complete a unit test and submit it via Blackboard. Each unit is worth 100 points, for a total of 1500 points. The final exam is each worth 300 points. Grading scales are as follows:

A: 1620 – 1800
 B: 1440 – 1619
 C: 1260 – 1439
 D: 1080 – 1259
 F: 0 - 1079

Because WKU has no system to award plusses and minuses (B+, C+, A-, &c.), these scales are firm. That is, a 1260 is a C, the same as a 1439. There is no wiggle room for this.

UNIT TEST (100 POINTS EACH): The unit test will consist of some assortment of identifications, short answers and/or essay questions. Essay questions and short answers might stand on their own, or be linked to a primary sources of some kind. The identifications should contain the basics of Who? What? Where? When? Why significant? Short answers short answers ask for a 3 – 5 paragraph analysis of question pertaining to the readings. The long essays ask students to demonstrate a critical understanding of the readings through an analytical essay which may be related to a primary source. There is an online guide to writing essays under “Guides.” I expect you to follow those requirements. If you have questions about any of the requirements, it is up to you to ask.

FINAL EXAM (300 POINTS): There will be a comprehensive final exam, consisting of four essay questions. It cannot be taken until you have completed all of the unit tests up to the point of the exam. The final exam will be available ahead of time, but you must take your Final Exam at a Testing Center. For more information in finding a testing center close to you and how to schedule an appointment check WKU On Demand link on Blackboard or visit WKU On Demand’s website at <http://www.wku.edu/ondemand/exams.php>

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is academic theft, and consists of turning in work that is not your own. That can be anything from quoting material in a paper and not crediting the original author through a footnote, to copying from a book, to pasting in the text from web pages or some Internet paper mill. The consequences for plagiarism in this course are simple: If you are caught plagiarizing on any assignment, **you will receive an “F” for the course and a letter reporting your conduct will be sent to your college dean recommending appropriate disciplinary action.** No exceptions. There is an online guide to plagiarism under “Guidelines.” It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not turn in plagiarized materials.

WEEKLY BUSINESS

Unit 1—Overview of Historical Alcohol

OBJECTIVE: Students will understand the role of archaeology in discovering ancient uses of alcohol.

Readings: Gately, “Introduction,” Ch. 1 “The Grain and the Grape,”; Tucker, “The Beer Archaeologist”

Unit 2—Alcohol in the Ancient World

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze differing uses of alcohol in the ancient world.

Readings: Hamilakis “Food Technologies/Technologies of the Body: The Social Context of Wine and Oil Production and Consumption in Bronze Age Crete”; Homan, “Beer and Its Drinkers: An Ancient Near Eastern Love Story”

Unit 3—Ancient Greece

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the social importance of wine in ancient Greece.

Readings: Gately, Ch. 2 “Bacchanal”

Unit 4—Rome

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to make a comparative analysis of the cultural role of alcohol in the ancient world.

Readings: Gately, Ch. 3 “In Vino Veritas”; Jellinek, “Drinkers and Alcoholics in Ancient Rome”

Unit 5—Alcohol and Christianity

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the culture of alcohol in early Christianity.

Readings: Gately, Ch. 4 “Wine, Blood, Salvation”; Wallace, “The Bible and Alcohol”; Baker, “Wine in the Ancient World”

Unit 6—Alcohol and Antiquity

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to make a comparative analysis of the role of alcohol in pre-modern cultures.

Readings: Gately, Chs. 5 “Barbarians,” 6 “Islam”, and 7 “Brews for Breakfast”

Unit 7—The Middle Ages and England

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the role of taverns in Middle Age English drinking culture.

Readings: Gately, Ch. 9 “Watkins Ale”; Hunter, “English Inns, Taverns, Alehouses and Brandy Shops: The Legislative Framework, 1495 – 1797”; Pennington, “The Inns and Taverns of Western Sussex, 1550 – 1700: A Documentary and Architectural Investigation”; Chartes, “The Eighteenth-Century English Inn: A Transient ‘Golden Age’?”; Bennett, Chapters One through Three.

Unit 8—The American Colonies

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the social role of alcohol in New England.

Readings: Gately, Ch. 8 “A New World of Drinking,” and 10 “Pilgrims,”; Smith, “Beer in America”

Unit 9—The American Revolution

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the intersection of economics and culture as it relates to alcohol on the eve of the American Revolution.

Readings: Gately, Ch 15 “Revolution,” and 17 “Whiskey with an e”; McCusker, “The Rum Trade and the Balance of Payments of the Thirteen Continental Colonies, 1650-1775”; Salinger, “Inside the Tavern: ‘Knots of Men Rightly Sorted’”

Unit 10—Early America, Politics, and Alcohol

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the role of alcohol in early America.

Readings: Rorabaugh, *The Alcoholic Republic* (whole book)

Unit 11—Alcohol and Native American Culture

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to compare the use of alcohol among various Native American cultures.

Readings: Ishii, “Alcohol and Politics in the Cherokee Nation before Removal”; Mancall, “Men, Women, and Alcohol in Indian Villages in the Great Lakes Region in the Early Republic”; Trenk, “Religious Uses of Alcohol Among The Woodland Indians of North America”

Unit 12—The Long 19th Century

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the changes in American attitudes towards drinking over the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Readings: Gately, Chs. 18 “Romantic Drinking,” 19 “Apostles of Cold Water,” 20 “West,” 23 “Emancipation,” and 26 “Hatchetation”

Unit 13—The 19th Century: Saloon Culture

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze 19th century American saloon culture.

Readings: Kingsdale, “The ‘Poor Man's Club’: Social Functions of the Urban Working-Class Saloon,” Melendy, “The Saloon in Chicago”

Unit 14—The Temperance Movement

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze the development of the Temperance

Movement.

Readings: Pegram, *Battling Demon Rum* (whole book)

Unit 15—Prohibition in the United States

OBJECTIVE: Students will be able to analyze popular reaction to Prohibition in the United States.

Readings: Gately, Chs. 28 “Amphibians,” and 29 “Lost,”; Murphy, “Bootlegging Mothers and Drinking Daughters: Gender and Prohibition in Butte, Montana”; Thomas R. Pegram and Loyola College, “Hoodwinked: The Anti-Saloon League and the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Prohibition Enforcement”