HUS 4442: Substance Abuse and the Family

Required Textbooks: Hart, C.L. & Ksir, C. (2014). Drugs, society, and human behavior (17th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781259913860

**Important Note: Quoted material is not allowed for course work**

Module 4
Alcohol

Alcohol is a drug. It is perhaps one of the most commonly abused psychoactive drugs in the world. The text indicates that there is evidence of alcohol use dating back to the Paleolithic Age, some 8000 years ago!

Alcohol has a depressant effect on the central nervous system (CNS), although the exact mechanism by which alcohol exerts its effects are not entirely known. This depressant effect serves to slow the function of the CNS, and block or distort some of the messages that are being sent to the brain. This results in the alteration of a person's perceptions, emotions, movements, vision and hearing.

The effects of alcohol on individuals are dependent on a variety of factors, including size, weight, age, and sex. Alcohol's effects are also impacted by the amount and type of food consumed by an individual, as well as the amount and type of alcohol ingested. Alcohol is a depressant, which means it slows the function of the central nervous system. Alcohol actually blocks some of the messages trying to get to the brain. This alters a person's perceptions, emotions, movement, vision, and hearing.

In this module, we will explore how alcohol is made, its history in the U. S., its effects on the body, and its use, misuse, and abuse in society.

Before you begin, see how much you know about Alcohol!  Click on the Bar Exam link below.

[The Bar Exam](http://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/BarExam.php#.Ve77eRFViko) <https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/BarExam.php#.Yff9hurMLIW>

After the exam, peruse the information on the site and research one area that interests you (i.e., click on the link and read the material provided). Then complete the Bar Exam Discussion Forum below.

Required Readings:

* Textbook: Chapter 9

Bar Exam Reactions Forum

<https://www.alcoholproblemsandsolutions.org/BarExam.php#.Yff9hurMLIW>

Discuss your reactions and comments related to your experience with the Bar Exam if you were able to complete it, OR post your comments about the information that you accessed. What did you learn? Were there any surprises? Reactions?

* Submit your first original post of **at least 150 words**