

Key web resources for teaching social policy, drugs and society

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Resource type	Brief description	Comments	Retrieve from
UK Government websites			
Government site bringing together cross departmental material on drugs/drugs policy.	Probably the best place to start in looking for policy documents. In particular, for accurate information about the current UK law relating to drugs, please look at: www.drugs.gov.uk/drugs-laws/ .	From here you can get to the sites for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland	www.drugs.gov.uk www.drugs.gov.uk/drugs-laws/
Home Office research findings.	Many of the studies listed and summarised are about drug use or aspects of criminal justice policy relating to drugs.		www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/rf-pubs1.html
The UK Focal Point on Drugs is part of the Department of Health.	Collates information on drug use, on policy and on and treatment services which the UK is required to send to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).	The 'UK Drug Situation Report' is on this website, as well as other useful material	www.ukfocalpoint.org.uk

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Four country information.	The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse is the special health authority with overall responsibility for drug treatment services in England. Drugs Misuse Information Scotland, the Welsh Assembly and North Ireland Assembly are equivalents.		www.nta.nhs.uk Drug Misuse Information Scotland www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org Welsh Assembly Government http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/substancemisuse/?lang=en Northern Ireland Assembly www.healthpromotionagency.org.uk/Work/Drugs/menu.htm
UK Non Government websites			
DrugScope is the foremost UK non governmental organisation for information and policy analysis on drugs and alcohol.	This is a good starting point for looking for material on British drugs policy. It has a Links page giving access to a very wide range of other resources, national and international.	Drugscope has a daily Drugs Update service which provides very readable introductions and links to further material on particular subjects.	www.drugscope.org.uk http://drugscope.wordpress.com/ Blog posts from before July 2007 are archived and accessible at: www.drugscope.blogspot.com/2005_09_01_archive.html
UKHRA is a campaigning organisation that aims to put public health and human rights at the centre of drug treatment and service provision for drug users.	UK Harm Reduction Alliance: UKHRA was formed by a group of individuals concerned about the current direction of UK drug policy, in particular the diminishing focus on public health as the mainstay of treatment and service provision.		www.ukhra.org
Transform is an independent UK organisation campaigning for changes in drug policy.	Provides useful links to Parliamentary debates on drug issues, as well as its own campaigning publications.		www.transform-drugs.org.uk

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The Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme	The foundation's aim is 'to assemble and disseminate information and analysis that supports the rational consideration of these sensitive policy issues at international level, and leads to the more effective management of the widespread use of these psychoactive substances'.	The Beckley Foundation publishes very useful reviews and briefing papers	www.beckleyfoundation.org/policy
The RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce)	The RSA set up an independent commission to examine current policy on drugs. This website carries the report and other briefing papers. The report of the commission, Drugs –Facing Facts, was published in March 2007 and provides an excellent overview of, and introduction to, UK drugs policy.		www.thersa.org/projects/public-services/drugs-commission/drugs-report
'Seeds of Trade'	The Natural History Museum website includes material on the history, cultivation, early trade and spread of plants used as drugs, and the modern context and impact of each plant.		www.nhm.ac.uk/jdsml/nature-online/seeds-of-trade/
Kew Garden website	This section of the website for Kew (The Royal Botanical Gardens) has information similar to that on the NHM site, specifically for plants from South Asia, so covering hemp, opium and tea.		www.plantcultures.org
European websites			
The Pompidou Group	A Council of Europe intergovernmental body, set up in 1971, the Pompidou Group's aim is to encourage cooperation among EU states and increasingly with other EU states, around drug policies and policy implementation.		www.coe.int/pompidou

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The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is one of the European Union's decentralised agencies.	<p>Established in 1993 and based in Lisbon, EMCDDA is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe. The site includes reports and policies of the member countries, and a very useful section called the European Legal Database on Drugs, which provides topic overviews summarising laws in the member states (next time someone tells you Holland has legalised drugs, send them to look at this!).</p> <p>It is crucial that you look at this site if you want to know anything about drugs policies of the EU, or in other member states of the EU.</p>		www.emcdda.europa.eu/
US websites			
Drug Policy Alliance	The Drug Policy Alliance, created in 1987, is the principal organisation advocating for drug policy reform in the US.		www.drugpolicy.org or www.lindsmith.org
National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).	The principal purpose of ONDCP is to establish policies, priorities, and goals for US drug control program. It is therefore the starting point for US government material on drugs policy.	Well worth watching over the next few months to see if President Obama makes a difference to this particular aspect of US domestic policy.	www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov
US National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is part of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.	The main funding body for research on drug use within the US. It is important because its funding priorities and criteria have to be in line with US drug policy		www.nida.nih.gov
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Schaffer Library	The Schaffer Library is part of the above website and provides access to a range of policy documents, most of them US, but some, for e.g. the Runciman Report, are UK documents.		www.druglibrary.org/schaffer
RAND Corporation	A US policy thinktank which includes work on drugs policy in its remit. RAND analysts, and in particular Peter Reuter, have carried out assessments of aspects of British policy (for the RSA Drug Policy Commission, and the HoC Home Affairs, and Science and Technology Select Committees) and European and international policy (for the EC).		www.rand.org
Other English-speaking countries' websites			
Canadian government	This is the page of the Canadian government website where you will find Canada's Drug Strategy		www.nationalantidrugstrategy.gc.ca/index.html#
Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy	- a not for profit organisation of academics and specialists with an interest in drugs policy. Formed in 1992 to counter changes then proposed to Canada's drugs laws.		www.cfdp.ca/
Australian National Drugs Strategy.	From here you can find the framework for the whole of Australia and links to the relevant sites for each of the States.		www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au
Australian Institute of Criminology.	This is a government agency, and provides a very useful resource in terms of access to documents, research similar to that provided by the UK Home Office, and brief summaries of policies elsewhere.		www.crimecommission.gov.au
The Australian National Council on Drugs,	Main government advisory body in Australia.		www.ancd.org.au
Drug Policy Modelling Programme at the University of New South Wales.	A research centre with some very useful resources. A very good place to start for finding out about Australian policy, but also drugs policy and policymaking in a wider, international context.	Some key writers are now located here.	www.notes.med.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/home

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New Zealand National Drug Policy.	The site gives access to policy documents and research findings for New Zealand		www.ndp.govt.nz/
Republic of Ireland National Documentation Centre on Drug Use	This site gives access to key documents, research and relevant news articles for Irish policy. Links to the National Drugs Strategy and the National Advisory Committee on Drugs publications.		www.drugsandalcohol.ie/
International websites			
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.	This site is crucial for a knowledge of global drug policies.		www.undcp.org
The World Health Organisation's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department.	This is the Management of Substance Abuse page. 'Substance abuse' includes all psychoactive substances, regardless of legal status. As you would expect, WHO is concerned primarily with health issues globally.		www.who.int/substance-abuse
International Harm Reduction Association.	This is an NGO aimed at 'promoting evidence based harm reduction policies and practices on a global basis for all psychoactive substances (including illicit drugs, tobacco and alcohol)'.	The website has a wealth on information about harm reduction policies globally.	www.ihra.net
International Society for the Study of Drug Policy.	A forum for academics engaged in research on drugs policy. The Bibliography contains links to 'grey literature' – material that has not been commercially published and so is not necessarily accessible via academic databases.	Very useful	www.issdp.org

Key texts

Hughes, R., Lart, R. and Higate, P. (2006) *Drugs: Policy and Politics*. Open University Press
Coomber, R. (ed.) (1998) *The control of drugs and drug users. Reason or Reaction?* The Netherlands: Harwood Academic Publishers
South, N. (ed.) (1999) *Drugs, Cultures, Controls and Everyday Life*. London: Sage
Blackman, S. (2004) *Chilling out: the cultural politics of substance consumption, youth and drug policy*. Open University Press
Shiner, M. (2009) *Drug use and social change*. Palgrave MacMillan
Seddon, T. (2010) *A History of Drugs: Drugs and freedom in the liberal age*. Routledge

Key journals available online and available by open access online:

International Journal of Drug Policy; Addiction; Addiction Research and Theory; Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy; Drug and Alcohol Review

The Harm Reduction Journal www.harmreductionjournal.com

Contemporary Drug Problems, available at: <http://heinonline.org/HOL/Index?index=journals/condp&collection=journals>

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