

Tufts Summer Session I

May 23 - June 29, 2018

STS 50-A (ANTH 149-A)



# Culture and Consciousness:

## PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS IN THE U.S.

### Nate Greenslit MW 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Of all the consumable objects in the world, perhaps none has received greater ambivalence than psychoactive drugs. These evocative substances are alternately encountered and experienced as medicines, sacraments, and objects of pleasure; as means of self-realization or healing versus addiction, escape, and self-destruction. Along the way psychoactive drugs have played--and continue to play-- an intimate role in the history of race, gender, class, and power in the United States. This course will use social theory, anthropology, and history to explore changing relationships between drugs, politics, and American society. We will tackle a broad range of topics, including the mind/body relationship, addiction and free will; policing, incarceration, and ghettoization; roles of psychoactive drugs in social movements; pharmaceutical capitalism; and representations of drug-taking in popular culture.