



## **Sociology 320.001: Deviant Behavior COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013**

**Professor:** Yvonne Villanueva-Russell

**Class Time:** Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 9AM – 9:50AM

**Class Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences Room 134

**Office:** Ferguson Social Sciences 232

**Office Hours:** Mondays, Wednesdays: 8AM-9AM; 11AM-Noon; 1PM-2PM  
Fridays: 11AM-Noon  
& by appointment

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**Skype username:** yvrussell1

**eCollege Website:**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Required Textbook:**

- 1) Boundaries: Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice. 2007. Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing. \* ISBN: 9780536367426

**[This book can ONLY be purchased from the University Bookstore.**

**<http://www.amcbookstore.com>**

**Please do NOT try to obtain this book from the internet.**

**You will need this book for the first day of our class.]**

- 2) Several reserve readings. These will be available through the eCollege website.

#### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

##### **Catalog Description:**

An introduction to the general phenomenon of social deviance. Focuses on criminal as well as non-criminal deviance such as mental disorders, drug use and prostitution. Theoretical approaches which seek to explain deviance will be critically explained.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- 1] Demonstrate competence of sociological concepts that apply to the area of the sociology of deviance as measured through objective exams
- 2] Demonstrate the application sociological theories to real world topics as measured by written assignments

## Course Format:

The textbook used in this course is designed to provide short readings that stimulate discussion about sociological concepts and ideas introduced in class lecture. Thus, students are expected to get into the habit of taking detailed notes about lectures and readings, as well as encouraged to become active participants during class by offering questions, insights or engaging in discussions with others.

Because of the structure of the textbook, I would highly recommend that students take notes on all reading assignments. This will help prepare you for class discussion and also help keep the many essays and articles we read separate in your mind. Assignments listed in the course outline of this syllabus should be read prior to its discussion in class. I suggest using the following questions as a guide when reading each article

- What is the main idea, point or argument of the reading?
- List three important facts or sources of evidence to support the main idea
- What concepts or ideas from class lecture are also discussed in this reading?
- List any new terms or concepts introduced in the article with a brief definition
- Are there any problems or points I disagree with in the main point of the reading? That is, are there alternate explanations or theories that could also explain these phenomena?

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### A. Exams: 4 @ 100 points each

**This assignment is designed to achieve student learning outcome 1:** Demonstrate competence of sociological concepts that apply to the area of the sociology of deviance as measured through objective exams

1. **Assignment Description:** There will be a total of FOUR exams during the semester. The format for all of the tests will consist of objective measures, such as multiple choice and true-false questions, and also will consist of short answer or essay questions, although essay tests may also be given during in the semester. A more detailed breakdown of the test format will be given to students in class several days before the exams. A study guide will also be posted on eCollege to assist in preparing for each test.

ALL tests count toward your grade in this course. There will NOT be an opportunity to drop a test grade so be sure to do your best on all examinations and assignments in the class—everything counts.

2. **Assessment:** Grades for individual tests and your final grade for the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

Individual tests:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	59% and below

3. **Test Two:** This exam will be administered online. Unlike our other exams, it will be open book & open notes, but will be timed. You will not be able to do well on the exam without having read and studied the material first. Should you run out of time, **no additional minutes will be granted to you**, and you will have to accept the grade based on your work completed. As you take the exam, remember to **SAVE** your answers often, but submit only once. If you experience any technical issues while taking the exam, use the following procedures:

*Policy for Reporting Problems with eCollege*

Should students encounter eCollege-based problems while taking an online quiz, the following procedure **MUST** be followed.

- Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or 1-866-656-5511
- Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
- Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should Email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
- At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE: Personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the helpdesk. I strongly encourage you to check for compatibility of your browser BEFORE the course begins and to take the eCollege tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the eCollege platform. ONLY eCollege-based problems are legitimate.**

\*\*\*Exam #2 (online) is NOT eligible for a makeup exam

**4. Makeup Exams:**

Notice of exams are given tentatively in this syllabus, and will be confirmed in class. Makeup exams will not be given unless a genuine emergency or crisis occurred (you will have to provide documentation), and you will be excused from the exam on the test day **ONLY** if prior notification has been given. Makeup exams may be given in an alternative format from the rest of the class (i.e. essay exams) and at an alternate time set up for the professor's (not the student's) convenience. Makeup exams must be completed within two weeks of the original exam date.

Students with legitimate reasons for missing exams will be allowed a makeup exam **ONCE** during the semester. If a student has been habitually absent, sick or dealing with some other concern to the extent that they have missed more than one exam, then a meeting with the professor is warranted to discuss whether finishing the requirements of the course is possible from the student's current effort and situation.

**5. Final Exam:**

The final exam will be held in-class on **Wednesday, May 8 at 8AM-10AM**. The final exam will **NOT** be comprehensive. The format of this test will be similar to the three exams given earlier in the semester, and will also be worth 100 points.

No one is exempt from the final exam—all students will take this exam, and the score will count towards your final grade.

## **B. Written Assignments: 2 @ 30 points each**

**These assignments are designed to measure student learning outcome #2** Demonstrate the application sociological theories to real world topics as measured by written assignments

1. **Assignment Description:** In addition to the four tests administered this semester, there will be three take-home assignments over the course of the semester, of which the student will select **ANY TWO** to complete. Each assignment is worth 30 points. These exercises will give students an opportunity to do intensive readings on a particular theory and its application to a contemporary example of deviance.
2. **Assessment:** A rubric and extensive feedback will be provided by the professor. The rubric will be provided to students with the assignment instructions in class, and available online on eCollege.

All written work will be due at the *beginning of the hour* on the date due. Do not turn in assignments via email, in my mailbox, or under my office door without prior permission from me. Doing so will result in the paper being “late.” Late assignments will receive a **20% deduction** in points. Assignments may NOT be turned in any later than **one week beyond the original due date**. No assignment can be re-done or re-graded. Extra assignments cannot be completed for extra credit, but a student can complete all three assignments and have the top two grades recorded.

Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review. Turnitin.com is a website that checks for plagiarism and generates an originality report that notes which parts of a paper appear unattributed to other student papers, internet sources or articles and books. Please make sure that you cite wherever appropriate. If you need help or advice on how to do this, please contact your professor.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1) Complete two of the three written assignments
- 2) Students must cite in-text using APA, ASA or another style they are familiar with
- 3) Late assignments receive a 20% deduction in points, and cannot be accepted beyond one week of the original due date
- 4) Written assignments cannot be re-done or re-graded
- 5) If a student completes all three assignments, only the two highest scores will be recorded
- 6) All written work is subject to turnitin review. Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment in question

## **C. Attendance and Participation 25 points**

Regular class attendance is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the material covered during the semester. Therefore, attendance and participation in class will be taken and recorded regularly. Occasions may arise which make it necessary for a student to miss class, but absences on test dates will not be excused without significant extraneous circumstances. It is your responsibility to have an understanding of course material whether you were present in class or not. A total of **25 points** will be awarded based on attendance and participation in this class.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Please do not ask me for copies of class notes—I do not provide them. You will need to request to copy the notes from a student who was present in class, instead.

**Grading Procedures:**

A total of 485 points are attainable in this course. The breakdown of points is as follows:

<b>Four tests @ 100 points each</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>400 points</b>
<b>Two written assignments @30 points each</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>60 points</b>
<b><u>Attendance &amp; participation points</u></b>	<b>=</b>	<b><u>25 points</u></b>
<b>Total Points in the class</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>485 points</b>

Final Grades in the course will be calculated by using the following scale:

A	436 - 485 points
B	388 - 435 points
C	340 - 387 points
D	291 – 339 points
F	290 and fewer points

**UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library**  
**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

Your professor will make every effort to accommodate your learning and testing needs as they are made known to me, as well. If you are an international student, or if English is not your primary language, you will be allowed to use a paperback dictionary during examinations.

### **Statement on Student Behavior**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

The Student Handbook states: “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information) It is your prerogative to come to class but by doing so, you are making the commitment to be alert, attentive and courteous. Gossiping, phone calls and newspaper reading can all wait for 50 minutes and will not be tolerated while class lecture and discussion are occurring. If you cannot employ enough willpower to control your behavior during class, please stay home and do not distract more serious students from learning in our class.

All cellular telephones, beepers and electronic devices should be turned off or set on silent mode before entering the classroom. **Cell phones must not be visible and may not be checked during examinations. Students are also not permitted to leave the classroom and re-enter it during an examination.** Be sure to have sharpened pencils, tissues and restroom needs taken care of prior to the beginning of the test.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must work to provide an environment in which each student has the opportunity to be evaluated fairly on the basis of his/her own performance. University regulations regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. At a minimum, any student found to be in violation of university rules **will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment involved.** ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Department Head and he/she may decide upon punishment independent of this professor’s actions. In short, cheating, plagiarizing and engaging in unethical student behavior carries a high price for such short term rewards—don’t do it!

All written work, including short answer questions on online exams is subject to turnitin review.

### **Grades of Incomplete:**

**I do not assign grades of incomplete** in this course. All coursework must be handed in to me by May 8, 2013. Your grade will be assigned based on the points you have earned from all completed work at that time. It is your responsibility to finish assignments prior to their due dates, or to make alternate arrangements for their completion. Do not assume I can or will extend due dates or course requirements for your individual needs or preferences.

### **Dropping the class:**

**I do not drop students from my courses.** If you feel Sociology 320 is not the course for you, please take the necessary steps to remove yourself from the class. Simply not attending in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not happen. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either coming from class, or not coming to class. You may request a drop through MyLeo

### Important dates:

Last Day to Drop: November 1, 2012

Last Day to Withdraw from the semester: November 30, 2012

### **Extra Credit and Curving:**

From this syllabus it is very clear as to the number of assignments and the possible points to be attained in the course. It is your responsibility to read, listen and comprehend the material presented. If you do not understand a concept or issue, please ask me to clarify. It is important for you to be consistently diligent in your efforts throughout the semester.

I have never and will never curve the grades of a class to conform to an artificial bell curve or other objective or subjective standard, so requests to do so will fall on deaf ears. That means that it is the students' responsibility to prepare for the exams, to make sure that they have acquired all information possible through attending lectures and doing the readings, and that they perform to the best of their abilities on the exams. I will assist the class by means of lectures, and discussions, but I do not intend to manipulate your quiz score, drop a quiz score or inflate your quiz scores so that it will be more to your liking. An improvement of grades will come from *your* studying efforts, and not from your instructor's generosity in grade, so please do not expect or ask for more, or extra points in this course.

**A Note about final grades:**

Final grades are assigned on the 90, 80, 70% scale noted above. These percentages and their corresponding grades are firm. That is, if your final average is a 68% you have earned a "D." Let me spare you the conversation that inevitably follows: No, I cannot and will not round your grade up to a 70% or a "C." Students often protest this act, saying they were "only 2 points shy of a passing grade." This is not exactly correct. In truth, they were 2 percentage points away from the next grade, amounting to being 9 raw points off. Percentage points and raw points are two very different things. I will NOT round up your final average 2 percentage points, or even a full percentage point to the next highest grade.

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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Our course is primarily a face to face class and will utilize a traditional lecture-mode of delivery. For the purposes of written project assignments, and utilizing the eCollege system to check grades and/or obtain course assignments, the following is a list of technology requirements for the class:

You will need the ability to open Adobe Acrobat files (.pdf), PowerPoint files (.ppt) and Word files (.doc)

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you [perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course](#). To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

For those of you who are not familiar with eCollege, I suggest you take the tutorial offered online. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the folks in Technology Services.

<b>ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b>
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***eCollege Access and Log in Information***

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc-commerce.edu.

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Email ([Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu](mailto:Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu)) is the preferred means of communication with the instructor. You can expect to receive a reply to any inquiry within 24 hours (M-F). It is advisable to include the course number and your full name in any electronic correspondence with me.

Check your MyLeo email account regularly for announcements about our class!!!

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Test dates and written assignments are scheduled tentatively at this time. They may be changed but advanced notice will be given in class. You are expected to read the assigned material prior to its discussion in class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment/Notes</b>
(M) Jan 14	Introductory Remarks	No Reading	
(W) Jan 16	The relativity of deviance	No Reading	
(F) Jan 18	Where does deviance come from?	“Moral Entrepreneurs” p. 1	
<b>(M) Jan 21</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
(W) Jan 23	Underlying motives of deviance	“The Discovery of child Abuse” p. 55	
(F) Jan 25	Can deviance be stopped?	“Ironies of Social Control” p. 15	
(M) Jan 28	Early Sociology & Emile Durkheim	No Reading	
(W) Jan 30	Structural-Functional theory	“The Normal and the Pathological” p. 79	
(F) Feb 1	Merton’s Strain Theory	“Social Structure and Anomie” p. 87	[Are you graduating in May? Graduation applications are due today!]
<b>(M) Feb 4</b>	Applying theory to real deviance	“In Search of Death” posted on eCollege	<b>TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE (worth 30 points)</b>
(W) Feb 6	Can deviance be learned? Differential Association theory	“A Theory of Differential Association” p. 103	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment/Notes</b>
(F) Feb 8	Types of Deviance	“Tattoos are Like Potato Chips” p. 109	
(M) Feb 11	Types of Deviance	“Becoming a Marihuana User” p. 131	
<b>(W) Feb 13</b>	<b>TEST ONE- taken in-class [worth 100 points]</b>	<b>TEST ONE- taken in-class [worth 100 points]</b>	<b>TEST ONE-taken in-class [worth 100 points]</b>
(F) Feb 15	Lombroso, Gall and the early positivists	No Reading	
(M) Feb 18	Medicalization of deviance	“The Discovery of Hyperkinesis” p. 175	
(W) Feb 20	Does Mental Illness Exist?	No Reading	
(F) Feb 22	The Labeling perspective	“Primary and Secondary Deviance” p. 145	
(M) Feb 25	Types of Deviance	“On Being Sane in Insane Places” p. 151	
(W) Feb 27	Coping strategies for deviants	“The Influence of Situational Ethics on Cheating Among College Students”	
(F) March 1	Social constructionism	No Reading	
(M) March 4	Moral Panics	“School Shootings, the Media and Public Fear” p. 383	
(W) March 6	Moral Panics	“Another Look at Moral Panics” p. 303	
<b>(F) March 8</b>	<b>TEST TWO- taken online [worth 100 points]</b>	<b>TEST TWO- taken online [worth 100 points]</b>	<b>TEST TWO-taken online [worth 100 points]</b>
<b>March 11-15</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
(M) March 18	A crash course in Karl Marx	No Reading	
(W) March 20	(Marxian) Conflict Theory	“Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance” p. 231	
(F) March 22	Illegal Drugs	“Crack in Context” p. 327	
(M) March 25	Legal Drugs	“Moral Passage: The Symbolic Process in Public Designations of Deviance” p. 363	
(W) March 27	How do drugs become illegal and/or dangerous?	No Reading	
(F) March 29	What’s wrong with the state of sociology?	“The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts and Preverts” p. 251	[Last day to drop a class]
(M) April 1	Covert Institutional Deviance	No Reading	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment/Notes</b>
<b>(W) April 3</b>	State-Faciliated Corporate Crime	“The Crash of ValuJet 592” p. 277	<b>TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE [worth 30 points]</b>
(F) April 5	Review/Catch Up day		
<b>(M) April 8</b>			<b>TEST THREE-taken in-class [worth 100 points]</b>
(W) April 10	Media Day	No Reading	
(F) April 12	Feminist Theory	SKIM: Appearance and Delinquency” p. 409	
(M) April 15	Is the sex industry exploitative?	“Working in the Fantasy Factory” p. 475	
(W) April 17	Rape Culture	“Fraternities and Rape on Campus” p. 455	
(F) April 19	Radical Feminism	No Reading	
(M) April 22	Sexual Identity – A cross cultural perspective	No Reading	
<b>(W) April 24</b>	Sexual identity- the essentialist view	“Born or Bred?” posted on eCollege	<b>TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT [worth 30 points]</b>
(F) April 26	Homosexuality: the socially constructed view	“Becoming Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual” p. 501	[Last day to withdraw from the university]
(M) April 29	Sexual Deviance	“Tearoom Trade” p. 529	
(W) May 1	Once a Deviant, Always a deviant?	“The Professional Ex” p. 553	
(F) May 3	Review/Catch-up Day		
<b>(W) May 8</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM – taken in class– 8AM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM – taken in class– 8AM</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM – taken in class– 8AM</b>