



Sociology 320.001: Deviant Behavior Fall 2013

Professor: Yvonne Villanueva-Russell

Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 10:00AM – 10:50AM in WTFA 131

Office: Social Sciences 232

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays: 8:00AM-10:00AM;
2PM-3PM; & by appointment

Phone: 903-886-5320

Email: Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu

eCollege Website: <http://online.tamuc.org>

The syllabus, gradebook, study guides, handouts, PowerPoint lectures and instructions for all assignments will be posted on eCollege.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

- 1] Wright, Bradley (editor). 2007. Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice. Boston, MA: Pearson Custom Publishing. ISBN: 0-536-36742-6

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

<http://www.amcbookstore.com/CourseMaterials.aspx>

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 **comprehension** 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
- 3] Demonstrate the ability to assess empirical evidence and exhibit critical thinking in the form of clear, **evaluative** statements on written assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

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?

II. TESTS AND GRADING PROCEDURES

A. Exams 4 @ 100 points each

This assignment is designed to achieved 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. There will be a two point extra credit question on each test given. 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. 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.

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.

4. Final Exam:

The final exam will be held on **Monday, December 9th from 10:30AM-12:30PM**. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive. The format of this test will be similar to the two 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: 3 @ 25 points

These assignments are designed to measure student learning outcomes #2 and #3: Demonstrate the application sociological theories to real world topics as measured by written assignments; and demonstrate the ability to assess empirical evidence and exhibit critical thinking in the form of clear, evaluative statements on written assignments

1. Assignment Description:

In addition to the four tests administered this semester, there will be four take-home assignments over the course of the semester, of which the student will select ANY THREE to complete. Each assignment is worth 25 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. The exercise will involve doing an outside reading and respond with essay answers about the article. Assignments will then become the basis of an in-class discussion on the day they are due.

2. **Assessment:**

A rubric and extensive feedback will be provided by the professor on each assignment. The rubric will be provided to students along with assignment instructions in class, and available 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 **two class periods beyond the original due date**. No assignment can be re-done or re-graded. Extra assignments cannot be completed for extra credit.

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.

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 500 points are attainable in this course. The breakdown of points is as follows:

Four tests @ 100 points each	= 400 points
Three written assignments @25 points each	= 75 points
Attendance & participation points	= 25 points
	= 500 points

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

A	450 - 500 points
B	400 - 449 points
C	350 - 399 points
D	300 – 349 points
F	299 and fewer points

Grades of Incomplete:

I do not assign grades of incomplete in this course. All coursework must be handed in to me by December 6th, 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.

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.

Important dates:

Last Day to Drop: October 30, 2013

Last Day to Withdraw from the semester: November 29, 2013

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 this course. From day one, you begin earning a grade in this class, so remember that when you decide to skip class, choose not to do the readings, or fail to take detailed lecture notes. Do not rely on a friend to take notes for you, or for your instructor to explain what the readings are about, as 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, or stay after class for further elaboration. The exams will reflect a balance of in-class lecture and discussion, as well as outside readings. So, 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, discussions, study guides and reviews, but I do not intend to manipulate your test score, drop a test score or inflate your test score 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 generous grading, so please do not expect or ask for more, or extra points in the 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.

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 this office may wish to evaluate the case and decide 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!

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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) 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!!!

University Specific Procedures:

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

Student Conduct

As stated in the Student Handbook: “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). Please refer to the section on discussion boards about expected behaviors in these forums.

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 OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Reading & writing 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.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
8/26 (M)	Introductory Remarks	No Reading	
8/28 (W)	The relativity of deviance	No Reading	
8/30 (F)	Where does deviance come from?	“Moral Entrepreneurs: The Creation and Enforcement of Deviant Categories” p. 1	
9/2 (M)	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY		No Class
9/4 (W)	Underlying motives of deviance	“The Discovery of Child Abuse” p. 55	
9/6 (F)	Can deviance be stopped?	“Ironies of Social Control” p. 15	

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
9/9(M)	Early Sociology & Emile Durkheim	No Reading	
9/11 (W)	Structural-Functional Theory	"The Normal and the Pathological" p. 79	
9/13 (F)	Merton's Strain Theory	"Social Structure and Anomie" p. 87	
9/16 (M)	Applying theory to "real deviance"	"In Search of Death" [This reading is on the eCollege website]	TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE [worth 25 points]
9/18 (W)	Can Deviance be learned? Differential Association Theory	"A Theory of Differential Association" p. 103	
9/20 (F)	Types of Deviance	"Tattoos are Like Potato Chips" p. 109	
9/23 (M)	Types of Deviance	"Becoming a Marihuana User" p. 131	
9/25 (W)			TEST ONE [worth 100 points]
9/27 (F)	Lombroso, Gall & the Early Positivists	No Reading	
9/30 (M)	Medicalization of Deviance	"The Discovery of Hyperkinesis" p. 175	
10/2 (W)	Does Mental Illness Exist?	None	
10/4 (F)	The Labeling Perspective	"Primary and Secondary Deviance" p. 145	
10/7 (M)	Types of Deviance	"On Being Sane in Insane Places" p. 151	
10/9 (W)	Coping strategies for deviants	"The Influence of Situational Ethics on Cheating Among College Students" p. 219	
10/11 (F)	Social Constructionism	No Reading	
10/14 (M)	Social Constructionism	"Another Look at Moral Panics: The Case of Satanic Day Care Centers" p. 303	
10/16 (W)	Social Constructionism	"School Shootings, the Media, and Public Fear: Ingredients for a Moral Panic" p. 383	
10/218(F)			TEST TWO [worth 100 points]
10/21 (M)	A Crash-Course in Karl Marx	No Reading	

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
10/23 (W)	(Marxian) Conflict Theory	"Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance" p. 231	
10/25 (F)	Illegal Drugs	"Crack in Context: Politics and Media in the Making of a Drug Scare" p. 327	
10/28 (M)	Legal Drugs	"Moral Passage: The Symbolic Process in Public Designations of Deviance" p. 363	
10/30 (W) *10/31(TH) is the last day to drop a course	How do drugs become illegal and/or dangerous?	No Reading	
11/1 (F)	What's wrong with the state of sociology?	"The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts and Preverts" p. 251	
11/4 (M)	Covert Institutional Deviance	No Reading	
11/6 (W)	State-Facilitated Corporate Crime	"The Crash of ValuJet 592" p. 277	TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE [worth 25 points]
11/8 (F)			TEST THREE [worth 100 points]
11/11 (M)	Media Day	No Reading!!	
11/13 (W)	Feminist Theory	SKIM: "Appearance and Delinquency" p. 409	
11/15 (F)	Is the sex industry exploitative?	"Working in the Fantasy Factory" p. 475	
11/18 (M)	Rape Culture	"Fraternities and Rape on Campus" p. 455	
11/20(M)	Radical Feminism	No Reading	
11/22 (F)	Sexual Identity - A cross cultural perspective	No Reading	TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE [worth 25 points]
11/25 (M)	Sexual Orientation	"Born or Bred?" [This reading is on eCollege]	
11/27 (W)	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
11/29 (F) **last day to withdraw from university**	NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS	NO CLASS

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
12/2 (M)	Sexual Deviance	"Tearoom Trade" p. 539	TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT DUE [worth 25 points]
12/4 (W)	Homosexuality	"Becoming Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual" p. 501	
12/6 (F)	Once a Deviant, Always a Deviant?	"The Professional Ex" p. 553	
12/9 (M)	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM-12:30PM	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM-12:30PM	FINAL EXAM 10:30AM- 12:30PM