



Sociology 320.002 Deviant Behavior Course Syllabus: Fall 2013

Instructor: Barbara Forbes, Ed.D., Adjunct Instructor
Phone: (903) 366-1599
Office Fax: 903-886-5330
E-mail: barbara.forbes@tamuc.edu or be_forbes@yahoo.com
You can also see me in the One Stop Shop M-F 7:30-4:30

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials- Textbook:

The Relativity of Deviance (3rd ed.) by John Curra (2014).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the general phenomenon of social deviance. The course 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. Student will demonstrate an understanding of how deviance is defined, produced, and socially constructed through in class discussions and chapter readings;
2. Student will be able to describe/discuss the essential sociological theories of deviance;
3. Student will demonstrate the ability to critically assess behaviors that lie outside of the norm using objectivity and subjectivity, tolerance, as well as a sociological imagination through class discussions, chapter readings, and critical article critique;
4. Student will be able to discuss the social consequences of deviant designations..

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending lectures, discussions, videos, and appropriate reading and writing assignments. We will be discussing many current, interesting, and controversial subjects. Thus, a mature attitude is assumed of all students. Do nothing to interfere with anyone else's opportunity to learn in this class. Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Assigned readings should be completed BEFORE coming to class. Students will be called upon in class to discuss/explain material from the reading assignments. This is not intended to be punishment or to

single anybody out in front of the rest of the class, but could prove to be embarrassing if you are unprepared. Note: Class time needs to be focused on the topic at hand. Please do not bring food or drink into the classroom. Eat your snacks and meals before or after class. **TURN CELL PHONES OFF!** Thanks.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-mail. I will send out reminders about assignments, changes in syllabus, etc., to the entire class through e-mail using your official “My Leo” university e-mail address. Consequently, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be three major examinations worth 100 pts. each. They will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The exams are scheduled on the course outline. Adjust your schedule now—do **not** make plans that conflict with exam dates! If you know in advance that you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason please let me know in advance as it may be possible to take the exam a day or two early.

The final exam will be essay questions. Each person will develop 3 essay questions, with the complete and in-depth answer. These will be distributed to class mates as a study guide. I will pick 10 of these from the list as the final.

ARTICLE CRITIQUE: Students are required to read and critique an article on deviant behavior from a peer-reviewed professional journal. Guidelines for the critique are at the end of this syllabus. The critique is due on December 2 and is worth 50 pts. There will be a total of 3 in class reaction papers worth 5 points each. This could help raise your grade as these will be added to your final grade. If you miss one it cannot be made up!!

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION: It is essential to attend all classes to do well in this course. Lectures and discussions are designed to complement the reading assignments, not repeat them. Many items will be discussed in class that are not in the book. While students can copy someone’s lecture notes and complete reading assignments, there is no way to gain the information lost by missing class discussions and participation. Attendance will be taken every class period. **If you miss more than two class sessions (the equivalent of 4 full weeks, you should probably drop the course.**

TARDINESS: Being on time is almost as important as being present. Class will begin promptly at the designated time. Tardiness is extremely rude and disruptive, and reflects a “don’t care attitude” on your part. If for some reason beyond your control you must be late, enter the room as quickly and quietly as possible to minimize disruption. **Repeated tardies will not be tolerated.** If you cannot make it to class on time, please drop the course.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: It should go without saying that every student is expected to do his/her own work. Departmental policy provides that any student caught cheating on exams, critical thinking papers, or assignments will receive an “F” in the course and may be subjected to further disciplinary action by the university. Plagiarism (the use of others’ words/phrases/ideas in your writing without giving the original author proper credit) not only violates academic ethical standards, but is against the law. Don’t do it!

GRADEING: Final course grades will be based on the three exams (100 pts. ea); an article critique (100 pts). Grades will be averaged (a total of 4) for the final grade with reaction points added after the final grade has been determined. The following grading scale will be used to calculate final course grades:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%
F = 59% or less

POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, “Xs,” AND WITHDRAWAL: All policies regarding last day for enrollment, withdrawal from class, and the use of “X” will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the student handbook, current semester schedule, and the appropriate bulletin boards and offices for specific deadlines for withdrawing from courses without penalty. It is the **student’s responsibility** to see that all university policies and procedures are followed.

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

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC:</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENTS</u>
W, 28 Aug.	Go over syllabus, questions/answers, discuss deviance	
W, 4 Sept.	The Dynamic Nature of Deviance	Chapt. 1
W, 11 Sept.	Being Deviant	Chapt. 2
W, 18 Sept.	Power, Social Networks, and Organizational Deviance	Chapt. 3
W, 25 Sept.	EXAM 1	
W, 2 Oct.	Go over exams Mental Disorders	Chapt. 4
W, 9 Oct.	Predatory Violence	Chapt. 5
W, 16 Oct.	Sexual Violence	Chapt. 6
W, 23 Oct.	Suicide	Chapt. 7
W, 4 Nov.	EXAM 2	
W, 6 Nov.	Go over exams Sexual Deviance	Chapt. 8
W, 13 Nov.	Drugs and Drug Taking	Chapt. 9
W, 20 Nov.	Final Essay Questions Due/Review for Final-Article Critiques Due	
W, 27 Nov.	Research/Study Opportunity-NO CLASS	
W, 4 Dec.	EXAM 3-FINAL	
W, 11 Dec.	Return final exams and Critiques	

***Any changes in this schedule will be announced in class depending on class time and material.**

***Any changes in this schedule will be announced in class depending on class time and material.**

SOC 320 Article Critique Guidelines

Article can be taken from any peer-reviewed professional journal as long as the article relates to the topic of deviant behavior (there is actually a journal called *Deviant Behavior*).

Article critiques should be approximately 2 pages in length (using a 12 pt. font, double-spaced), and should include the following:

1. Complete bibliographical citation: Author(s), title, Journal Name, Vol. #, date, page #s.
2. What is the author's major thesis? Is this thesis explicitly stated? Or, implied? Are there other sub-theses contained in the work?
3. How does the author support his/her thesis? Does he/she provide data from original research? Data from previous studies? Citations from others who support the thesis?
4. Which major theoretical perspective in sociology is most represented in this work (structural or processual theory(ies))? Is the work eclectic? Does the work draw upon social/behavioral sciences other than sociology? If so, which ones?
5. Give a brief synopsis of the article.
6. Would you categorize the author's analysis as primarily objective? Or, subjective?
7. What apparent biases do you detect (if any)?
8. What is your overall opinion of the article? Does it make a substantial contribution to sociology? To knowledge, in general? What about the author's writing style? Is it clear? Concise? Jargon-free, or jargon-laden? Would you recommend this article to others? Why, or why not?