



**SOC 320.01E
Deviant Behavior
Fall 2015
M,W,F 9:00-9:50 a.m. HL 201
(Web-enhanced)**

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: M, 10:00 a.m.-noon; 3:00-4:15 p.m.; W, 10:00 a.m.-noon; T,R 8:30-9:15 a.m.; other times by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required: Deviant Behavior (10th ed) by Erich Goode. Routledge, 2015; **ISBN-13:** 978-0205899661; **ISBN-10:** 0205899668. Books should be available in the University bookstore and from a variety of online sources.

Course Description: SOC 320. Deviant Behavior. 3 semester Hours.. 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.
(Recommended prerequisite courses: SOC 1301).

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course students should be able to:

- ❖ Develop a sociological perspective on deviant behavior;
- ❖ Explore and critically analyze major theoretical perspectives on deviant behavior;
- ❖ Explore and critically examine research on specific types of deviant behavior;
- ❖ Develop and foster critical thinking skills and the enhancement of students' abilities to express their ideas in written and oral communication.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience for students by blending lectures, discussions, and appropriate reading assignments. We will be discussing many current, interesting, and often controversial subjects. Thus, a mature attitude is assumed of all students. **Do NOTHING that will interfere with anyone else's opportunity to learn in this class. Disruptive Behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.**

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points used in class will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered or discussed in class, they do provide a general

outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered in class, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. It also is a good idea to review them after reading the chapters and before coming to class. If you miss class for any reason, it would be a good idea to view the Power Point for that class and look up the information related to them in your textbook.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be five online discussions in e-college during the semester. They are worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points. Start and end dates are listed in the syllabus. ***A discussion cannot be re-opened once it is closed.*** In order to earn 25 points you must enter the discussion early and post often. To get full credit, you must have at least:

- (1) one post that responds to the question(s) posited by the professor (1-10 pts.)
- (2) one post that poses a relevant question to your classmates (1-5 pts.)
- (3) one post responding to questions posed by your classmates (1-5 points)

(these are minimum requirements; hopefully you will engage in discussion and post more)

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We will be dealing with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the textbook and class. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class. Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words "I feel . . ." or "I believe . . ." are probably better deleted. Your feelings and beliefs are important to you and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them. **These are academic discussions, NOT therapy sessions or attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material, attended class, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.**

EXAMINATIONS: There will be three major examinations worth 100 pts. each and an optional comprehensive final exam. The exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled in the course outline. Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with exam dates! If you miss one of the exams for an excused reason, you will be required to take the optional comprehensive final exam. If you take all 3 exams and are satisfied with your grade, you will not be required to take the comprehensive final. If you take all 3 exams and are not satisfied with your grade, you have the option of throwing out your lowest test grade and taking the optional comprehensive final in its place. If you miss more than one exam, you should drop the course.

Exam grades will be posted in e-college after graded.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Classes will meet each Monday and Wednesday. Online discussions and exams will be on Fridays. It is essential to attend all class sessions to do well in this course. Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement the book, not repeat it. 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. Attendance will be taken each class period and you will receive 1 pt. for each day you attend. There are 30 class periods, so perfect attendance earns 30 pts. If you miss more than two weeks' worth of classes (4 class sessions or more) you may want to consider dropping the course.

TARDINESS: Being on time is almost as important as being present. Class will begin **promptly** at the scheduled time. The classroom door locks automatically and nobody will be admitted after class begins. Tardiness is not an option. It is extremely rude and disruptive, and reflects a "don't care attitude" on your part. **If you cannot make it to class on time, please drop the course.**

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the three exams (100 points ea.= 300 pts.); five online discussions (20 pts ea. = 100 pts.); and attendance/participation (30 pts.) for a total of 430 pts. The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

- A = 90% - 100% (387-430 pts)
- B = 80% - 89% (344-386 pts)
- C = 70% - 79% (301-343 pts)
- D = 60% - 69% (258-300 pts)
- F = Below 60% (<258 pts)

Grades will be posted in e-college

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. A few “bonus” points are built into each exam. At the end of the semester, e-college will calculate your total points and they will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, e-college reports percentages. There is a big difference between a percentage point and a point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 430 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 5 points). **EARN your points during the semester, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

EXTRA CREDIT: Don't ask, there won't be any. Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even “higher” A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the “regular” work and you will not need any “extra” credit.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course is taught as a face-to-face class but is web-enhanced. Students need access to a computer (there are computer labs all over campus) in order to check e-mails and to check grades on e-college.

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at www.openoffice.org)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The most effective way to communicate with the professor will be to come to class. The professor will be in his office during posted office hours and by appointment. The best way to make an appointment is to communicate directly with the professor immediately prior to or after

class. Appointments can also be made via e-mail. The second best way is through e-mail. (see statement below)

The professor will periodically communicate with the entire class or selected individual students by using the student's MyLeo e-mail address. Students should check their MyLeo account regularly for e-mails from the university and/or the professor.

If you encounter any technological difficulties with e-college contact the e-college help desk immediately.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through MyLeo 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. If you contact me via e-mail, please tell me your name and the course in which you are enrolled as part of your e-mail.

If you send me an e-mail, I will always read it and respond within a reasonable amount of time. Generally, if you send me an e-mail any time between Monday 8:00 a.m. and noon Friday, I will respond within 24 hours or sooner if possible. If, however, you e-mail me after noon on Friday, it will be Monday at the earliest before I respond. Fortunately, I am not a brain surgeon or cardiologist and none of the issues or assignments in this class are life or death matters. If you have a class-related problem or issue, **DO NOT PANIC. There no such thing as a "sociological emergency."** Any problem that is class-related that occurs over the weekend can wait until the following Monday to be addressed.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

THIS CLASSROOM IS A "SAFE SPACE"

All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation , and/or lifestyle. There will be "Zero Tolerance" in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

Assigned readings should be completed and Power Points reviewed 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. Also, while you may leave your cell phones on, please silence them when you enter the classroom. Also, please remove all headphones in class. Thanks.

University Specific Procedures:

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
 Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct

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*).

POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, "X's", 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, which indicate the specific deadlines for withdrawing from courses without penalty. Seeing that all university procedures are followed is the students' responsibility.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
<u>Week 1</u>		
M, 31 Aug.	Introduction, Course Syllabus, etc.	
W, 2 Sept.	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants	Ch. 1
F, 4 Sept.	Online Discussion #1 begins @ 9:00 a.m.	
<u>Week 2</u>		
M, 7 Sept	Labor Day, no class	
W, 9 Sept.	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants	Ch. 1
F, 11 Sept.	Online Discussion #1	
<u>Week 3</u>		
M, 14 Sept.	Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 3
W, 16 Sept.	Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 3
F, 18 Sept.	Online Discussion #1 ends; #2 begins @ 9:50 a.m.	
<u>Week 4</u>		
M, 21 Sept.	Pseudoscience, Science & the Medical Model	Ch. 2
W, 23 Sept.	Pseudoscience, Science & the Medical Model	Ch. 2
F, 25 Sept.	Online Discussion #2	

<u>Week 5</u> M, 28 Sept. W, 30 Sept. F, 2 Oct. F, 2 Oct.	Sociological Explanations of Deviance Poverty and Disrepute Online Discussion #2 ends; #3 begins @ 9:50 a.m. Exam 1	Ch. 4 Ch. 4 Ch. 1,2,3,4
<u>Week 6</u> M, 5 Oct. W, 7 Oct. F, 9 Oct.	Deviant Occupations Deviant Occupations Online Discussion #3	Reading 1 Reading 2
<u>Week 7</u> M, 12 Oct. W, 14 Oct. F, 16 Oct.	Deviant Lifestyles Deviant Lifestyles Online Discussion #3 ends; 4 begins @ 9:50 a.m.	Ch. 6 Ch. 6
<u>Week 8</u> M, 19 Oct. W, 21 Oct. F, 23 Oct.	Alcoholism & Other Drug Abuse Alcoholism & Other Drug Abuse Online Discussion #4	Ch. 7 Ch. 8
<u>Week 9</u> M, 26 Oct. W, 28 Oct. F, 30 Oct.	Physical & Mental Deviance Physical & Mental Deviance Online Discussion #4 ends @ 9:50 a.m.	Ch 13 Ch. 10
<u>Week 10</u> M, 2 Nov. W, 4 Nov. F, 6 Nov.	Suicide Suicide Exam 2	Reading 3 Reading 3 Ch. 6,7,8,10,13
<u>Week 11</u> M, 9 Nov. W, 11 Nov. F, 13 Nov.	Extreme Deviance Extreme Deviance Online Discussion #5 begins @ 9:00 a.m.	Reading 4 Reading 4
<u>Week 12</u> M, 16 Nov. W, 18 Nov. F, 20 Nov.	Street Crime & Delinquency Street Crime & Delinquency Online Discussion #5	Ch. 5 Ch. 5
<u>Week 13</u> M, 23 Nov. W, 25 Nov. F, 27	Corporate Crime & Elite Deviance Corporate Crime & Elite Deviance Thanksgiving Holiday	Ch. 6 Ch. 6
<u>Week 14</u> M, 30 Nov. W, 2 Dec. F, 4 Dec.	Cyberdeviance Cyberdeviance Online Discussion #5 ends @ 9:50 a.m.	
<u>Week 15</u> M, 7 Dec. W, 9 Dec. F, 11 Dec.	Deviance, Deviants, & Social Control Deviance, Deviants & Social Control EXAM 3	Ch. 14 Ch. 14 Ch. 5,6,14
W, 16 Dec.	8:00 a.m.	Comprehensive Final Exam (taken in classroom)