Soc 320.01W: Deviant Behavior
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2015

Instructor: Bryan Parham
Office Location: Social Sciences 206/207
Office Hours: Mondays, Fridays- 11-12pm
Tuesdays-1-3pm
Wednesdays- 11-12pm; 2:00 - 3:00pm
& by appointment
Office Phone:
Office Fax:
University Email Address: Bryan.Parham@tamuc.edu
eCollege Website: http://online.tamuc.org

COURSE INFORMATION
Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:
http://www.amcbookstore.com/CourseMaterials.aspx

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

Course 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] Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by analyzing information presented within the textbook, lectures and readings.
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
There will be numerous articles and reading assignments during the semester. Students should get in the habit of taking detailed notes from their own interpretation of the reading assignments. Get in the habit of keeping a notebook next to your computer devoted only to our class. Articles and readings have been compiled from a variety of sources: sociological journals as well as the popular press. As you read these excerpts, ask yourself these questions:

- What does the title of the article have to do with the main argument or point of the reading?
- What are the main ideas or concepts that the author is defining or focusing upon?
- Are there possible alternatives to the explanations offered by the author?

Because this is an online course, our reading and assignment schedule spreads across the entire week. I have tried to keep assignments due on the weekends to a minimum, giving you several days to complete them so as to allow for your other classes, work and family responsibilities. Please be sure to mark the due dates of assignments, as they will vary throughout the semester.

Our course will use two types of assignments: Quizzes & Discussion Boards. I have provided a description of the major assignments in the course, below:

A. Quizzes 4 @ 50 points each
Quizzes are designed to meet student learning outcome #1:
- Demonstrate comprehension of sociological concepts that apply to the area of the sociology of deviance as measured through objective exams

There will be a total of eight quizzes, of which you will need to complete SIX over the semester. Each quiz is worth a total of 50 points. Students will be required to complete the quiz within a set period of time accessible through eCollege. You will receive an instant score on the multiple choice and true false questions, but will not be able to see the correct answers. Any short answer questions will be graded separately; with your score on these items added to your original grade manually by your professor. After all students have completed the quiz you will be able to go back into the quiz to see the questions you missed along with the correct answers.

Quizzes are open book & open notes, but will be timed. You will not be able to take and do well on the quiz without having read and studied the material first. Make sure that you are fully prepared and have done all the readings prior to logging on to attempt the quiz. 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. If you find yourself continually referring to your notes or book during a quiz, this is an indication that you did not study nor comprehend the material well enough. You will need to be more diligent in your preparation before the next quiz.

SIX of your quiz grades will be used to calculate your final grade. If you complete more than six quizzes, the highest scores will be recorded. You may not use an additional quiz as extra credit in the course.
Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review (including short answer questions on quizzes). 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.

If you lose Internet connectivity during the exam, log back in immediately and continue on with the exam. Save your answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If you experience any issues while taking the exam, you must contact the eCollege Helpdesk immediately so that your issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation.

**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 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.

**Makeup Quizzes**

Makeup quizzes will NOT be given, and the instructor will not extend the due date of this assignment.

**B. Discussion Boards 4 @ 34 points each**

Discussion boards have been designed to meet course objective #2:

- Students will be active and engaged participants in discussions by **analyzing** information presented within the textbook, lectures and readings.

Because we will not interact face-to-face in the traditional classroom format, we will try to simulate this experience by using eCollege discussion boards. Each week you will be assigned a number of readings. After completing this, students will need to post comments to a question or topic posted by the
Over the course of the semester, there will be a total of 8 discussion boards, of which you will receive a score on SIX of them.

It is expected that students will thoughtfully reflect on the discussion that ensues, and reply back to comments posted by other students. Here are some ground rules for our discussion boards:

1) **There are no minimums or maximums on how much or how little you post on the discussion boards. The goal is to achieve quantity & quality. I am striving for us to have a genuine conversation on the boards this semester.** You may post a new question, start a new thread, or simply respond to other students. For this to happen, we need a couple of guidelines: post or reply, and then **follow-up**. You will not achieve full points by just logging on in the last hour of the last day and posting a couple of random comments on others’ posts. Ideally, you’ll post something, check back in a few hours and check-in again over the course of several days to interact, reply, respond and comment on what others have said on a single thread. **You don’t always have to post a new topic or start a new thread.** You should aim to contribute meaningfully and engage in actual reciprocal interaction, extending a thread to its maximum.

2) **This discussion will take place within a set timeframe.** After the deadline, your professor may post some summary comments of the discussion, highlighting the themes and questions that have emerged. Discussion boards cannot be made up. If you miss out, there is no way to makeup these points.

3) **Students should feel free to honestly post and defend their opinions, but should be tolerant of other students who express views that are contrary to their own.** Discussion boards are places where dialogue occurs. They are not a debate that is to be “won” or places where “conversion” takes place. Feel free to explore differences in view points, but do not allow these conflicts to escalate into personal attacks. Please do not play devil’s advocate or pretend to take a stance that is not genuine or authentically held.

4) **Full, complete sentences are required. Do not use jargon, abbreviations, or acronyms. So, no “LOL,” “SMH,” “IMHO” or “BTW,” please.**

5) **IMPORTANT:** Demonstrate your “sociological imagination” by integrating relevant theories and concepts to help explain, support and defend the arguments you plan to make. **You will usually need to draw upon the articles for support. Be sure to CITE appropriately.**

6) **Spell-check your posts.** You may want to draft your response in Microsoft Word, spell-check it, then cut and paste it into the discussion board on eCollege. You will not be able to go back and edit your post once it has been submitted to eCollege.

7) **Here are the essentials for our discussion boards this semester:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinal Rules- OBEY!!!</th>
<th>Try NOT to:</th>
<th>Try to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wikipedia cannot be used as a credible source of information</td>
<td>Do not rely on personal experiences as your “proof”</td>
<td>Take a firm stance &amp; defend it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bible cannot be used as</td>
<td>Do not rely on overly-</td>
<td>Pose a question to take the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sociology 320.01W Syllabus Fall 2015*
Do NOT call people “crazy”

Do NOT attribute deviance to the whims of individuals in which patterns cannot be deciphered

Do NOT simply say “I agree” with someone’s post (send them a private email, instead)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
<th>Your Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did student post more than once, and on more than on one day at one sitting?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student make a genuine attempt to engage in ongoing conversation within a single thread?</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student contribute and add something original &amp; valuable to the discussion</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student demonstrate comprehension of the assigned readings and/or address the prompt provided?</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student integrate sociological concepts and theories where appropriate?</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did student write from an academic perspective rather than personal opinion?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was the student collegial and professional in interactions with fellow students?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper grammar and citations used throughout</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCORE</td>
<td>34 points</td>
<td>points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Notes:**

***Each discussion board is worth 34 points.***

***There will be 8 discussion board assignments over the course of the semester. You are required to participate in only SIX of them.***

***Discussion board assignments CANNOT be made up.***

***Additional discussion boards CANNOT be used as extra credit.***

Any written work in this class is subject to turnitin review (including posts on discussion boards). 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. See document sharing for guidelines on how to cite. Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment in question.

**C. Written Assignment: 1 @ 25 points**

This assignment has been designed to measure student learning outcome #3:

- 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 quizzes & discussion boards administered this semester, there will be one written assignment, worth 25 points. This exercise will give students an opportunity to do an intensive reading 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 on the assignment. The rubric will be provided to students along with assignment instructions and be available on eCollege.

All written work should be submitted as a .doc or .rtf attachment to the dropbox on eCollege by 11:59PM on Friday, December 6th. 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.

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:**

- All students will complete the written assignment
- Late assignments will receive a 20% deduction in points
- Assignments must be submitted as .doc or .rtf attachments to the dropbox
- The assignment is worth 25 points

**Grading Procedures**

There are a total of 361 points in this course. A breakdown of assignments and their point values is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board participation (4 @ 34 points each)</td>
<td>136 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (4 @ 50 points each)</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment (1@ 25 points)</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
<td><strong>361 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your grade for the course will be calculated using the following scale:

- A 90%-100% 324-361 points
- B 80% - 89% 288-323 points
- C 70%-79% 252-287 points
- D 60%-69% 216-251 points
- F 59%-0% 215 and fewer points
Grades of Incomplete:

I will not assign grades of incomplete in this course. Your grade will 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 will 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 this class. Simply not participating or logging on, in hopes that I will remedy the situation for you will not occur. You are responsible for the consequences stemming from either coming to class, or not coming to class. [Student may submit a “drop request” through MyLeo.]

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 8 raw points off. This is the equivalent of an entire grade difference on a major quiz. Percentage points and raw points are two very different things.

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 will not 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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
The following hardware and software are necessary in order to use eCollege:

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

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@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:
All communication with your professor will need to be done virtually this semester. You may email me at any time of the day at: Bryan.Parham@tamuc.edu. I will make every effort to answer your questions expediently and definitely within 24 hours.

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

Technical Support:
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat Support: Click on ‘Live Support’ on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- Help: Click on the ‘Help’ button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance & Participation:
This is an online class. Although attendance will not be taken, it is crucial that you regularly visit the ecollege website and work independently to keep up with reading assignments. Regularly check your
MyLeo email account for notifications about our class, too. I have designed the course with assignments due on set days each week, to help you get into a rhythm.

**Academic Honesty:**
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 academic honesty policies will receive a zero on the exam or assignment involved.** ALL instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to both the Department Head as well as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. These offices may also 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!

***If in doubt, check with your professor on citing procedures, format and style. See notes above about the use of turnitin.com in this 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.
**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.

**Print off this course outline and post near your computer for reference throughout the semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Aug. 31-Sept. 6 {M-Su}</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Ch. 1 – what is deviance?</td>
<td>Introduce yourself in the ungraded discussion by Sunday Sept. 6 at 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 Sept 7-Sept 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 2 – Explaining Deviant Behavior</td>
<td>Quiz 1 (ch.1 &amp; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Sept. 14-Sept. 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 3 – Constructing Deviance</td>
<td>Quiz 2 (ch.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 Sept. 21-27 {M-Su}</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Ch. 4 - Poverty and Disrepute</td>
<td><strong>No Assignments</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 Sept. 28-Oct. 4th {M-SU}</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Ch. 7 – Drug use as deviance, an introduction “Becoming a Marihuana User” on eCollege</td>
<td>Quiz 3 (Ch. 4 &amp; 7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 Oct. 5-11 {M-Su}</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Ch. 8 – Drug Abuse</td>
<td>discussion 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 Oct. 12-18 {M-Su}</td>
<td>Moral Panics</td>
<td>Read “School Shootings, the Media, and Public Fear: Ingredients for a Moral Panic” and “Another Look At Moral Panics: The Case of Satanic Daycare Centers” (both on eCollege)</td>
<td>Discussion 2, quiz 4 (Ch. 8 and moral panics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 Oct. 19-25 {M-Su}</td>
<td>Sexual Deviance</td>
<td>Ch. 9 – Sexual Deviance</td>
<td>Discussion 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 {Oct. 26-Nov. 1}</td>
<td>Deviant Beliefs</td>
<td>Ch. 10 – unconventional</td>
<td>quiz 5 (Ch. 9 &amp;10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter(s)</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 Nov. 2 – Nov. 8 (M-Su)</td>
<td>Mental Illness</td>
<td>Ch. 11 – Mental disorders</td>
<td>No assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11 Nov. 9-15 (M-Su)</td>
<td>Mental Illness</td>
<td>Read “on being sane in insane places” and “The Discovery of Hyperkinesis: Notes on the Medicalization of Deviant Behavior.” (Both on eCollege)</td>
<td>discussion 4, quiz 6 (Ch. 11 and mental illness readings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12 Nov. 16- 22 (M-Su)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 12 – Deviant Physical Characteristics</td>
<td>discussion 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13 Nov. 23-25 (M- W)</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Readings</td>
<td>No assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25- Dec. 6</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
<td>No Readings</td>
<td>No assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14 Dec. 7 – 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 13 – Tribal Stigma: Labeling Race and ethnicity</td>
<td>discussion 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15 Dec. 14 –</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete the Written Assignment under “final exam” in ecollege</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>