

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Sociology 325 – Introduction to Deviance and Social Control
Course Outline, Spring 2009

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or by appointment

Introduction

Why do members of society use force and fraud? That is, why do not people simply use socially acceptable means of attaining their wants and needs? This course will introduce students to salient theories constructed in the sociology of deviance and social control. What is deviance and who has the ability to define it? Does this definition change over time? Do we try to control seemingly harmless types of deviance? From our readings and congenial class discussions, we will explore these issues by considering how various sociological theories approach them. As I expect students to be active producers rather than passive consumers of ideas, classes will involve a measure of informal discussion rather than just formal lecturing. Students are warned that, at times, this class deals with graphic and violent themes in both class lectures and videos.

Required Texts

The following **text** will be used:

White, R., Haines, F., & Eisler, L. (2009). *Crime and criminology: An introduction*. (Canadian ed.). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

A **reader** accompanies the text:

Thio, A., Calhoun, T. C., & Conyers, A. (Eds.). (2008). *Readings in deviant behaviour* (5th ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education.

Please review the reading schedule below. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned reading before class and make use of the slide show notes available on Blackboard. Blackboard PowerPoint files do not represent an exhaustive set of notes and are not an alternative to attending class regularly. They are *intended* only to provide a brief outline of what will be covered in lectures and it is expected that you will need to take additional notes during class.

Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete this course:

1. Exam I 30% (June 2nd).
2. Media analysis paper 30% (June 18th).
3. Final exam 40% (TBA, scheduled by the Registrar's Office).

Both exams will be in multiple choice format and will be based upon lectures and assigned readings. Thus, it is imperative that you complete all assigned readings before every class. All requirements must be completed in order to pass this course.

The paper will be 5 pages long (maximum) in APA format and can be a collaborative effort with another student if you wish. You are asked to find a news story about crime or deviance and critically analyze it using the knowledge accumulated from lectures on both theory and method. In a nutshell, you will be asked to tease out the theoretical foundation employed by the author and any flaws that are evident. More information about the paper requirement will be disseminated later in the course.

Grading Scheme

A+ > 90%	B+ 77%-79.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 57%-59.99%
A 85%-89.99%	B 73%-76.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 53%-56.99%
A- 80%-84.99%	B- 70%-72.99%	C- 60%-62.99%	F <53%

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is offered to you as a general guide. It is expected that some topics and readings may deserve further treatment and consequently, additional class time.

Date	Reading Schedule Topic	Reading to be completed	
Week 1	Introduction What is crime and deviance? Knowledge of deviants	Text 1	Reader 1, 2, 3, 4, 31
Week 2	Demonic deviance Classical theory Pathology	Text 2, 3	Reader 22, 24, 29
Week 3	Functionalism Strain Social disorganization	Text 4	Reader 5, 16, 47
Week 4	Mid-Term Learning theory	Text 8	Reader 6, 43, 46
Week 5	Learning theory Control theory	Text 8	Reader 7, 17, 21
Week 6	Societal reactionism Conflict theory	Text 5, 6	Reader 9, 10, 26, 27, 49
Week 7	Feminist theories Critical criminology	Text 7, 11	Reader 11, 12, 13

As this schedule is *designed* to be flexible, attendance at each class is very important in order to be aware of any potential changes. Also, note that some of the films we will watch depict violent and graphic behaviour.

The following policies were constructed by the Department of Sociology and apply to this course.

Exam Policies

You must provide advanced notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you must arrange to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

***The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.**

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.