Sociology of Deviant Behavior

SOC 3560-001
BEH S

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Course Description

According to one of the most widely accepted definitions, deviance refers broadly to any behavior considered wrong or undesirable in a given social context. This course examines how particular attributes or behavior are defined as deviant, the social consequences of formal and informal deviant designations, and the construction and imposition of norms, values, and rules. Topics of deviance to be discussed include: drug/alcohol use/abuse, drug dealing, occupational and corporate crime, mental illness, sexual deviance, prostitution, homicide/serial killers/murder, debt, positive deviance, and suicide.

Course Objectives

• To understand how deviance is defined and produced
• To gain a working knowledge of the key sociological theories of deviance
• To apply these theories to selected case studies
• To critically evaluate institutional responses to deviance and control

Grading:

10% Active class participation. Come to lecture prepared to discuss the day’s readings.
5% Course attendance. Based on three random attendance checks throughout the semester
25% Midterm exam
30% Final Exam
20% Assigned Papers 2 Critical Analysis Papers
10% Assignments/Pop Quizzes. Assignments and pop quizzes will be given to assess reading

Grades are based on two exams, one book discussion quiz, two critical analysis papers, quizzes or assignments given in class, and attendance. Excuses and rescheduled exams will only be permitted if discussed before the given date. If you are a student athlete, I want you to give a list of the dates when you are excused from the class due to athletic events. Please make an appointment to meet with me early in the semester.

Excuse allowances: Each student will be allowed to be late on 1 assignment. After that 1 assignment, the grade will drop by 10% for each class day the assignment is late.
Attendance and participation will be based on student participation in the course, along with random attendance checks taken four times in the semester. 5% of the grade will be based on the attendance checks. 10% will be based on participation.

Exams:

Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions. The final is not cumulative.

Critical Analysis Papers (2, 4-5 pages, Typed Double-Spaced)

The first critical analysis paper will cover *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio* by Philippe Bourgois.

The second critical analysis paper will have you examine a news article through the lens of a sociologist. You will describe the information given in the news source, the degree to which the source is biased or objective in its coverage, your personal reaction to the story, and finally, you will analyze the reported deviance and social control using one or more of the theories covered in class.

**Grading**

“Spouting off” an opinion on a topic is insufficient. An argument should be well-reasoned, logical and related to theory from the literature.

The papers should be composed of three sections:

1. A **thesis section** [no more than a page and a half]—this is an introduction to the paper and must include the name of the book you are using and a clearly stated thesis or list of the theory(ies) you will be using in the paper (this section can be as dramatic as you choose to make it)

2. An **analysis section** [three to four pages]—this entails a one-to-one correspondence between the theory(ies) and the book/article, starting with a brief definition of the theory in your own words, followed by your choice of a corresponding aspect, character, or scene from the book/article that serves as a clear illustration of the theory (you may find more than one). You may use quotes to enhance your point but make them very brief, indented, and single-spaced. You must use at least one sociological theory covered in class; outside theory must be cited and included in a bibliography. You should use no more than two theories in your entire paper. Too many theories and your argument becomes brief and lacks in depth or thoroughness. Refer back to theory after each illustration. The analysis section should follow something like this:

   - **Definition of the theory in your own words**
   - **Proof** from the book/article
   - **Tie back:** refer back to the theory you are using at the end of the proof

3. A **conclusion section**

**Required Texts**


Important Dates:

Midterm Exam
Final Exam

Course Outline and Reading List

Introduction

Positivist/ Constructionist Theories of Deviance:
- “What is Deviant Behavior?” by Thio p.3-15
- “Defining Deviance” in COD pages 11-15

Constructionism - Labeling Deviance
- “Labeling Theory” by Howard Becker in COD page 41-45
- “The Saints and the Roughnecks” in COD
- Begin reading “Selling Crack in El Barrio” by Bourgois

Labeling Deviance / Stigma
- “The Stigma of Obesity” Goode

Conflict Theory of Deviance
  Watch Chicago 10

Conflict Theory of Deviance
- “The Police and the Black Male” in COD
  Finish Chicago 10

Conflict Theory of Deviance

Positivist Theories of Deviance
- “Strain Theory” chapter 7 in COD
- “Differential Association” chapter 8 in COD

Occupational and Corporate Crime
- “Privileged Deviance” by Thio page 333-353 in main text

Occupational and Corporate Crime
- “War Profiteering: Iraq and Halliburton” in COD

Corruption
• “Political Corruption” by Thio

Stigma
• “The Stigma of Obesity” from Thio, Calhoun, Conyers
• “Collective Stigma Management and Shame” in COD page 353-370

The Medicalization of Deviance
• Deviance and Medicalization – chapter 1

Deinstitutionalization
• Deinstitutionalization: A Psychiatric “Titanic” - Frontline

Mental Illness
• Goode – Mental illness

Mental Illness
• Readings on the Insanity Defense

Mental Illness
• “On Being Sane in Insane Places” by Rosenhan

MIDTERM EXAM

Legal and Illegal Drug Use
• “Drug Use as Deviant Behavior” by Goode
• Generation RX

Legal and Illegal Drug Use
• “Drugs and Free Will” by Schaler
• In Drugs We Trust

Legal and Illegal Drug Use
• Alcohol and Tobacco by Goode
• “The Social Construction of Drug Scares” by Reinarman in COD

Substance Abuse
• “Alcohol Use and Alcoholism” by Erich Goode
• “Hey, Don’t Blame me… Blame the Booze” by Peralta

Book Discussion Day and Quiz on Selling Crack in El Barrio

Critical Analysis Paper on Selling Crack in El Barrio due
Physical Violence
- “Who is more likely to kill?” Thio Physical Violence

Physical Violence
- “Serial Murder: Popular Myths and Empirical Realities” from Thio, Calhoun, Conyers

Genocide
- “The Ma Lai Kai Massacre” by Kelman

Debt
- “Managing the Stigma of Personal Bankruptcy” by Thorne, Anderson in COD
- “My personal Credit Crisis” from nytimes

Positive Deviance
- “An Integrated Typology of Deviance Applied to Ten Middle-Class Norms” by Heckert and Heckert in COD

Positive Deviance
Second Critical Analysis paper due

Moral Panics
- Reading from “Moral Panics: The Social Construction of Deviance by Goode and Yehuda

Sexual Deviance
- “Gays and Other Victims of Stigma” by Thio
- “Hooking up” by England

Sexual Deviance
Watch Film

Sexual Deviance / Homophobia
- “What triggers School Shootings?” Kimmel, Mahler

Occupational Deviance and Prostitution
- “Collective Stigma Management of Prostitutes” by Valerie Jenness in COD
- “Pathways into Prostitution” Sterk
**Prostitution/ Human Trafficking**
- “The Globalization of Sex Tourism” by Wonders and Michalowski

**Suicide**
- Thio “Suicide”

**Suicide**
- Excerpts from “Suicide” by Emile Durkheim

**Social Disorganization Theory / Ecological Approach**

**EXAM REVIEW**

**FINAL EXAM**

* The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.