

Deviant Behavior and Social Control

Sociology 3560-090
Spring Semester 2013



Instructor: Larry L. Bench Ph.D.
Class Format: Online
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Course Description

The objective of this course is to acquaint the student with fundamental terms, concepts and theories in the origin, nature, and control of deviant behavior. Various dimensions of deviance and its control will be explored including: the meaning of deviance, the origin of deviance, the process of becoming deviant, traditional and conventional theories of deviance, institutional and non-institutional careers in deviance, and the correction of deviant behavior. Some attention will be given to the moral, ethical, and legal implications of deviance as well as the relationship between deviance and sociological theory.

The class is based on an “online” learning style format. Course content includes assigned readings in the texts, online discussions, lectures, and assignments. Please check Canvas on a daily basis for announcements and updated course information. All class communication will be received via Canvas or by email. **All of the exams for this class will be administered online.**

Course Objectives

- Understand what is meant by the concept of deviance
- Gain an appreciation of how deviant labels are applied
- Become knowledgeable of the main theoretical explanations of deviance
- Be able to differentiate between relativism v. absolutism
- Gain an appreciation of how various forms of social control are achieved through both informal and formal approaches
- Understand the role of punishment in bringing about social control
- Gain an understanding of the various research methods used to study deviance
- Become familiar with the various investigations of deviance including: homicide, sex offenses, mental disorders, origins or moral panics, white collar crime, and cyberdeviance.

Required Texts

Inderbitzin M, Bates K, and Gainey R. *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective*. Sage Publications

Grading

The final grade will be based on three multiple choice exams each worth 21 percent of the total grade, participation in 6 online class discussions worth 24 percent of the final grade, and a group PowerPoint project worth 13 percent of the final grade. Grading Scale: A (100-93) A- (92-90) B+ (89-87) B (86-83) B- (82-80) C+ (79-77) C (76-73) C- (72-70) D+ (69-67) D (66-63) D- (62-60) E (<60)

PowerPoint Assignment

Students will be assigned to groups and ask to prepare a PowerPoint presentation on a topic related to deviance or social control. Group assignments and PowerPoint assignments will be made shortly after the semester begins. Students are encouraged to use WIMBA as a means of communicating with group members.

Discussions

You are **required** to participate in each of the 6 discussion sessions. All discussions will be offered through Canvas. You are expected to make a meaningful and thoughtful response to the discussion question. Dialogue with other students is encouraged. Discussion sessions will not be extended beyond the end date. "Makeup" discussion sessions will not be offered. If you miss a discussion session you should plan on participating in the next discussion. Please keep track of the discussions that you participate in. The discussions will last for approximately 4 days. The dates of the discussions are as follows:

Exam Schedule

The exams will be available for you to take during a 24 hour time period on Canvas starting at 8:00 A.M. in the morning and will be available until 8:00 A.M. the next day. You will have 55 minutes to answer approximately 45 multiple choice questions. The exams will not be comprehensive and will cover the material since the last exam. Please plan to take the exams when scheduled.

Special Accommodations

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of the course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation of

the disability should be submitted during the first week of the quarter along with the request for special accommodations. Contact the Center for Disabled Student Services (160 Union, 1-5020) to facilitate requests.

Expectation of Academic Honesty

Unfortunately, academic dishonesty has become a serious problem on many campuses. The purpose for including the following statement is to prevent any misunderstanding about what constitutes academic dishonesty and what consequences will result if it is detected.

Academic honesty is expected. An act of academic dishonesty will result in a failing course grade of “E” and may result in a recommendation of additional disciplinary action. (The University of Utah Student Code provides for these sanctions and provides appeal rights.)

1. Cheating (as defined in Article XI of the Student Code) generally includes the giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.
2. Plagiarism, as defined in Article XI of the Student Code, is “the appropriation of any other person’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own work offered for credit.”
3. Falsification as defined by any untrue statement, either oral or written, concerning one’s own academic work or the academic work of another student, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.
4. Original work. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, all academic work undertaken in this course must be original, that is, it must not have been submitted in a prior course nor may it be submitted in a course being taken concurrently.

Updated October 28, 2012