



Course Syllabus Fall 2023
CRJU 6363 Seminar in Deviant Behavior
Location: Online

Instructor: Dr. Attapol Kuanliang

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Monday and Friday by appointment only

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Webpage: [Faculty Profile](#)

Text: Thio, a. D., Taylor, J. D., & Schwartz, M. D. (2013). *Deviant Behavior*, (12th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NY: Pearson, ISBN: 9780134627090

Class Description:

Seminar in Deviant Behavior (Catalog) Credit 3 semester hours. Analysis of behavior which violates expectations that are shared and recognized as legitimate. Special attention is focused on societal reactions to such behavior.

Course Objective:

The primary goals of this course are to stimulate critical thinking about our everyday world on deviant behaviors. Students will have learned to integrate two major areas of study in sociology: deviance and criminology. This course will allow you to expand your practical knowledge on a range of issues and broaden your sociological perspectives on the causes and consequences of behavior that is labeled deviant. Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain how deviance is defined and produced

2. Analyze deviant behaviors from alternative theoretical perspectives and apply these perspectives to practical scenarios
3. Critically evaluate institutional responses to deviance and control

The above objectives are to be achieved through a process involving readings, lectures, class discussions, independent research, and exams.

Course Format:

The class is 100% online; there are no class meetings. All homework, assignments and examinations are to be completed online no later than the final due dates for each assignment stated in course schedule. If you have questions regarding the reading material, quizzes, and exams, you have to post your question each week in the question forum. If you would like to chat on the phone with me live, you can do so during my office hours by using Skype. You can download Skype at [skype website](#) My username is akuanliang. Note: Meetings, official university business and other situations may necessitate a change in or cancellation of office hours. I will e-mail you through the D2L account. Therefore, it's your responsibility to check your D2L account and log in to the class regularly.

Course Requirements:

1) Introduction: Due the internet course format, the personal introduction is intended help students to get acquainted with each other. The student's introduction should include information that the student is willing to share about him or herself, for example, hometown, major, classification, your goal or objective of life. Photo is encouraged to be included in the introduction. If you have any problem or question, you should contact the computing center. After you introduce yourself in the introduction forum, each of you has a responsibility to post and welcome each other to this online class.

2) Discussion: This is the primary method of communicating ideas with other students and the instructor. All students must participate in discussions about the readings, uploaded materials, websites, and outside materials in a true seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of a discussion forum. Student's participation in the discussions will be graded.

These assignments are on the D2L platform for the course and are given throughout the semester and allow the student to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned material in an open-ended essay format. Postings must be from **250 to 350** words in length and are due by 11:55 on Sunday at the end of the week that they are assigned. Do note that the posting must be provided by midnight of the due date or the student will receive no credit for the submission.

Likewise, students will need to respond to the postings of other students. **Each student should provide at least two other postings to their fellow class members if they expect to gain full credit for the week.**

Students will only have 7 days to respond to the questions or issues presented.

Students will not be allowed to progress ahead of the class schedule with weekly

assignments. Also, there will be no exceptions to the timely completion of the weekly Discussion Board assignments.

Considerations for grades will include but are not limited to the number of initiated discussions, the number of responses, timeliness, appropriateness, contribution value, and accuracy. Students that log on and respond to a question or topic but have clearly not read the assigned material will receive the lowest number of points possible.

Students that log on, participate actively, and have clearly read the material may receive the highest grade possible. Average work will receive the median point value.

3) Examinations: There will be 2 exams, which will be composed of 50 multiple choice or true/false questions. Each exam will be conducted online. Each student has to take and finish within the timeline requirement. **Due to the flexibility regarding the time to take the exams, make up exams will not be allowed.** Mid-term grades will be posted on-line for students to view via Arrow. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance.

4) Deviance Autobiography: Write your deviance autobiography. Describe a past or present involvement in a deviant behavior. Using the readings explain why your life unfolded the way it has. If you have always lived in the straight and narrow life, then use class readings to explain why you did not get involved in various deviant behaviors. Consider the following questions: why did you engage in these behaviors? Why do you continue to do these behaviors? Why did you change from some types of deviant behaviors to others? Why did you stop? Did this involvement in deviance develop into a deviant career? The paper should be 4-5 pages in length.

5) Book report: there will be a required book report. It is not simply a summary of the book; however, it will be an in-depth critical analysis of the selected book. You need to be specific, such as, start with an introduction, do a chapter by chapter description, then look for running themes/topics. Include a discussion of the contribution this book has made to the criminal justice literature as well as bring criminological, sociological, psychological, and deviant theories to support or against your discussion. The length of your book report should be between 8-10 pages (double spaces), a font of 12 and include pagination. The report must follow the APA guideline. You have to submit a book report by mid-night of the specific due date. You need to pick one of the books on this list:

- Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys, Victor Rios
- Addicted to Incarceration, Travis Pratt
- Killer Fat: Media, Medicine and Morals in the American "Obesity Epidemic," Natalie Boero
- Constructions of Deviance, Patricia and Peter Adler

Course Grade:

Topic	Point
Introduction	10 points
Forum	140 points
Mid-term Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Autobiography	50 points
Book Report	100 points
Total	500 points

Grading:

Grades are figured as follows:

Grade	Percent
A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	0% - 59%

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and unethical practices will be handled according to university policy.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should so inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an

attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!! There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [disability support services website](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University Graduate Catalog

Student Services:

Students who need special services should contact the instructor directly or visit [student support services website](#).

Class policies and Procedures:

Other class policies and procedures follow the [MWSU Student Policy Manual & Organizational Handbook](#).

Tentative Course Schedule due date:

Month	Date	Topic
August	28	Class Starts/ Introduction
September	3	What Is Deviant Behavior?
		Introduction Forum
	10	Positivist Theories
		Constructionist Theories
	17	Physical Violence
	24	Rape and Child Molestation
October	1	Family Violence
		Deviance Autobiography
	8	Suicide
	15	Mental Disorder
		Mid-term Exam
	22	Heterosexual Deviance
	29	Gays and Other Victims of Stigma
November	5	Internet Deviance
	12	Drug Use
	19	Drinking and Alcoholism
		Book Report
December	3	Privileged Deviance
	10	Underprivileged Deviance
		Final Exam

The instructor reserves the right to adjust and change the syllabus and course schedule as needed.