

SOCL 4413 Deviant Behavior

Summer I 2021
PY 100, 12:20-2:20

PROFESSOR: Beverly L. Stiles, Ph.D.

OFFICE: O'Donohoe 124

OFFICE HOURS:

There are no actual office hours during summer sessions, but I am happy to meet with you if you need me.

PHONE: 397-4019

EMAIL: Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu

TEXT: *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction*, 8th edition, by Adler & Adler.

Additional readings that I will provide to you.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

What is deviance? Why do people engage in deviant behavior? Why do some people assume a deviant identity while others do not? How does deviance impact our society? How does deviance influence the behavior of groups and individuals? This class will explore answers to these questions as well as the relationship between deviance and formal systems of social control. The nature and function of deviance will be examined with particular reference to various sociological and theoretical perspectives on deviance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Expose students to a variety of studies of deviant behavior (e.g. criminal behavior, sexual deviance etc.).
- Students should learn that there is often more involved in behavior defined and treated as being "deviant" than is readily apparent.
- Students should learn a variety of perspectives/point of views pertaining to the study of deviance.

- Students should learn the limitations of extrapolating from their own experiences and be able to articulate how the life experience of others may differ.
- Students should be able to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of current sociological theories and research related to deviant behavior.
- To be able to critically evaluate institutional responses to deviance and control.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

You will have the potential to earn 300 points during this semester. That breaks down to what 3 exams would be worth if I were giving exams, but instead the following is the breakdown for how points will be earned:

38 points: attendance

50 points: Batman paper

15 points: Positive Deviance paper

15 points: Chapter Summary

190 points: Quizzes

The above totals 308 points (8 bonus points factored in).

From Tuesday, June 1st through Thursday, July 1st, there are 19 class days. You earn 2 points for each class day that you are present. If you come in late, you do not earn a point. If you leave before I have concluded class, you do not earn a point. There are no exceptions to this. If you miss no class at all, I will add 4 bonus points to be averaged into your points earned at the end of the semester.

BATMAN PAPER: Analysis of Batman films. This is a paper due on July 1st, but I have to see a draft of it on July 28th. If you do not show me a draft on July 28th, you lose 5 points from the possible 50 to be earned.

POSITIVE DEVIANCE PAPER: This paper will consist of a paper using a sociological analysis of "Random Acts of Kindness." This is due June 8th.

CHAPTER SUMMARY/reaction paper: You will choose a reading from your COD book to summarize, that we did not cover in class. I want your reaction to it also and tell me why you chose this reading as well. This is due by June 16th.

QUIZZES: You will be required to come to class having read the material for the day. I will give random quizzes to total 190 points. Sometimes the quizzes will be worth 10 points, but other times they may be worth as much as 25 or more.

A=270-300

B=240-269

C=210-239

D=180-209

F=Below 180

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

June 1: Introductions: Deviant Behavior vs. Criminality

June 2: Positivist/Constructionist theories of Deviance:

“What is Deviant Behavior?” by Thio 2019, pages 2-14 (handout)

“Defining Deviance in COD, pages 11-23.

Unconventional Beliefs (you do not have to read anything for this)

June 3: Positive Deviance:

“Applying an Integrated Typology of Deviance Middle-Class Norms: by Heckert and Heckert in COD pages 25-38.

June 7: Constructionism:

“The Three Perspectives” in COD pages 40-50 (this is only 2 of them).

“Theory: The Social Reality of Crime and Chambliss,” pages 386-390 (handout).

June 8: Stigma Management:

“Contesting Stigma in Sport: The Case of Men Who Cheer” in COD pages 335-347.

Speaker: Dr. Leland Turner, who was a male cheerleader.

Positive Deviance paper due today, by the beginning of class (uploaded on D2L).

June 9: Labeling Deviance:

“Homophobia and Women’s Sport” in COD pages 206-216

“Doctors and the Context of Medical Crime and Deviance” in COD pages 243-251.

June 10: Labeling and Deviant Identity:

“Deviant Identity in COD pages 253-262

"The Adoption and Management of a "Fat" Identity", in COD, pages 263-272

June 14: Sexual Diversity/Deviance:

Speaker: Stripper/Dancer, and a former DJ at the strip clubs.

June 15: Sexual Diversity/Deviance:

"Sexual Deviance Theory, Generation Z, and the LGBTQ Community" (handout)

"Artificial Love: The Secret Worlds of iDollators" in COD, pages 477-489

Speaker: Elijah

June 16: Sexual Diversity/Deviance: BDSM

"Psychological characteristics of BDSM practitioners" (handout)

"Psychotherapeutic Issues with Kinky Clients: Clinical Problems, Yours and Theirs" (hand out)

Speaker: BDSM

Chapter Summary due today, by the beginning of class (uploaded on D2L).

June 17: Sexual Diversity/Deviance: Sex Work

"The World of Prostitution" 2019, by Thio pages 221-236 (handout)

"Pimp-Controlled Prostitution" in COD pages 573-583

"Common Five Myths about Sex Work, Debunked by Sex Workers" (online)

Film: film on prostitution.

TEDxJaffa: Why I stopped watching porn, Ran Gavrieli (in class)

June 21: Physical Manifestations of Deviance:

"Revisiting Self-Mutilation and Body Modification" (handout)

"Is the Tattoo Guy Here? Women Tattoo Artists' Experience Working in a Male-Dominated Profession" (handout)

"Why would anyone stick a needle in there? Motivations and Meanings Associated with Genital Piercings" (handout)

Video: Covered (will show in class)

Speaker: Tattoo artist

June 22: "I'll cover Crime Theories (to help with your Batman paper)

June 23: Deviance, Crime, and Law (and Batman the films)

Film: One of the Batman films in class, but you may watch others as well.

June 24: Physical Manifestations of Deviance Continued:

“Typologies of teenage Suicide: analyzing Suicide Notes through Durkheimian Categories” by Thio pages 155-165 (handout)

“Suicide, Stigma, and Responsibility” by Curra, pages 217-222 (handout)

June 28: Elite Deviance

“Clergy Misconduct as Elite Deviance by Ansom Shupe (handout)

June 29: Accounts:

“The Devil Made Me Do it: Use of Neutralizations by Shoplifters” in COD pages 325-333.

Presentation of recent research on college cheating and the use of neutralization, here at MSU.

June 30: No class

July 1: Batman Paper Due: You can email your paper to me prior to 12:20 or you can bring it to class.

Papers:

There are 3 small papers due. I will provide further details to you in class.