

SOCL 4413 Deviant Behavior

Fall 2024

PY 100, 12:30-1:50

PROFESSOR: Beverly L. Stiles, Ph.D.

OFFICE: O'Donohoe 124

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. 10:00-12:00

Tues. 9:00-9:30

Wed. 10:00-12:00

Thurs. 9:00-9:30

Fri. By Appointment

PHONE: 397-4019

EMAIL: Beverly.stiles@msutexas.edu

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

Additional D2L readings

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:

50 points: attendance

50 points: Batman paper

15 points: Positive Deviance paper.

15 points: Chapter Summary

280 points: Quizzes

The above totals 410 points (10 bonus points factored in).

From Tuesday, Aug. 27 through Dec. 3rd, there are 26 class days. I’m counting 25 of those days for you to earn attendance points (assuming that crap happens to everyone so you may miss a day). You earn 2 points for each class day that you are present (maximum of 50, not 52). 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 Dec. 12th, but I have to see a draft by Dec. 6th. If you do not show me a draft on Dec. 6th, you lose 5 points from the possible 50 to be earned. You will use only class references for this paper.

POSITIVE DEVIANCE PAPER: This paper will consist of a paper using a sociological analysis of “Random Acts of Kindness.” This is due Oct. 31st.

CHAPTER SUMMARY/reaction paper: You will choose a reading to summarize, from you COD book, that we did not cover in class. I want your reaction to it also and tell me why you chose this reading. This is due by Nov. 26th.

QUIZZES: You will be required to come to class having read the material for the day. I will give random quizzes to total 280 points. Sometimes the quizzes will be worth 10 points, but other times they may be worth as much as 25 or more. There are no make-up quizzes.

A=360-400

B=320-359

C=280-319

D=240-279

F=Below 240

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Aug. 27: Introductions: Deviant Behavior vs. Criminality

Aug. 29: Positivist/Constructionist theories of Deviance:

“What is Deviant Behavior?” by Thio 2019, pages 2-14 (D2L)

“Defining Deviance in COD, pages 11-23.

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

Sept. 3&5: The Diversity of Deviance (D2L)

Sept. 10: Positive Deviance:

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

Sept. 12: “Heretics: Women in Good Trouble.” (D2L)

Sept. 17: Constructionism:

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

Sept. 19: Marxist & Conflict Theories of Deviance, pages 186-206 (D2L)

Sept. 24 & 26: Stigma Management:

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

"Bothersome Bowels and Fetid Flatulence: Managing Stigmatizing Gastrointestinal Symptoms of Celiac Diseases." By Conyers and Calhoun, Pages 354-374.

Oct. 1st: 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.

Oct. 3rd: Labeling and Deviant Identity:

"Deviant Identity in COD pages 253-262

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

Summary of Fat Identity paper due today, uploaded on D2L before class at noon. This counts as 10 quiz points.

Oct. 8th: Sexual Diversity/Deviance:

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

Oct. 10th: Sexual Diversity/Deviance:

"Sexual Deviance Theory, Generation Z, and the LGBTQ Community" (D2L)

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

Oct. 15th: Sexual Diversity/Deviance: BDSM

"Psychological characteristics of BDSM practitioners" (D2L)

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

Oct. 17th: **Speaker:** BDSM

Chapter Summary due today, before class (12:00, uploaded on D2L).

Oct. 22nd: Sexual Diversity/Deviance: Sex Work

"The World of Prostitution" 2019, by Thio pages 221-236 (D2L)

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

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

This is a very short reading:

[Common Myths about Sex work](#)

Oct. 24th: Film: film on prostitution (in class).

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

NO CLASS ON OCT 29TH AND 31ST. However, you will have two short assignments due.

--One small paper assignment over the prostitution film from Oct. 24th. This will be due on Oct. 29th (by 11:00 PM, on D2L). This will count as quiz points.

--The second paper will be your **Positive Deviance Paper** due on Oct. 31st (by 11:00 PM, on D2L).

Nov. 5th: Physical Manifestations of Deviance:

"Revisiting Self-Mutilation and Body Modification" (D2L)

"Is the Tattoo Guy Here? Women Tattoo Artists' Experience Working in a Male-Dominated Profession" (D2L)

"Why would anyone stick a needle in there? Motivations and Meanings Associated with Genital Piercings" (D2L)

Video: Covered (will show in class)

Nov. 7th: **Speaker**: Tattoo artist

Nov 12th: Physical Manifestations of Deviance Continued:

"Typologies of teenage Suicide: analyzing Suicide Notes through Durkheimian Categories" by Thio pages 155-165 (D2L)

"Suicide, Stigma, and Responsibility" by Curra, pages 217-222 (D2L)

Nov. 14th: Elite Deviance

"Clergy Misconduct as Elite Deviance by Ansom Shupe (D2L)

Nov. 19th: Accounts:

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

"Force or Appeal to Loved Ones: Examining Sykes and Matzas (1957) Techniques of Neutralization on Female Serial Killers." Conyers and Calhoun, Pages 89-100.

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

Nov. 21st: Film

Nov. 26th: I'll cover Crime Theories (to help with your Batman paper)

--**Chapter Summary**: You must choose a chapter that we are not covering in class and write a thorough summary over it. I also want to know why you selected it. You need to upload this on D2L, by noon (prior to class). This is worth 15 points.

Dec. 3rd: Discuss further Batman Paper Requirements.

Dec. 5th: No class.

FINAL: Your Batman paper is due for your final.

This is due Thurs., Dec. 12th by 3:00. Upload on D2L