

SYLLABUS  
SOCL 4413 Deviant Behavior  
Fall 2019  
Online

It is easily observable that different groups judge different things to be deviant. This should alert us to the possibility that the person making the judgment of deviance, the process by which that judgment is arrived at, and the situation in which it is made may all be intimately involved in the phenomenon of deviance. To the degree that the common-sense view of deviance and the scientific theories that begin with its premises assume that acts that break rules are inherently deviant and thus take for granted the situations and processes of judgment, they may leave out an important variable—Howard Becker.

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TEXT: Deviant Behavior (12<sup>th</sup> edition). By Alex Thio, Jim Taylor and Martin D. Schwartz. I will mark these as THIO.

I will also upload chapters/readings from another book for you to read. This will be listed as COD (Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction). By Adler and Adler.

There are also a few additional readings marked as **Reading**. These will also be uploaded on D2L

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

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 deviants 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.

- 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 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.

An absence is considered officially excused ONLY if a student:

- Presents a written excuse from a physician, or MSU infirmary
- Presents written evidence of attending a mandatory university function (band, choir, sports, etc.)
- Presents a written excuse from a physician for a dependent child's illness, or
- Has a death in his/her immediate family (need proof)

## EXAMS AND GRADING:

There will be four (4) exams, including the final (the final is not comprehensive). Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

Discussion/Participation Assignments: You will also receive a grade for your weekly Participation at the end of the semester (worth 78 points). This participation will be based on responses to the discussion questions that I post and your response to the postings of your classmates as well. In addition, you must read at least four-fifths of your classmates postings each week. This includes not just their initial posting, but their responses as well. The D2L system does keep track of everything you do, so I can easily keep track of this. I will post one to four questions for each week of readings. I want you to respond to them with actual dialogue here rather than simply responding by saying "I Agree" or "I disagree." You need to respond with actual knowledge and reference to your reading Materials, or you will not receive credit. I want to see some thoughts put into your responses. Sometimes I do ask for your experiences, but I still want you to relate it to the reading material. Please also remember to be civil. In posting, you are to post YOUR response to the questions by Friday evening at 11:00 PM. This gives everyone the weekend (through Sunday night at 11:00 PM) to respond to the postings of at least THREE other students postings. This is required. Also, once the week is over, you will not get any credit for going back and posting late. This does not do your fellow classmates any good at all. Please know that it is unfair for you to not post your initial posting by Friday at 11:00 pm because if you post your initial posting late, that does not give others the opportunity to respond to your posting. I will not give you credit if you post it late therefore. Remember that your participation grade is based on your reading the postings of other students too, but also the quality of your postings.

### Grading for Participation:

The weekly discussion are graded according to the following:

Plus 2 for posting your initial posting by Friday at 11 pm and for respond to the postings of your classmates by Sunday at 11 pm.

Plus 2 for reading at least 4/5 (four-fifths) of the postings of your classmates by Sunday at 11 pm.

Plus 2 for posting such that it is evident that you are drawing from material that you have read for the current week (quality). If you fail to post the required postings, you can't expect to get points for quality either.

I will drop students who miss 2 weeks worth of postings throughout the semester. You will be dropped with an F. Therefore, if you see that you will be missing two weeks worth of postings, I think it best if you drop yourself so that you may do so with a "W"

EXAMS AND PARTICIPATION	GRADING/POINTS
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Exam 4	100 points
Participation grade	78 points
One paper due (see below)	22 points. Participation and paper = same value as an exam grade
Total	500 points

To average your grade, add up points and divide by 5.  
 Grades will be determined by the following scale:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

**PAPER:**

You will have one paper assignment to turn in (date will be listed on the link for turning them in). It is worth 22 points. (date due is \*by\* Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 pm).

1. You will choose a current event and analyze it sociologically, using as many concepts from your text topics as are relevant to explaining the phenomenon sociologically and thoroughly (expect to at least write 2-3 pages, but possibly more depending on how in-depth an article you choose as well as how thorough you are. I do want you to be thorough (probably at least 10 text concepts/references, but more may be needed). I will look to see that you have also applied one of the theories to the event and your analysis. You will not get credit for this assignment if you do not provide page #s from the text (THIO chapters and other readings that are relevant) for the concepts and theory you use.

The problem that most students have with a simple paper like this is that they do not know how to “analyze” or reference. They sometimes do not do a “thorough” job either. If you do not know how to turn in a thoroughly referenced paper, or how to analyze, please stop by my office to look at examples from other class, that is, if you are local. If you are not local, please just call me and I am happy to discuss this with you over the phone. Also, when I say “current event,” I mean that it needs to be no older than one year (so no older than Dec. of 2018). I am doing to this cut down on cheating.

**THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Office of Disability Accommodation. The telephone number is 397-4618.

EXAMS			
<b>EXAM 1</b> Opens Sept 22 at 8:00 am through Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm	Week 1: What is Deviant Behavior? <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 1. Pg.3-16.	Week 2: Positivist Theories of Deviant Behavior. <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 2. Positivist Theories	Week. 3: <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 3. Constructionist Theories.  <b>COD:</b> Homophobia and Women's sport, pgs. 206
<b>EXAM 2</b> Opens Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am through Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm	Week 4: Physical Violence. <b>THIO:</b> chapter 4	Week 5: Sex Assault and Child Molestation. <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 5 <b>COD:</b> Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive. Pg 309-324. <b>COD:</b> Sexual Assault on Campus. 519.	Week 6: Suicide <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 7  <b>Reading:</b> The Desire for Death, <b>Reading:</b> Self-Injurers: A "Lonely Crowd"
<b>EXAM 3</b> Opens Nov. 3rd at 8:00 am through Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm.	Week 7: Heterosexual Deviance <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 9 <b>COD:</b> Selling Excitement: Gender Roles at the Male strip Show (pg 504)  <b>Reading:</b> Exotic Dancers: "Where am I Going to Stop, pg. 203-206	Week 8: Gays and Other Targets of Stigma <b>THIO:</b> Chap. 10. <b>COD:</b> Moral Stigma Management Among the Transabled (pg 348) <b>COD:</b> The Adoption and Management of a "Fat" Identity, pg. 263	Week 9: Mental Disorder THIO: Chapter 8
<b>EXAM 4 (Final).</b> <b>Opens Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 pm</b>	Week 10: Drug Use <b>THIO:</b> Chap. 12 <b>COD:</b> Shifts and Oscillations in the Careers of Drug Traffickers, pg. 585  <b>Reading:</b> OxyContin: A Prescription for Disaster,	Week 11: Drinking and Alcoholism <b>THIO:</b> Chap. 13  <b>Reading:</b> Binge Drinking on College Campuses <b>Reading:</b> Hey, Don't Blame Me..Blame the Booze	Week 12: Privileged Deviance. <b>THIO:</b> Chap 14. <b>COD:</b> Doctors and the Context of Medical Crime and Deviance, pg 243.
	Week 13: Internet Deviance: <b>THIO:</b> Chapter 11.		