

Sociology of deviant behavior

01:920:304:05

Monday and Thursday 3:55-5:15 pm

CDL 102

Douglass Campus

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In this course, we will deeply examine sociological studies on deviant behavior. The distinctive feature of sociological analysis is that it does not presume that deviant behavior is a manifestation of turbulence in an individual's 'inner world.' Rather, it examines how disturbances in the relationship between the outer world (social structure and culture) and our 'self' prompt some of us to undertake certain kinds of actions which can be perceived by others as deviant behavior. By shifting our attention towards the external world, sociological analysis helps us comprehend deviant behavior as a result of interactions between individuals and their social context rather than defects in individuals' psychological makeup.

Reading Material

Neal Shrover. Great Pretenders: Pursuits and Careers of Persistent Thieves

Claire Sterk. Fast Lives: Women Who Use Crack Cocaine

William Chambliss. Power, Politics, and Crime

Jack Katz. Seductions of Crime

Some readings are on the E-reserve of the Alexander library.

Exams and Grading Scale

1. Five Quizzes 10 Points Each
50 Points
2. Class Attendance
10 points
3. Final Take Home Exam
40 Points

Grading Scale

A = 90 – 100 Points

B+ = 88-89

B = 80 – 87

C+ = 78-79

C = 60 – 77

D = 50 – 59

F = < 50 Points

Part 1: Fundamentals

January 21

Deviant Behavior as a Field of Sociological Study

January 26

Durkheim “Anomie” Sakai

January 28

Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie" Sakai

February 2

Hirschi, "A Control Theory of Delinquency" 257-264 Sakai

February 4

Sutherland and Cressey, "The Theory of Differential Association" Sakai

Part 2: The Great Pretenders

February 9

Pathways of Persistent Thieves, p. 1-29

Quiz 1

February 11

Origins, Options, and Preparation, p. 29-49

February 16

Changing Criminal Opportunities and the Unskilled, p. 49-77

February 18

Conclusion

Part 3: Seductions of Crime

February 23

Introduction, p. 3-12

Seductions and Repulsions of Crime, p. 310-325

Quiz 2

February 25

Righteous Slaughter, p. 12-52

March 1

Primordial Evil, p. 274-310

March 3

Conclusion

Part 4: Women Addicted to Crack Cocaine

March 8

Introduction, p. 1-31

Quiz 3

March 10

Getting into Drugs, p. 30-47

March 15

Spring Break

March 17

Spring Break

March 22

Patterns of Income Generation and Drug Use, p. 47-78

March 24

Significant Others, p. 78-99

March 29

Documentary: Crackhouse

March 31

Conclusion on FAST Lives: Past Experiences, Future Aspirations and Policies

Part 5: Power, Politics and Crime

April 5

Introduction: Misperception of Crime, p. 1-13

Quiz 4

April 7

The Politics of Fear, p. 13-32

April 12

Marketing Crime, p. 32-67

April 14

Documentary: Fahrenheit 9/11

April 19

Discussion Fahrenheit 9/11

April 21

Conclusion on Power Politics and Crime:

Final Take Home Exam Question Announcement

April 26

Review for the Final Exam

April 28

Quiz 5+Make up quizzes

Last Class