

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

01:920:304:05

MON, THU: 8:40-10:00 AM

SPRING 2014

BECK HALL 253, LIVINGSTON CAMPUS

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Vikash Singh

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Office Hours: Thu 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm; and by appointment

Course Website: <http://sakai.rutgers.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How is the characterization of “deviants” related to issues of power and divisions in the society? The title and history of courses such as this is itself an excellent indicator. Historically, the subject matter of courses in deviance and social control has usually been the low life – individuals in crime, drugs, sexually non-conforming. Sociologists used various kinds of explanations at levels micro and macro, individual and organizational to explain why such people did not, or could not, follow “normal” trajectories of social integration. Over time, however, it has become more and more clear that “deviance,” or behavior violative of social norms, is perhaps as much a characteristic of powerful corporations, social and political elites, and state institutions. While with marginalized social deviants, it is the concerned individual that usually most suffers the consequences, in the latter cases, other social groups often must pay the cost. Moreover, as we will see, the characterization and systematic construction of marginal social actors as deviants, may be specifically a product of the deviance of powerful social and political institutions, and business elites. As Bob Dylan put it, *“Steal a little and they ‘ll throw you in jail. Steal a lot and they ‘ll make you king!”*

To arrive at a portraiture more balanced, in this course, we will first consider the development of the social theory of deviance and then explore the issue of elite deviance and the form and magnitude of its impacts on various social groups. We will also look at a number of cases of deviance, and at critical ethnographies that provide us a more sound understanding of the social/political conditions in which deviance is produced, interpreted, and controlled. The course

will have a critical slant throughout and, we will maintain vigil on issues of race, gender, and class, three primary axes of structural oppression that constitute both the society and its deviants.

E-mails: *At the very start of the course, you should find a classmate who will be your first source to contact for relevant information you may have missed.* Failing that, please direct your questions/concerns to the chat page. I will try to login to the chat page every week or so. Please use e-mails to me only as a last resort, for generic information. Of course, for questions that concern you in particular, you are welcome to write to me, or better, drop in during office hours. I would not want to delete your e-mails by accident so please write “Sociology of Deviant Behavior Class” in the subject line and make sure to include your name somewhere in the email.

Required Texts: The textbook for the course is “Readings in Deviant Behavior” by (eds.) Alex Thio, Thomas Calhoun, and Addrain Conyers, 6th edition. The book is available in the Barnes and Noble bookstore on campus. Cheaper versions may be available online. All other readings will be available on the course website (<http://sakai.rutgers.edu>). If you do not have access to SAKAI, please see me immediately.

GRADING:

Here is a breakdown of the grading for this course.

Attendance	10%
Blog participation	15%
Classroom activities	5%
Mid-Term Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

Exams: The two exams will be based both on readings and extra material that may be discussed in class. In most cases, I will post power-point slides on SAKAI; however, please make a habit of keeping notes. The exams will likely be a mix of multiple choice and open-ended questions.

Attendance: Attendance in class is required. I will not take attendance the first two classes. Of the remaining, you will not be penalized for missing two classes. For every extra class you miss thereafter without valid and sufficient reason, you will lose 0.5% of your overall course grade. If you are more than 15 minutes late for the class, or leave early you will not get attendance credits for the day. If you have to miss class for a medical or family emergency, you should send me an email with your full name and “Sociology 101: 26,” in your text or title, within a week of the event.

Blog Participation: The SAKAI page has a blog. Every week, you are supposed to enter four informed questions or comments in the blog. Your online blog participation will account for 15% of the overall grade. Your comments/questions will be graded on their originality, details, and timing. Posts before the relevant class meetings will get higher credits as long as they demonstrate

a close reading of and engagement with the material. PLEASE THINK AND EDIT BEFORE/WHILE YOU WRITE. Ill considered, trivial questions will not get any credit.

Classroom Activities: Once in a while, we will have some classroom activities –including discussions on movies, some role playing etc. Your performance and sincerity on these occasions will make for 5% of the grade.

Participation: Students who actively, and in an informed manner, participate in class may get up to 5 bonus points, varying on their participation. This is meant to reward and encourage constructive participation, which facilitates exchange of ideas, and helps construct a good, interactive learning atmosphere.

Computers in the classroom: *No open computers in the classroom once the class begins.* I understand it can be an inconvenience for some of you who like to take notes etc. on your laptops. But please consider from the instructor's perspective. It can be a massive distraction for the lecturer, and it is hard to differentiate sincere use from casual entertainment –moreover, the tendency to web surf is next to irrepressible. *If you want to be excepted, you must take prior permission.* In no case will internet use be permitted.

Classroom atmosphere:

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. Students and instructors have to act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Courteous expression of intellectual disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, encouraged. *Distractive behavior such as cell phone use, internet surfing, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning without permission etc. is not acceptable.*

The University Code of Student Conduct allows the instructor to direct any student engaging in disruptive behavior to leave class for the remainder of the class period. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is at <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/files/documents/UCSCJuly2011.pdf>

Students with disabilities: If you need disability based accommodations for exams or other course requirements, please bring an “accommodation letter” from the Office of Disability Services. The Office arranges for special exams and proctors. If you need any other accommodation, please talk to me individually. The Office is at:

Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus
54 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Suite A145
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8045

Academic integrity:

The course will be conducted in full compliance of the university's policy on academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) quoting or paraphrasing without acknowledging the source, submitting the same work, or major portions of work, for more than one course without the permission of the instructor, presenting other's work as one's own and so forth. Any incidences of such violations will be seriously treated and reported to judicial affairs. The university's academic integrity policy may be found at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are expected to come prepared for class, having studied all material AHEAD OF the class meetings.

Final Percentage	Course Grade
90% – 100%	A
85% – 89%	B+
80% – 84%	B
75% – 79%	C+
70% – 74%	C
60% – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

The following schedule of readings/topics is a guideline for the course. There may be significant changes to the module. I will provide you -online-- with an updated syllabus in the event of major changes to the course structure!

COURSE SCHEDULE:

BACKGROUND AND THEORIES

Jan 23: Introduction to course, review syllabus

Jan 27th : Understanding deviance

"Images of Deviance," Stephen Pfohl, Textbook, pp. 11-14

"Violence is on the rise in the United States -no one is safe" Ruane and Cerulo, pp. 139-48.

"Honesty is the Best Policy," Ruane and Cerulo, pp. 173-80.

Jan 30th : Functionalism, Anomie & Strain Theory

"Functions of Crime," Durkheim

"Strain Theory," Merton, textbook, pp. 21-26.

Feb 3rd : Differential association and control theory

Differential Association Theory, Sutherland and Cressey, textbook, pp. 27-29

Control theory, Hirschi, pp. 30-32

Shaming Theory, Braithwaite, textbook, 33-36

Feb 6th : Experimenting Deviance

Quiet Rage: The Stanford Prison Experiment

Feb 10th : Labeling Theory

"Labeling Theory," Becker. SAKAI

"Outsiders," Becker. SAKAI.

Feb 13th : More Theory...

"Notes on the Sociology of Deviance" Erickson. SAKAI

"Critical Theory" Textbook

"Feminist theory" Textbook

SOME CASES OF DEVIANCE

Feb 17th: Physical /intimate Violence

"What triggers school shootings" Kimmel and Mahler, pp. 76-82, Textbook

"How child molesters explain their deviance," pp. 108-114, Textbook.

Remorse: The 14 Stories of Eric Morse <http://soundportraits.org/on-air/remorse/transcript.php>

Feb 20th: Victims of Stigma

"The stigma of obesity," Textbook, 161-7.

"You are not a retard, you're just wise," Textbook, 173-80.

Feb 24th: *Sex and drugs*

"The globalization of sex tourism," Textbook, pp. 193-202

"Everyone knows who the sluts are," Textbook, pp. 207-10.

"Damn, it feels good to be a Gangsta: selling drugs on campus," Textbook, pp. 229-36.

Feb 27th : *The Seductions of Crime*

"Doing stick ups", Jack Katz, on SAKAI

"Persisting with stick ups", Jack Katz, on SAKAI

SOCIAL CONTROL OF DEVIANCE

March 3rd : *Morality and Deviance*

The Crucible – French movie, adapted by Jean Paul Sartre.

March 6th : *Morality Medicalization*

"The Puritans of Massachusetts Bay" Erikson

"Medicalization of deviance," Conrad and Schneider, SAKAI.

March 10th : *Review*

MARCH 13TH: MID TERM EXAM

POLITICS AND CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL CONTROL AND MARKING

March 25th: *Elite Deviance*

Documentary –Inside Job

March 27th: *Elite Deviance*

"The nature of elite deviance." SAKAI

"Crime, criminology, and Human rights: Towards an understanding of state criminality," Greg Barrak, SAKAI.

April 1stth: *Policing Deviance*

Tulia, Texas --Documentary

"Zero Tolerance: A case study of police practices", SAKAI

April 3rd : *The politics of policies*

"Some reflections on the origins and implications of mass imprisonment in the United States", Ismaeli. SAKAI

"Deadly symbiosis: When ghetto and prison meet and mesh," Wacquant. SAKAI

April 8th : *Consequences of "Marking" -I*

Bledsoe article "Back to Africa...", SAKAI

April 10th : Consequences of "Marking"-II

"Hurricane Katrina: The Making of Unworthy Disaster Victims," Garfield, G., SAKAI.

STRUCTURAL ETHNOGRAPHIES AND THEORIES OF DEVIANCE

April 15th: Cultures of Deviance

"Gang appearance and dress codes", Katz and Garot, SAKAI.

April 17th : Resistance of Deviance

"Stealing a bag of potato chips.", Victor Rios, SAKAI.

"Vulnerable Fathers," in Selling Crack in El Barrio, Philippe Bourgois. SAKAI.

April 22nd: Justice and Injustice

"Justice and Injustice" in Our Guys, Lefkowitz, SAKAI

April 24th: Global Neo-liberalism and Deviance

"Blurring the binary vision" -Jock Young, SAKAI.

April 29th : More Accounts

TBD

May 1st: Review

FINAL EXAM

TBD