

SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

920:304:06

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:40-9:00 pm

Murray 211

CAC

Instructor: Sourabh Singh

Email: ssingh@sociology.rutgers.edu

Office: 016 Davison Hall, Cook Campus

Office Hours: TBA

From hilarious *Jackass* television show to heinous acts of terrorism, stories about deviant behavior have become a staple of popular media and daily news coverage. These extraordinary acts sometimes make us wonder why some individuals are so keen on using a shopping cart for jumping from a roof or using lethal weapons for mercilessly killing innocent members of a society. Is it because they are mentally ill?

In this course, we will tap our curiosity about deviant individuals to 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' prompts some of us to undertake certain kinds of actions which can be perceived by others as deviant acts. By shifting our attention towards the external world, sociological analysis helps us comprehend deviant acts as a result of interactions between individuals and their social context rather than defects in individuals' psychological makeup.

Course Sakai Website

We use a Sakai website for our course that will contain readings, lesson slides, assignments, grades, etc. You must use Sakai to complete the course. Go to <http://sakai.rutgers.edu> and log in using your Rutgers NetID and password. Then click the tab for our course site, "Sociology of Deviant Behavior." I will also send important emails to the class. Check for these emails frequently and, if you prefer a different email account, forward your Rutgers registered email address. **You are responsible for reading all email announcements.**

Reading Material

All books are available at the Barnes & Nobel.

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 available on Sakai.

Classroom Policies

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted. If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student 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 can be read at: <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/judaff/ucsc.shtml>.

Exams and Grading Scale

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

Question Announcement: April 29
Exam Submission: May 14

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

Thursday: January 23
Crime and Deviance as a Field of Sociological Study

Tuesday: January 28
Durkheim "Anomie" Sakai

Thursday: January 30
Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie" Sakai

Tuesday: February 4
Hirschi, "A Control Theory of Delinquency" 257-264 Sakai

Thursday: February 6
Sutherland and Cressey, "The Theory of Differential Association" Sakai

Quiz 1

Part 2: The Great Pretenders

Tuesday: February 11
Pathways of Persistent Thieves, p. 1-29

Thursday: February 13
Origins, Options, and Preparation, p. 29-49

Tuesday: February 18
Changing Criminal Opportunities and the Unskilled, p. 49-77

Thursday: February 20
Conclusion

Quiz 2

Part 3: Seductions of Crime

Tuesday: February 25
Introduction, p. 3-12
Seductions and Repulsions of Crime, p. 310-325

Thursday: February 27
Righteous Slaughter, p. 12-52

Tuesday: March 4
Primordial Evil, p. 274-310

Thursday: March 6

Conclusion

Quiz 3

Part 4: Women Addicted to Crack Cocaine

Tuesday: March 11

Introduction, p. 1-31

Thursday: March 13

Getting into Drugs, p. 30-47

Tuesday: March 18

Spring Break

Thursday: March 20

Spring Break

Tuesday: March 25

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

Thursday: March 27

Significant Others, p. 78-99

Tuesday: April 1

Documentary: Hooked

Thursday: April 3

Discussion on Hooked

Tuesday: April 8

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

Quiz 4

Part 5: Power, Politics and Crime

Thursday: April 10

Introduction: Misperception of Crime, p. 1-13

Tuesday: April 15

The Politics of Fear, p. 13-32

Thursday: April 17

Marketing Crime, p. 32-67

Tuesday: April 22

Documentary: Fahrenheit 9/11

Thursday: April 24

Conclusion on Power Politics and Crime: Discussion Fahrenheit 9/11

Tuesday: April 29

Quiz 5

Final Take Home Exam Question Announcement

Thursday: May 1

Review for the Final Exam