

# Sociology of Deviant Behavior

Spring 2016

01:920:304:01

Monday and Wednesday 5:00-6:20 p.m.

Tillett Hall, Room 116

**Instructor:** Katie Thurman

**Office:** 048 Davison Hall, Douglass Campus

**E-Mail:** [kthurman@sociology.rutgers.edu](mailto:kthurman@sociology.rutgers.edu)

**Office Hours:** Monday 6:20-7:20 p.m. in the Livingston Student Center or by appointment (NOTE: Please send me an email if you plan to come to my office hours.)

## Required Course Materials:

The textbook below is required for the course. It is available at Barnes and Noble and online (e.g., Amazon.com, half.com). If you have not done so already, please buy/rent a copy *as soon as possible*. I do not have extra copies of the book.

*Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective* by Michelle Inderbitzin, Kristin Bates, and Randy Gainey (2013). SAGE Publishers. ISBN: 9781412973779

**Prerequisites:** The prerequisite for this course is: *Introduction to Sociology (01:920:101)*. *Please come talk to me if you have not completed this prerequisite.*

**Course Description:** This course will review sociological approaches to the study of deviance and social control. We will examine various theories and types of deviance in society, paying particular attention to how deviance is defined and who defines it. We will also discuss issues regarding the scientific study of deviance and societal responses to deviance.

Overall, the goals of this course are: 1. to provide you an overview of key theories, concepts, and research methods in the sociology of deviance and 2. to cultivate your critical thinking skills by learning to evaluate theories of deviance and apply them to the world.

**Sakai Site:** PowerPoints and study guides will be available on the course Sakai site, in the Resources tab (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>). Also, I will use the Sakai site to email announcements, so be sure to check your official Rutgers email.

**Class Meetings:** The class covers readings from the textbook, along with material that is not from your reading. Classes will consist of lectures, clips/films, and some in-class discussions.

*Etiquette.* Please turn off and put away your cell phone before class begins. Please do not talk, text, email, or surf the web during class.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged for this course, as it will enhance your performance on exams. The PowerPoint slides online are meant to serve as a guide for lectures and readings. I have intentionally left information off the slides so that you can add in the information during lecture and while you read. In the past, students have found it very useful to attend lecture for this purpose.

If you must miss class or arrive late, **please get the lecture notes from a classmate. I cannot provide the completed PowerPoint slides via email or Sakai.** Also, if we watch a clip or movie in class and you miss the clip or movie, it is your responsibility to find the clip or movie, if possible, and/or get the notes from a classmate.

*Please note: At my discretion, consistent absences, late arrivals, and/or early departures from class, regardless of the reason, may be reflected in your final grade.* Students are expected to attend all classes. If you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

**Course Evaluation and Grading:** Evaluation of your mastery of the course material will be based on three, non-cumulative, 50-60 question multiple-choice exams. Exams may include short answer questions. Please show up to exams on time; if you are more than 20 minutes late to an exam, *you will not be able to take the exam.* You must take all 3 exams to pass the course. Please note: there are no additional grades in the course; your grade is only based on your performance on the three exams.

There will be study guides and in-class reviews for each exam. Review sessions will consist of students asking questions. I will have no prepared material for the review sessions, so please come to the reviews with questions. Please note: I am happy to answer questions via email, but it is inappropriate to copy and paste multiple questions from the study guide and request that I provide the answer(s). If you have a question about the study guide, please be specific and include your attempted answer. Also, if we watch a clip/film, I cannot summarize the entire clip/film as review for the exam. I may not be able to respond to last-minute questions about the exam, so please email me with questions as early as possible.

**Grading:** Your grade will be calculated by dividing the total number of points you earned in the course by the total number of possible points in the course. The following guidelines will be used to assign letter grades:

A = 90-100%

B+ = 87-89.9%

B = 80-86.9%

C+ = 77-79.9%

C = 70-76.9%

D = 60-69.9%

F = 0-59.9%

**Make ups:** There will be **no make-up exams** unless you contact me at least **one week prior to the exam** with what I consider a valid excuse (e.g., an exam conflict) for why you cannot make the exam date/time. In these cases, you will take the exam during the Sociology Department's make up exam date that is closest to the exam you miss. Make-up exams may consist of long essays and may be cumulative. Make up exams may not be curved, even if the regular exam is curved. *Check your exam schedule as soon as possible for potential conflicts.*

I have sole discretion regarding what constitutes a valid excuse. If you contact me about missing an exam less than a week before the exam, including on the day of the exam, you will not be able to make up the exam. This policy includes missing an exam for unexpected reasons (e.g., a sinus infection, hives, car problems). **PLEASE PLAN TO TAKE THE EXAMS ON THE DATES INDICATED ON THE SYLLABUS.**

Except under what I consider valid and extraordinary circumstances and with a Dean's note, *a student who is not present at the scheduled time for an exam will receive no credit for the exam.* Again, if you must miss an exam for a legitimate reason, contact me as soon as possible, but no less than one week before the scheduled exam. If you miss an exam and do not make it up before the next exam is over, you will receive a 0 on the missed exam. For example, if you miss exam 1 and do not make it up before exam 2 is over, you will receive a 0 on exam 1 and fail the course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If you are experiencing or anticipate experiencing semester-long issues that interfere with your ability to take exams, you must let me know as soon as possible. I cannot accommodate these types of issues at the end of the semester or once exams are over. I submit final grades within 24-48 hours of the final exam. Once final grades have been submitted, I cannot change them.

NOTE: There will be **no extra credit** available during or after the semester. I will not negotiate grades (including D and F grades) or change exam/course grades during or after the semester.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with documentation of disability-related needs from the Office of Disability Services must present documentation by the end of the second week of classes. Disability-related needs often require me to make arrangements far in advance of exams, so I need to receive documentation as soon as possible. As long I receive what I consider timely notification, I am more than willing to accommodate disability-related needs. Please note that all course policies remain in effect for students with documented disabilities.

**Class Policies:** *From the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy:* "As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. This academic integrity policy is designed to guide students as they prepare assignments, take examinations, and perform the work necessary to complete their degree requirements.

The principles of academic integrity require that a student [note: this only includes two of the six principles]

- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress."

It is up to each student to read and understand the Rutgers academic integrity policy. Please go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/> for more information and resources.

## Tentative Schedule

### Part 1: Introduction to the Study of Deviance and Social Control

- 1/20 Overview of course  
Reading: Course Syllabus
- 1/25 Introduction to Deviance  
Reading: Chapter 1
- 1/27 The Diversity of Deviance  
Reading: Chapter 2 and Reading 7
- 2/1 Researching Deviance  
Reading: Chapter 3
- 2/3 Researching Deviance (cont.)  
Reading: Reading 9

### Part 2: Traditional Approaches to Studying Deviance

- 2/8 Anomie/Strain Theory  
Reading: Chapter 4
- 2/10 Anomie/Strain Theory (cont.)  
Reading: Reading 12
- 2/15 Catching Up/Exam Review
- 2/17 **EXAM 1 (CHAPTERS 1-4)**
- 2/22 Social Disorganization Theory  
Reading: Chapter 5
- 2/24 Social Disorganization Theory (cont.)  
Reading: Reading 16
- 2/29 NO CLASS

3/2 Differential Association and Social Learning Theory

Reading: Chapter 6

3/7 Differential Association and Social Learning Theory (cont.)

Reading: Reading 18

3/9 Social Control Theories of Deviance

Reading: Chapter 7

3/14 & 3/16 NO CLASS

3/21 Social Control Theories of Deviance (cont.)

Reading: Reading 21

### **Part 3: Social Constructionist Approaches to Studying Deviance**

3/23 Labeling Theory

Reading: Chapter 8

3/28 Labeling Theory (cont.)

Reading: Reading 24

3/30 Catching Up/Exam Review

4/4 ***EXAM 2 (CHAPTERS 5-8)***

4/6 Marxist/Conflict Theories of Deviance

Reading: Chapter 9

4/11 Marxist/Conflict Theories of Deviance (cont.)

Reading: Reading 29

4/13 Critical Theories of Deviance

Reading: Chapter 10 and Reading 32

4/18 Deviant Careers and Career Deviance

Reading: Chapter 12

## **Part 4: Responses to Deviance**

4/20 Social Control of Deviance

Reading: Chapter 11

4/25 Social Control of Deviance (cont.)

Reading: Reading 33

4/27 Catching Up/Exam Review

5/2 ***EXAM 3 (CHAPTERS 9-12)***