SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

01:920:304:09
Rutgers University, Fall 2012
T/TH 6:10-7:30 pm
Campbell Hall B5 (CAC)

Instructor: Lauren Murphy
Email: lmurphy@sociology.rutgers.edu
Office hours: T/TH 4:30-5:30 or by appt.
Office: Davison Hall Rm. 47 (Douglass)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the concept of "deviance" by looking at the major theories which have been used by social scientists to analyze, understand, and explain deviant behavior. We will first grapple with the question “what is deviance?” Next, we will explore theories which seek to explain how one becomes deviant and navigates a deviant identity. Finally, we will apply these theories to various contemporary forms of deviant behavior and identities, paying particular attention to the role of power in constructing deviance in our society.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


All required readings can be found in this book, unless otherwise noted.

SAKAI WEBSITE

We will use a Sakai website for our course which contains readings, assignment upload links, grades, etc. You must have access to Sakai to participate in the course. To access the class website, 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 use this website to send important emails to the class.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exam #1: 25%
Exam #2: 25%
Exam #3: 25%
Paper Assignment: 20%
Participation: 5%

GRADING POLICY

Rutgers University uses a letter grading system. Your final grade will be assigned in accordance with this system, shown below. There will be no extra credit offered in this course. All grades in this course are final and non-negotiable. Please do not contact me about grade changes. If you are having difficulty with the course, please speak with me about it early on.

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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Violations of academic integrity include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Plagiarism is using
another person’s words and ideas as though they were your own. It is easy to avoid plagiarism: simply put the materials you have taken from someone else’s writing in quotations marks and cite the person’s name and publication in your paper. If you use someone else’s ideas, but do not quote their words directly, you are still required to cite the person’s name and publication. Plagiarism is not restricted to the use of published work; the passing of another student’s work as your own is also plagiarism. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses which can result in your expulsion from the University. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The University’s policy on academic integrity is available at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf.

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 is available at:

http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/university-code-of-student-conduct
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for a documented disability, please contact me during the first week of class. The University Office of Disability Services for Students can be reached at (848) 445-6800 and via their website: http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Thurs. 9/6- Introduction to Deviance

Required readings:
- General Introduction- pp. 1-9
- Part I: Defining Deviance- pp. 11-15

PART II. THEORIES OF DEVIANCE

Tues. 9/11 Defining Deviance

Required readings:
- On the Sociology of Deviance pp. 17-24
- An Integrated Typology pp. 25-40

Thurs. 9/13- Defining Deviance contd.

Required readings:
- Relativism: Labeling Theory pp. 41-45
- The Morality of Deviance pp. 46-50
- Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime pp. 51-56

**Tues. 9/18 & Thurs. 9/20 – Conformity & Social Control**

**Required readings:**
- (Sakai) Chapter 2: Deviant Events and Social Control
- Doctors’ Autonomy and Power pp. 237-245

**Tues. 9/25- Theories of Deviance**

**Required readings:**
- Part II: Theories of Deviance pp. 57-72
- Functionalism: The Normal and The Pathological pp. 73-77

**Thurs. 9/27 - Theories of Deviance contd.**

**Required readings:**
- Social Structure and Anomie pp. 78-84
- Differential Association pp. 85-88
- Control Theory pp. 89-95

**Tues. 10/2- Theories of Deviance contd.**

**Required readings:**
• Feminist Theory pp. 98-104
• The Constructionist Stance pp. 105-108
• Briefly review pp. 41-45 “Relativism: Labeling Theory”

THURS. 10/4- EXAM #1

Tues. 10/9 - Constructing Deviance

Required readings:
• Part IV: Constructing Deviance pp. 149-157
• The Social Construction of Drug Scares pp. 159-169

Thurs. 10/11- Constructing Deviance contd.

Required readings:
• Gender, Race, and Urban Policing pp. 189-199
• Homophobia and Women’s Sport pp. 200-209
• The Saints and The Roughnecks pp. 223-236

Tues. 10/16 - Criminology

Required readings:
• (Sakai) Ch 6: Crimes of Interpersonal Violence pp. 106-141
• Sexual Assault on Campus  pp. 494-511

Thurs. 10/18 - Criminology contd.

Required readings:

• (Sakai) Ch 7: Nonviolent Crime  pp. 142-166

Tues. 10/23 - Criminology contd.

Required readings:

• (Sakai) Ch 8: White-Collar and Corporate Crime  pp. 167-203
• Opportunity Structures for White-Collar Crime  pp. 512-519

Thurs. 10/25 - Stigma and Stigma Management

Required readings:

• (Sakai) Goffman, Erving. *Stigma: Notes on the Management of a Spoiled Identity* (selection)
• Part V: Deviant Identity  pp. 247-256

Tues. 10/30 - Stigma and Stigma Management contd.

Required readings:

• Convicted Rapists’ Vocabulary of Motive pp. 291-307
• The Devil Made me Do it  pp. 308-316
Thurs. 11/1- Stigma and Stigma Management contd.

Required readings:

- Men Who Cheer pp. 317-328
- Fitting In and Fighting Back pp. 345-360
- Collective Stigma Management and Shame p. 361-379

TUES. 11/6- EXAM #2

PART III. DEVIANCE IN SOCIAL CONTEXT

Thurs. 11/8 Deviant Bodies

Required readings:

- The Adoption and Management of a Fat Identity pp. 257-267
- (Sakai) Flesh Journeys: The Radical Body Modification of Neoprimitives pp. 15-26
- (Sakai) Ch 13: Physical Disabilities pp. 374-402

Tues. 11/13- Deviant Sexuality

Required readings:

- Becoming Bisexual pp. 268-278
- Autoerotic Sexual Asphyxia pp.463-474
- (Sakai) Adult-Child Sexual Contact, Pedophiles and Molesters, and The World According to NAMBLA pp. 140-158
Thurs. 11/15- Deviant Sexuality contd.

Required readings:

- Gay Male Christian Couples and Sexual Exclusivity pp.535-549
- (Sakai) Sex Work and Prostitution pp. 307-325
- (Sakai) Polyamory in the 21st Century: Love and Intimacy with Multiple Partners (selection)

TUES. 11/20 & THURS. 11/22- NO CLASS, HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Tues. 11/27- Deviance across the Life Course

Required readings:

- (Sakai) Ch 12: Suicide

Thurs. 11/29- Deviant Beliefs and Belief Systems

Required readings:

- How Do People Come to Believe They Were Abducted by Aliens? pp. 54-64
- Negotiating White Power Activist Stigma pp. 331-344

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE ON SAKAI
Tues. 12/4 - Deviant Communities

Required readings:

- Cyber Communities of Self-Injury pp. 401-408
- (Sakai) Cain, Susan. *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can’t Stop Talking* (selection)

Thurs. 12/6 - Deviant Careers, Entering and Exiting Deviance

Required readings:

- Deciding to Commit a Burglary pp. 526-535
- Pimp-Controlled Prostitution pp. 550-561
- Shifts and Oscillations in Upper-Level Drug Traffickers’ Careers pp. 562-573

TUES. 12/11 - FINAL EXAM OPTION #1 (regular class time and room)

THURS. 12/18 - FINAL EXAM OPTION #2 (8:00- 11:00 PM, regular room)