

SOCL 429: Deviance and Social Control Fall, 2008

Professor: Dr. Graham C. Ousey
Class Location: Morton Hall, Room 239
Class Days/Times: M & W, 3:00 – 4:20
Office Hours: 10-11, MWF; 2-2:30 W

Course Description: This course is a seminar on behavior that violates societal norms and on the various strategies that society uses to enforce those norms. The course focuses on reading and critically assessing original scholarship that focuses on the definition of deviance, theories of deviant behavior, societal reactions to deviant behavior, the development of a deviant identity, moral panics and moral entrepreneurs, variations in the organization of deviant acts, the deviant career, and efforts to control deviant behavior.

Course Objectives: In this course, students will:

- Acquire an understanding of alternative ways that sociologists define deviance
- Gain familiarity with theoretical perspectives used to understand deviance and social control
- Learn strategies used by sociologists to conduct research on deviance
- Review problems that sociologists face when attempting to measure & research deviance
- Become familiar with the ways that power and social status differentials affect who and what is regarded as deviant in society
- Learn different models of the process by which deviant identities form and change
- Understand variations in how deviant acts are organized
- Review the stages in the deviant “career” as defined by sociologists

In addition to the above objectives, the course also aims to build critical thinking and discussion skills. These latter objectives will be addressed by requiring students to engage with and evaluate assigned reading material, orally and in writing.

Assignments and Grading:

- 1) Exams: There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will be essay format. The final exam is comprehensive, although the material from the second-half of the semester will be emphasized more heavily on the final exam.
- 2) Discussion Leading: Students will be expected to lead the class discussion of some of the assigned articles. Over the course of the semester, every student will be assigned a total of two articles for which they are designated as discussion leader. An outline of expectations for discussion leaders will be provided.
- 3) Creating Deviance Paper: Students will choose a behavior or activity that is not currently considered deviant. They will develop a proposal for social and legal change that will reclassify this behavior as deviant and ultimately illegal. The proposal should outline which social groups will be approached to become a part of the coalition that will campaign for this social change, how they will get their word out, which “experts” in society would be recruited to give their issue credibility, which lawmakers would be targeted for sponsoring new legislation, and how the mass media will be used to help advance the cause. This proposal is limited to a maximum of 10 pages. **Due November 24.**
- 4) Class Participation Activities:
 - a. Discussion Participation: Students are expected to participate in all classroom discussions. You are not “off” during weeks in which your group is not serving as the discussion leader. You should dutifully prepare for the class period by carefully reading the assigned material and following the “discussion participation” guidelines provided by Professor Ousey during the first week of class.

- b. Readings Journal: Each week, you are expected to make entries into a readings journal in response to the readings that you are assigned for that week. These entries should be prepared in advance of the first class period for each week. These entries, which will generally be 1-2 pages (or so) are open-ended in that students have freedom to choose what to write about, *provided that the journal entry makes clear connections to the content of the readings and shows serious consideration of the material contained in the readings*. Students will periodically be asked to share their journal entries with the class. The journals will be turned in twice during the semester, once at midterm and again at the end of the term.
- c. Classroom Problem-Solving, Brainstorming and Writing: We will sometimes engage in individual and collective problem-solving & brainstorming about the issues discussed. Periodically, the results of this activity will be written up in a 1-page summary that will be turned in during class.

Grades: The percentage of your course grade assigned to each of the assignments /activities listed above are as follows:

- a. Midterm exam = 20%
- b. Final exam = 20%
- c. Discussion leading = 20%
- d. Paper = 20%
- e. Readings Journal = 10%
- f. Classroom Writing & Participation = 10%

Letter grades for the semester will be given on the following scale:

A = 93% or higher	C+ = 77 to 79%	D- = 60 to 62%
A- = 90 to 92 %	C = 73 to 76%	F = 59% or below
B+ = 87 to 89%	C- = 70 to 72%	
B = 83 to 86%	D+ = 67 to 69%	
B- = 80 to 82%	D = 63 to 66%	

Required Course Materials:

Adler, Patricia A., and Peter Adler. 2009. *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context and Interaction*, 6th edition. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

Course Outline/Schedule Readings: All readings are contained in the Adler & Adler book unless noted otherwise.

Week 1 (8/29): Introduction to the course

Week 2 (9/1, 9/3): Defining Deviance

Readings for 9/1:

- 1) Erikson - On the Sociology of Deviance.
- 2) Heckert & Heckert – An Integrated Typology of Deviance Applied to Ten Middle-Class Norms.

Readings for 9/3:

- 3) Becker – Relativism: Labeling Theory
- 4) Costello – Against Relativism: A Harm-Based Conception of Deviance
- 5) Quinney – Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime

Week 3 (9/8, 9/10): Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance

Readings for 9/8:

- 6) Durkheim – The Normal and the Pathological

7) Agnew – Strain Theory

Readings for 9/10:

- 8) Sutherland & Cressey – Control Theory
- 9) Chesney-Lind – Feminist Theory
- 10) Best – The Constructionist Stance

Week 4 (9/15, 9/17): Measuring & Research Deviance

Readings for 9/15:

- 11) Besharov with Laumann-Billings – Child Abuse Reporting
- 12) Adler – Researching Dealers and Smugglers

Readings for 9/17:

None assigned – Topical discussion day, topic TBA.

Week 5 (9/22, 9/24): Moral Entrepreneurs

Readings for 9/22:

- 13) Reinerman – The Social Construction of Drug Scares
- 14) Tuggle & Holmes – Blowing Smoke: Status Politics and the Smoking Ban

Readings for 9/24:

- 15) Potter & Potter – The Cyberporn and Child Sexual Predator Moral Panic

Week 6 (9/29, 10/1): Differential Social Status & Labeling

Readings for 9/29:

- 16) Anderson – The Police and the Black Male
- 17) Blinde & Taub – Homophobia and Women’s Sport
- 18) Pager – The Mark of a Criminal Record

Readings for 10/1:

- 19) Chambliss – The Saints and the Roughnecks
- 20) Liederbach – Doctors’ Autonomy and Power

Week 7 (10/6, 10/8): Midterm week

Review for Midterm, 10/6

Journals due, October 6 (at beginning of class).

MIDTERM EXAM (10/8)

Week 8 (10/15): Current Events Week, Topic TBA

Week 9 (10/20, 10/22): Identity Development

Readings for 10/20:

- 21) Degher & Hughes – The Adoption and Management of a “Fat Identity”
- 22) Weinberg, Williams & Pryor – Becoming Bisexual

Readings for 10/22:

- 23) McLorg & Taub – Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia

Week 10 (10/27, 10/29): Accounts & Neutralizations; Managing Stigma

Readings for 10/27:

- 24) Scully & Marolla – Convicted Rapists Vocabulary of Motive
- 25) Cromwell & Thurman – The Devil Made Me Do It: Use of Neutralizations by Shoplifters

Readings for 10/29:

- 26) Thorne & Anderson – Managing the Stigma of Personal Bankruptcy
- 27) Bemiller – Men Who Cheer
- 28) Martin – Collective Stigma Management and Shame: Avowal, Management, & Contestation

Week 11 (11/3, 11/5): Social Organization of Deviance

Readings for 11/3:

- 29) Ader & Adler – Self-Injurers
- 30) Gourley – Recreational Ecstasy Users

Readings for 11/5:

- 31) Miller – Gender and Victimization Risk among Young Women in Gangs
- 32) Rothe – War Profiteering: Iraq and Halliburton

Week 12 (11/10, 11/12): Topical Discussion week; “Creating Deviance” Papers; ASC conference

Readings for 11/10:

No readings assigned; Topical Discussion Day, Topic TBA.

Readings for 11/12:

No Class; American Society of Criminology Conference
Work on “Creating Deviance Papers”

Week 13 (11/17, 11/19): Structure of the Deviant Act

Readings for 11/17:

- 33) Turvey – Autoerotic Sexual Asphyxia
- 34) Pasko – Naked Power: Stripping as a Confidence Game

Readings for 11/19:

- 35) Armstrong, Hamilton, & Sweeney – Sexual Assault on Campus

Week 14 (11/24): Deviant Careers

Readings for 11/24:

- 36) Wright & Decker - Deciding to Commit a Burglary
- 37) Williamson & Cluse-Tolar – Pimp Controlled Prostitution
- 38) Adler & Adler – Shifts and Oscillations in Upper-Level Drug Traffickers’ Careers

“Creating Deviance” Papers are Due, November 24th (beginning of class)

Week 15 (12/1, 12/3): The Future of Deviance

Readings for 12/1:

- 39) Goode - The Relevance of the Sociology of Deviance

Journals due, December 1st (beginning of class)

Readings for 12/3:

None assigned; wrap-up & review

Scheduled Final Exam Period: December 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.