

# *Sociology 250 - Deviance and Social Control*

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

### **Course Description**

Deviance and Social Control (Soci 250), introduces students to the processes of deviance and social control by critically examining the social category of deviance and its use in social institutions and daily social practices. The topics to be considered include: the construction and categorization of deviance; the origins and functions of deviance in society; the impact of deviance on personal and social identity; the role of power in defining deviance; and deviance and social change. We will consider several major theoretical perspectives on deviance within sociology, including functionalist, conflict, and symbolic-interactionist and post modern perspective. As a general rule sociologists are less concerned with particular *types* of deviance than with *ways of understanding* deviance. We will also examine specific topics: mental illness, laws relating to drug use, business crime; and forms of social control.

This course is based on the following five modules; 1. What is deviance? 2. Historical and Non-Sociological approaches to deviance, 3. Positivist Sociological Theories of deviance, 4. Constructionist Sociological Theories of deviance 5. Contemporary topics in deviance and social control. The Modules are divided into lessons. Each lesson should take between seven and ten days to complete. These lessons cover a twenty-four week period corresponding with St. Francis Xavier University calendar.

The questions in each lesson are provided to get you to think about an area of deviance and social control prior to reading about it. Some questions in the lessons ask you for *your* opinion or perception. You may feel provoked by these questions as they are disruptive to the dominant ideas in society, or you may find that you have also considered these questions. In any case, the purpose in asking these questions is to get you to question your ‘common sense’ understanding of the world. You may use these questions as a guideline for your online discussions or you may choose to examine some other points that were discussed in the assigned readings. In addition to the lesson questions, you should be able to complete the questions at the end of each chapter. If you are able to do this, you should not have a problem when writing the exam.

A significant portion of this course will focus on theories of deviance and social control. As you examine the theories you may be able to see how they have entered the mainstream in terms of how we think about, and control, deviance in our society. You will find that you favor some theoretical explanations over others. If this occurs ask yourself “why?.” Consider making a case for one particular theory. In doing so you should consider the contributions of all theories. Challenge yourself to see the benefits of a theory you may want to dismiss or see the problems with a theory you embrace. This does not mean that you should (or could) value all theories equally. When you examine the theories of deviance more formally you will have a better understanding of deviance and social control. You will also be able to consider the effectiveness of some types of control.

You will conclude the course by examining a sample of current topics in Deviance and Social Control. These final readings are based on the Constructionist theories covered in Module 4.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Think critically about how deviance is defined and controlled.
- 2) Understand various theories of deviance and social control from a historical perspective.
- 3) Gain insight into a variety of topics as they relate to deviance and social control.
- 4) Examine and understand the importance of power in the social construction of deviance.

### **Required Texts**

*Deviance and Social Control* (4<sup>th</sup> edition) by Linda B. Deutschmann (2006).

Readings in Deviant Behaviour by Alex Thio, Thomas Calhoun and Addrain Conyers (2010)

Additional Readings listed on the course outline are available electronically via St. Francis Xavier Library (see the course outline for details) – if you experience problems locating electronic articles please try alternative approaches: e.g., author's last name, publication, etc. If you continue to experience problems please consult the university librarian.

### **Expectations**

You are expected to read all the *required* readings through the course so as to develop a sense of the course genre. It is expected that you will use these readings to critically reflect and contemplate your own questions and experiences in the area, and to including some of your reflections in your on line discussion, and assignments.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation will be based on participation in the on line discussion (10%), the submission of an assignment (30% each) and two examinations (30% each).

*Regarding participation on line:* Each student will participate regularly on line, at least twice per lesson: once with your response to a question in the lesson and secondly, you will respond to at least one classmate. You will be responding to questions and sharing reflections while maintaining on line etiquette. You are required to react to some ideas discussed in the assigned readings and relate them to a real-life circumstance or experience (not necessarily your own). To receive full participation grades you will need to demonstrate that you have read, and understood, the assigned readings when you respond online. Your response should be approximately 100-150 words. SUMMER 2009 RESPONSE DEADLINES ARE WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS FOR SIX WEEKS – SEE SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE.

**Assignment: Due: August 10, 2009**

**Social Control Research Paper**

The goal of this paper is to demonstrate your abilities to critically research and write about a current aspect of social control.

1. You should select a topic that was discussed in Deutschmann, or other readings, (e.g., broad topics: medicalization, dangerization (NIMBY), surveillance, moral panics, heteronormativity) but you should not cover the exact material used in the course. You should use a very specific **title** (failure to use an appropriate, specific, title will result in a loss of grades.)
2. Find -6-8 related recent articles from academic refereed (peer reviewed) journals (Most articles should have been published in last 10 years).
3. Your paper should start with clear thesis statement outlining your topic. Your introduction should explain a) the general context and any basic background information that can help orient your reader to the topic and; b) your key arguments, or evidence that supports your thesis.

The body of your paper, follow the key arguments from your introduction, developing these into greater detail using evidence from relevant articles.

Your conclusion should provide a succinct overview of your position and reinforce the importance of the articles you have highlighted in your paper.

Include a reference page.

Use ASA format see link on Sociology Anthropology Web Page (click on Sociology).

In addition to the regular requirements of a research paper you are required to include a copy of the abstracts for each article as an appendix to your assignment.

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Due Date: August 10, 2009 \*\*\*MUST be emailed in a WORD document

Approximately 6-8 pages in length (double spaced)

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## **Module 1: What is Deviance? Defining and Researching Deviance**

### Week 1 A (Due Wednesday – July 8):

#### Lesson 1.1

- Chapter 1: Issues in the study of deviance (Deutschmann)
- Images of Deviance by Stephen Pfohl (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- Defining Deviance Down by Daniel Patrick Moynihan (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

### Week 1 B (Due Sunday – July 12):

#### Lesson 1.2

- Chapter 2: Understanding and testing theories of deviance (Deutschmann)

## **Module 2: Historical and Non-Sociological approaches to deviance**

#### Lesson 2.1

- Chapter 3: Prescientific Approaches to Deviance (Deutschmann)

### Week 2 A (Due Wednesday – July 15):

#### Lesson 2.2

- Chapter 4 Classical Theories of deviance and their influence on Modern Jurisprudence (Deutschmann)

#### Lesson 2.3

- Lesson 3: Chapter 5 Biological and Physiological Explanation of Deviance: The Body did it (Deutschmann)

### Week 2 B (Due Sunday - July 19)

#### Lesson 2.4

- Chapter 6 Theories of the Body and Mind: Psychoanalytic and Psychological explanations of Deviance (Deutschmann)
- Being Sane in Insane Places by David Rosenhan (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

## **Module 3: Positivist Sociological Theories of Deviance**

### Week 3 A: (Due Wednesday – July 22):

#### Lesson 3.1

- Chapter 7 The Social Disorganization Perspective (Deutschmann)

#### Lesson 3.2

- Chapter 8 Functionalist and Strain Perspectives (Deutschmann)
- Anomie-Strain Theory by Robert Merton (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

### Week 3 B: (Due Sunday – July 26)

#### Lesson 3.3

- Chapter 9 Structural and Social Learning Theories of Deviance (Deutschmann)

- Differential Association Theory by Edwin Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

#### Lesson 3.4

- Chapter 11 Social Control Theories (Deutschmann)
- Control Theory by Travis Hirschi (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- Shaming Theory by John Braithwaite (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

### **EXAM 1 July 27 Monday**

#### **Module 4: Constructionist Sociological Theories of Deviance**

##### Week 4 A (Due Wednesday – July 29):

###### Lesson 4.1

- Chapter 10 Interaction Theories (Deutschmann)
- Labeling Theory by Howard S. Becker (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- Phenomenological theory by Jack Katz (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

##### Week 4 B (Due Sunday – August 2):

###### Lesson 4.2

- Chapter 13 The Trickster theme: Feminists and Other creative or Chaotic Subversities (Deutschmann)
- Feminist Theory by Kathleen Daly (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

###### Lesson 4.3

- Chapter 12 Conflict, Critical and Postmodern theories (Deutschmann)
- Conflict Theory by Richard Quinney (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

#### **Module 5: Topics in Deviance and Social Control (Applying Constructionist Theories of Deviance)**

##### Week 5 A: (Due Wednesday – August 5):

###### Lesson 5.1 Stigma and the Management of deviance

- The Stigma of Obesity by Erich Goode (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- How Child molesters explain their deviance by Louanne Lawson (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- "Everyone knows who the sluts are": How young women get around the stigma by Jennifer L. Dunn (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)

##### Week 5 B: (Due Sunday – August 9):

###### Lesson 5.2 Contemporary debates around Violence

- Husband Abuse: Equality with a Vengeance? By Joanne C Minaker, Lauren Snider. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Ottawa: Sep 2006. Vol. 48, Iss. 5; p. 753 (28 pages) (available on 'Proquest' – St. FX library electronic resources)

\*Lesson 5.3 Underprivileged deviance (NOT REQUIRED for Summer 2009)

\*Lesson 5.4 "privileged" deviance (NOT REQUIRED for Summer 2009)

### **ASSIGNMENT (Paper) DUE August 10 – Monday**

#### Week 6 A (Due Wednesday – August 12):

##### Lesson 5.5 The role of Power in the creation of crime

- Crimes against capital: Discovering theft of time by Lauren Snider. *Social Justice*. San Francisco: Fall 2001. Vol.28, Iss. 3; pg. 105, 16 pgs (available on 'Proquest' – St. FX library electronic resources)
- Welfare Law, Welfare Fraud, and the Moral Regulation of the 'Never Deserving' Poor by Dorothy E. Chunn and Shelley A. M. Gavigan *Social & Legal Studies*, 6 2004; vol. 13: pp. 219 – 243. (available on 'Sage Journals Online' – St. FX library electronic resources)

#### Week 6 B (Due Sunday – August 16):

##### Lesson 5.6 Regulating Drugs

- A New Way of Fighting the War on Drugs by Erich Goode (Thio, Calhoun & Conyers)
- Erikson, Patricia. "Neglected and Rejected: A Case Study of the Impact of Social Research on Canadian Drug Policy." *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 23.2 (1998) (available on 'Proquest' – St. FX library electronic resources)

##### Lesson 5.7 Controlling Deviance

- "Risky Spaces and Dangerous Faces: Urban Surveillance, by Hier, Sean. 2004. *Social Disorder and CCTV.*" *Social and Legal Studies* 13, 4: 541-554.  
<http://sls.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/13/4/541>

### **EXAM 2 August 20 Wednesday**