

SOCIOLOGY 240  
SOCIAL DEVIANCE  
FALL 2007

Instructor- Vince P. Ramunni  
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TEXT: Thio, Alex. Deviant Behavior, 9th Edition. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon, 2007.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to explore the world of deviant behavior. Students will be introduced to the nature and functions of deviance, as well as the major theoretical approaches to the causes of deviant behavior. Through readings, lectures, and group discussions, students will investigate such topics as crime and punishment, societal reactions toward deviance, and the individual's response toward strain. When appropriate, Videos/DVDs will be used to help illustrate other forms of deviant behavior, including violence, ritualistic behavior, body modification, drug/alcohol abuse, and sexually deviant behavior.

### GOALS:

- To identify deviance in its various forms throughout our society
- To develop an understanding of society's reactions toward deviant behavior
- To review and discuss major sociological theories that deal specifically with deviant behavior
- To gain empathy for those different than ourselves

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Scoring- The class will be based on a total of 400 points, with this breakdown:

-Mid Term (100 points)=	100 points
-Two quizzes (50 points each)=	100 points
-One Paper/Project=	100 points
-Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, and video/DVD presentations. Topics for the paper/project will be assigned at a later date.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is fully expected. It is understood that there are circumstances that would prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency). The student, in such a case, is expected to notify the instructor as soon as possible of the situation. Students should also check with the instructor regarding missed work or assignments.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current Student Handbook. Any student found to have not upheld the college's policy shall be dismissed from the course, and assigned a grade of F. Students are urged to see the instructor if they have any questions regarding this matter.

### COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS:

The instructor, with cooperation from the class, will make every effort to cover the following list of topics. This list, however, is subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Reading assignments will be assigned on a weekly basis.

### LIST OF TOPICS:

- Introduction to Deviant Behavior (What is Deviance?)
- Social Control and Crime
- Theories of Deviant Behavior and Criminal Behavior
- Condemnation and Punishment
- Mental Illness
- Drug and Alcohol (Use and Abuse)
- Violence in Its Various Forms
- Suicide
- Cults and Deviant Subcultures
- Heterosexual Deviance
- Homosexual Deviance
- Sex, Cyberspace, and Pornography

### LIST OF VIDEOS AND DVDs:

In accordance with college policy, the following is a list of videos and/or DVDs that may be viewed during class this semester:

- "Heroin Epidemics" (MSNBC 1/07/01)
- "Street Gangs: A Secret History" (A&E Television Networks 2001)
- "The New Skinheads" (A&E Home Video 1995)
- "Pornography" ("Sixty Minutes" 11/23/03)
- "Serial Killers" (A&E Television Networks 1997)
- "Quadrophenia" (Rhino Home Video 1979)
- "The Outing" (Seinfeld 2/11/93)
- "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" (1971)
- "Tommy" (Sony Pictures 1999)
- "The Crucible" (20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox 2004)
- "Riding Giants" (Sony Pictures 2005)
- "The Wall" (Sony Pictures 2005)

