

Moravian College
Syllabus
Fall 2009
Social Deviance: SOC 240

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Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course, in a broad sense, is to provide you with answers to the questions: What is deviance and what does it have to do with me? In order to answer these questions as fully as possible in a one-semester course, we will look at various theories, concepts, and methods sociologists use to describe and explain deviance. By doing this, you will develop a sociological perspective of human behavior that will make you see sociology all around you. This way of looking at the world is called the sociological imagination, which I'm not sorry to say, most former students tell me they can't shake, even 10 years later.

Get ready for a sociological adventure around our deviant world!

Classroom Climate

Sociology, especially sociology of deviance, involves many controversial topics and we'll be doing lots of talking this semester about some of those topics. In our conversations, I'd like to use the following statement as our guide in the classroom:

Respect is the cornerstone of all our interactions and behaviors. We acknowledge the dignity and worth of one another and strive never to diminish another by our conduct or our attitudes.

From www.tolerance.org; created at Mariner High School in Everett WA

Helpful Hint

Here's a poem entitled "Tomorrow" I thought you might find useful for this class, especially if you label yourself as a procrastinator. It appeared in:
James, Simon. 1999. Days Like This: A Collection of Small Poems. Cambridge:
Candlewick Press.

Tomorrow's never there.
It always runs away.
Every time I catch it
It says it's called Today.

Student Learning Outcomes

You will be able to:

1. Define and explain the basic concepts, theories, and research methods of the sociology of deviance.
2. Acquire knowledge about some of the primary subfields within the discipline, including specific knowledge about crime, drug and alcohol abuse, and sexuality.
3. Increase cultural sensitivity and knowledge regarding diversity in the US and around the world.
4. Apply concepts and theories to a particular case, including your own experience, using your skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. In the process, you will be engaging in abstract reasoning.
5. Logically organize ideas according to social science criteria in written assignments.

Grading Based on Outcomes

A Excellent mastery of basic knowledge (1-3) and analysis and writing (4-5)

Exams, In-Class Work, and Out-of-Class Work are completed on time and according to directions, showing you can both remember and use the knowledge gained through reading and class work. Your writing shows organizational skill, the ability to use abstract reasoning, and the use of knowledge gained in the classroom and readings.

B Good mastery of all outcomes

C Moderate mastery of basic knowledge and minimal mastery of analysis and writing

D Minimal mastery of all outcomes

F Little, if any, mastery of outcomes

A 93-100 / A- 90-92

B+ 87-89 / B 83-86 / B- 80-82

C+ 77-79 / C 73-76 / C- 70-72

D+ 67-69 / D 60-66

F Below 60

Book

Thio, Alex. 2010. Deviant Behavior, 10th Ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
ISBN: 978-0-205-69323-8

Other readings will be photocopied and handed out in class.

Policies

Attendance

While I do not grade your attendance directly, I do take attendance and it is clearly counted indirectly in your grades. I can't stress this enough. I'll be straight up. Students who miss class do not do as well as those who attend on a regular basis. I try to make class as interesting as possible so attending isn't painful.

When you miss class, you get out of sync. Missing class means missing notes and discussions that become part of your exams. You also might miss discussions about topics or further explanations about work due. Also, in-class work can't be made up.

Due Dates

The due dates for various assignments and tests are in the schedule. I should tell you now that make-up exams are tough and I wouldn't recommend them. You need to hand in any homework or papers at the beginning of class or they will be considered late. Late work will be reduced one letter grade per day, not per class. It's not fair to the other students who hand in their work on time if I accept late work without a penalty.

Academic Honesty

I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. You will receive an automatic F for the course.

Withdrawal

The last day to withdraw from the class is November 6th. After that time, you will receive a grade.

Learning Disabilities

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Methods of Assessment

Exams = 30%

Your exams will consist of essay questions. You will need to recall facts, discuss and explain concepts, apply your knowledge using illustrations and examples, and analyze information by comparing and contrasting various concepts.

Test#1 = 10%

Test#2 = 10%

Final = 10%

In-Class Work = 20%

As a group and individually, you will do various assignments during class such as reaction papers, example specifications, debates, and discussions.

Out-of-Class Work = 35%

You will write a short paper based on your own deviance.

5% I Am Deviant

You will write a short paper based on your group's deviance.

10% We Are Deviant

You will bring 4 examples of deviance to class.

10% I See Deviance

You will be given other homework assignments throughout the semester such as questionnaires.

10% Homework

We Investigated Deviance = 15%

As a group, you will present your findings of deviance to the class.

Directions for the Deviance Projects

I See Deviance

This is an ongoing project throughout the semester. You will find 4 examples of deviance from different venues. Bring them into class on their due dates (see schedule) to discuss with the class. During their discussion you will relate them to information you learned in class and from your book.

I Am Deviant

You will violate a folkway in front of your family, friends, or strangers and report what folkway you violated, how you violated it, and the reaction of those around you. If you don't get a reaction, you must either do it again or pick another folkway to violate until you get a reaction.

We Are Deviant

After being assigned a group, you will plan and perform a deviant act in public all of you are willing to participate in. You will be performing the act as a group in public, i.e. each of you will be deviant in the same way. You may only violate folkways, not mores. While planning the act, be sure you think about how to apply the concepts of deviance you have learned to the act.

Your group will decide upon and organize your group's deviant act including the time and place during class time and discuss your project with me. Performance of the act will take place during the week of . Class will not be held on so all members of the group will have a compatible time to perform your act.

Each member of the group will then write a paper individually about the planning and performance of the deviant act. Directions for the paper will be handed out when groups are formed.

We Investigated Deviance

After being assigned a group, you will decide upon and research a specific act now labeled as deviant perpetrated against a minority group. Here are some possible choices or you can come up with one on your own (with my permission): Jim Crow laws, sexual harassment, employment discrimination, holocaust, or hate crimes against a particular group. Your group will present their findings on the last day of class. More specific directions will be handed out when groups are formed.

Sites for Your Perusal

General Resources

- SocioSite

<http://www.sociosite.net>

Stuck on a topic in sociology? This site has a vast array of sociological topics and links. You'll find an answer here and maybe even more questions.

- A Sociological Tour through Cyberspace

<http://www.trinity.edu/~mkearl/>

Want to learn more about sociology while staying in your seat?

Deviance Resources

- Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control

<http://carbon.cudenver.edu/public/sociology/introsoc/topics/topic3c.html>

This site, by a sociologist at the University of Colorado, looks at these specific topics.

- Notes on Deviance

<http://www.umsl.edu/~keelr/200/200lec.html>

Check out all of this professor's notes (and he's wordy) for his lectures at the University of Missouri.

SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading	Notes
8/31	Introduction		
9/7	NO CLASS		
9/14	Deviance Defined / Quest.	T: Ch 1	I See Dev I (Picture / Any)
9/21	Theories of Deviance/ Review	T: Ch 2&3	Deviance Quest. Results I Am Deviant
9/28	TEST #1		
10/5	Rape & Child Molestation / Physical Violence/We Are Deviant	T: Ch 4&5	
10/12	FALL BREAK		
10/19	Family Violence	T: Ch 6	I See Dev II (Any / FV)
10/26	Sexuality/Review	T: Ch 9&10	
11/2	TEST #2		
11/9	NO CLASS - We Are Deviant Project Week		
11/16	Drug & Alcohol Abuse	T: Ch 11&12	I See Dev III (Any / DorA)
11/23	Mental Disorders	T: Ch 7&8	We Are Deviant
11/30	Crime	T: Ch 13&14	I See Dev IV (TV / Crime)
12/7	Presentations/Review		
12/14	FINAL EXAM		

Remember, this syllabus is merely a guide. I will announce any changes made to it in class.