

SOCIOLOGY 240 PM  
SOCIAL DEVIANCE  
SPRING 2012

Instructor  
Office Hours  
Home Phone  
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**TEXT:** Goode, Erich. Deviant Behavior: Ninth Edition. New York:  
Prentice Hall, 2011.

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to explore the world of deviant behavior. Students will be introduced to the nature and functions of social 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 how individuals and groups respond to 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 sexual deviance.

**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

**GRADING:**

**Scoring-** The final grade will be based on a total of 450 points, with this breakdown:

Mid Term (100 points)=	100 points
Two quizzes (25 points each)=	50 points
Two Writing Assignments (25 points each)=	50 points
Class Participation (50 points)=	50 points
Writing Assignment/Project (100 points)=	100 points
Final Exam (100 points)=	<u>100 points</u>
	450 points total

Tests and quizzes will be based on information gathered from required reading, lecture notes, class discussions, and class videos. Writing assignments will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for description of the requirements for attaining each grade. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this course are as follows:

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C -	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

While tangible grades are widely used to determine a student's final grade for the semester, it is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

While it is understood that there are circumstances that could prevent a student from attending class (illness, family emergency), **regular attendance is fully expected. This class will include activities done during class time that will be difficult to make up at a later date.** If a class is missed, 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. This is the responsibility of the student!

Attendance will be reflected in your Class Participation grade. Because regular attendance is expected, students may find it difficult to make up class activities that take place during classes for which they are absent.

Class participation, for the purpose of this semester, will be measured by student attendance, attentiveness, and contribution to discussion.

### **MISSED TESTS, QUIZZES, AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Every possible effort should be made to take exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates. Test and quiz dates will be announced with at least a ten day notice.

Hard copies of all papers and written assignments must be submitted in person at the beginning of class on the given due date. Any paper or assignment not submitted in this fashion will be considered late. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty (10% deduction) for each day late (including weekends and holidays).

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students should acquaint themselves with the college's policy on Academic Honesty in the current **Student Handbook**, specifically both sections entitled "Plagiarism" and "Cheating." 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 of topics and the syllabus in general are subject to modification to best fit the needs of the class. Students will be given weekly reading assignments and should be ready at all times to discuss text chapters. Each student should expect to work at least five to ten hours per week outside of class, not including study time for tests and quizzes.

(See complete list of topics on next page)

## **LIST OF TOPICS AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:**

### Week One (January 16)

- The syllabus and other formalities
- What is Deviance?
- Essentialism and Constructionism

### Week Two (January 23)

- Condemnation and Punishment
- Theories- Positivist Approach
- Discussion- Group Projects

### Week Three (February 6)

- Theories- Positivist Approach continued
- Theories- Constructionist Perspective

### Week Four (February 13)

- Theories- Constructionist Perspective continued
- Research Methods

### Week Five (February 20)

- Criminal Behavior
- Violence
- Hate Crimes

### Week Six (February 27)

- Mid Term Exam

### Week Seven (March 12)

- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Group Project Activity

### Week Eight (March 19)

- Sexual Deviance

### Week Nine (March 26)

- Group Presentations

### Week Ten (April 2)

- Deviant Subcultures

### Week Eleven (April 9)

- Physical Deviance

### Week Twelve (April 16)

- Mental Health Disorders
- Suicide

### Week Thirteen (April 23)

- Deviant Organizational Behavior
- Exam Review

### Week Fourteen (April 30)

- Final Exam 6:30pm

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

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. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Learning Services Office as soon as possible to enhance the likelihood that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

