

SOCIOLOGY 240 Z  
SOCIAL DEVIANCE  
SPRING 2015  
Monday 630pm

Instructor  
Office Hours  
Email  
Cell

Vince P. Ramunni  
by appointment  
ramunniv@moravian.edu  
484-274-4797

**TEXT:** Curra, John. The Relativity of Deviance: Third Edition.  
Washington DC: Sage Publications, 2014.  
ISBN: 978-1-4522-0262-4

(Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the semester)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to explore the world of deviant behavior in society. Students will be introduced to the nature and functions of social deviance, the major theoretical approaches to the causes of deviant behavior, why deviance occurs (Essentialism), and society's response to deviance (Functionalism). Through readings, lectures, activities, and group discussions, students will investigate such topics as the situational nature of deviance (relativity), crime and punishment, reactions to deviance, and how individuals and groups respond to strain. Other forms of deviant behavior, including violence, drug/alcohol abuse, and sexual deviance, will be discussed during the semester.

**GOALS:**

- Identify deviance in its various forms throughout our society
- Develop an understanding of society's reactions toward deviance
- Understand the relative nature of deviance in relation to time and place
- Explore the major sociological theories pertaining to social deviance
- Gain empathy for those different than ourselves

**GRADING:**

Scoring- The final grade will be based on a total of 550 points, with this breakdown:

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

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

Course grades follow the letter-grade system. Of course, it is within the instructor's control and authority to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for the course. Please consult the **Student Handbook** for a 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

### **CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS:**

Class Meeting Time (14 classes)	42 hours
Mid Term Exam Preparation	10 hours
Quiz Preparation (two total)	10 hours
Writing Assignments (two total)	30 hours
Reading Assignments (9 chapters)	36 hours
Project (including community activities)	30 hours
Final Exam Preparation	<u>20 hours</u>
Total Estimated Hours	178 hours

### **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**. 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 your responsibility!

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. Missed work will result in lost points toward your Class Participation grade.

Each unexcused absence will result in a 5 point deduction from the final Class Participation grade. Students using cell phones or any other unnecessary electronic devices during class shall be considered absent from that class and will incur a 5 point deduction as they would for an unexcused absence.

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 one week notice.

Hard copies of all papers and written assignments must be submitted in person at the beginning of class on the given due date. **In short, do not email your papers!** 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 list of topics on the following page. This list of topics and the syllabus 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 the content.

(See complete list of topics on next page)

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

### Week One (January 19)

- The syllabus and other formalities
- What is Deviance?
- Relativity (Ch 1)
- Essentialism and Constructionism
- Begin group activities

### Week Two (January 26)

- Theories- Positivists
- Discussion- The Original Blue Man (and Woman) Group (p. 35)
- Group Time
- Writing Assignment #1 given

### Week Three (February 2)

- Quiz #1
- Theories- Constructionists
- Research Methods
- Group Time

### Week Four (February 9)

- Writing Assignment #1 due
- Predatory Violence (Ch 5)
- Discussion- The Curious Case of Jack the Ripper (p. 177)
- Sexual Violence (Ch 6)

### Week Five (February 16)

- Sexual Violence (continued)
- Hate Crimes

### Week Six (February 23)

- Drugs and Drug Taking (Ch 9)
- Group Time
- Review for Mid Term Exam

### Week Seven (March 2)

- Mid Term Exam

### Week Eight (March 9)

- BREAK- NO CLASS

### Week Nine (March 16)

- Drug and Drug Taking (continued)
- Mental Disorders (Ch 4)
- Writing Assignment #2 given

### Week Ten (March 23)

- Mental Disorders (continued)
- Deviant Subcultures
- Quiz #2

### Week Eleven (March 30)

- Deviant Subcultures (continued)
- Writing Assignment #2 due
- Group Time

### Week Twelve (April 6)

- Organizational Deviance (Ch 3)
- Discussion- The Plunder of Poletown (p. 72)
- Suicide (Ch 7)
- Group Time

### Week Thirteen (April 13)

- Physical Characteristics
- Group Presentations

### Week Fourteen (April 20)

- Group Presentations

### Week Fifteen (April 27)

- Group Presentations
- Final Exam Review

### Week Sixteen (May 4)

- Final Exam 630pm

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.