

SOCIOLOGY 447

Explaining Deviance

Summer Session I, 2014 (June 9 – July 10) ONLINE

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Course Description and Objectives

This course explores what it means for society to brand an act or a person as “deviant,” ranging from mild breaches of social norms, to “perversions” and fetishes, and illegal activities. Why are some acts or person defined as deviant and not others? How does this change across different contexts and times? How does power play into this? How does one become involved deviant acts and/or take on a deviant activity? How is deviance organized? How is the stigma of being deviant managed by those labeled in this way? These are some of the questions this course will explore.

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

- ✓ Explain and apply competing theories of deviance.
- ✓ Explain how deviance is constructed in raced, classed, and gendered ways.
- ✓ Explain how the social and economic structures underlying forms of deviance.
- ✓ Explain the implications of constructions of deviance for individuals labeled in this way, and for society as a whole.

Required Text

Adler, Patricia A. & Peter Adler. 2012. *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. (Seventh Edition)*

All other readings will be available on D2L.

*Note: you need this edition. Many of the assigned readings are not in previous editions.

Structure of the Course

You should expect to spend about 2 hours on this class each week day. There will be assignments due every day, Monday-Friday. All materials, quizzes and assignment drop boxes will be available at the start of the course so you may work ahead if you want. The only exception is your responses to others' discussion posts, which you will have a 24 hour window to complete, so plan ahead accordingly. **You are responsible for completing all assignments listed under each day by 11:59pm that day.**

Requirements and Evaluation (see Assignment Instructions for Details)

1. Quizzes (25%)

There will be a syllabus quiz and 11 SHORT quizzes on class materials. The lowest quiz grade (excluding the syllabus quiz) will be dropped.

2. Reading reactions (25%)
There will be 8 short (100 words) reading reaction assignments.
3. Online Discussions (25%)
You will be required to make 9 discussion posts throughout the course.
4. Final Paper (25%)

Grading scale:

A ≥ 90%
B = 80% – 89%
C = 70%– 79%
D = 60% – 69%
E ≤ 59

Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class except in the case of extenuating circumstances (with appropriate documentation), observation of religious holidays, or absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee). You will be automatically dropped from the class for excessive absences (4 or more). All absences will lower your participation grade.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are not accepted except in extenuating circumstances and with appropriate documentation.

Class Conduct

Please avoid arriving late and leaving early as this disrupts class. Turn off cell phones and refrain from private conversations with friends and other distracting and disruptive behavior. I will allow for a short break in the middle of each class period.

Some of the social issues and perspectives we explore in this class may be controversial. We must all conduct ourselves in a way that maintains a safe space for spirited, yet civil, discourse on these issues. Threatening behavior will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to observe the University's Code of Academic Integrity. The Code can be found at <http://w3.arizona.edu/~studpubs/handbook/policyframe.html>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements must register with the [Disability Resource Center](#).

Disclaimer

This course may challenge you to question your assumptions or beliefs about various social issues, and this may at times be uncomfortable. While I respect your beliefs and experiences, an important part of this course—and of a college education—is learning to critically explore evidence and arguments even when they run counter to your previous assumptions. If you do not feel you can do this successfully, I recommend you speak with me immediately or find another course.

Schedule

NOTE: The following schedule is subject to change as necessary. If changes are made, students will be given sufficient notice and an amended version of the syllabus will be posted on D2L.

Week 1: Defining Deviance, Theories of Deviance

Monday, June 9: Defining Deviance

- TAKE Syllabus Quiz
- POST Introduction. Introduce yourself to me and your peers by telling us your: year, major, where you are from, other Sociology courses you have taken, why you want to take this class, and an interesting fact about yourself.
- WATCH Introductory Lecture [D2L]
- READ A&A pp. 11-15, “Defining Deviance”
- REACT. Name one act that is deviant but not illegal. Why do you think it is considered deviant? Why do you think it has not been made illegal? Name one act that is illegal but not deviant. Why do you think it was made illegal? Why do you think it is not considered deviant? For some groups and not others?

Tuesday, June 10: Defining Deviance

- READ Garfinkel 1963 [D2L]
- WATCH any three [videos](#) (more if you want) posted by Andrew Hales, a University of Utah student who breaks minor social norms in public and videotapes strangers’ reactions.
- REACT. For each of the three videos that you watched: Which video did you watch? What did he do? What social norm does he break? Why do you think this norm exists? What do the reactions of other reveal about the social norm? Does anyone try to repair the interaction? How do you think you would react?

Wednesday June 11: Absolutist Perspectives on Deviance

- READ A&A ch. 4: Hendershott, “The Morality of Deviance”
- READ A&A ch. 7: Merton, “Social Structure and Anomie”
- WATCH [Clip 1 from the Wire](#) and [Clip 2 from the Wire](#)
- REACT. How do these clips from the Wire demonstrate Merton’s theory?
- TAKE Quiz 1

Thursday, June 12: Social Constructivist Perspectives on Deviance

- READ A&A ch. 3: Becker, “Relativism: Labeling Theory”
- READ A&A ch. 11: Best, “The Constructionist Stance”
- TAKE Quiz 2

Friday, June 13: Social Power Perspectives on Deviance

- READ A&A ch. 5: Quinney, “Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime”
- READ Excerpt of Reiman [D2L] “A Crime By Any Other Name”
- WATCH [Stop and Frisk](#)
- REACT: Were you surprised by anything in the Stop and Frisk video? Do you think Alvin’s experience is common? How does this relate to a conflict theory of deviance?
- TAKE Quiz 3

Week 2: Constructing Deviance, Managing Deviance

Monday, June 16: Race and the Construction of Deviance

- READ A&S ch. 15: Reinerman, “The Social Construction of Drug Scares”
- READ [The History of Pot](#) (1 Page)
- WATCH [Refer Madness Trailer](#) (1.5 minutes)
- WATCH [Opium Dens](#) (4 min)
- WATCH [Crack Babies](#) (10 min)
- WATCH [Crack vs. Powder Cocaine](#) (10 min)
- REACT: What do the drug scares about marijuana, opium, and crack cocaine all have in common? What does this suggest about how deviance is constructed and policed?

Tuesday, June 17: Class and the Construction of Deviance

- READ A&A ch. 21: Chambliss, “The Saints and the Rough Necks”
- READ Pfaffendorf 2014 [D2L]
- POST: Has the class-based double standard Chambliss documents in the 1970s gone away? Stayed the same? Gotten worse? Can you think of examples from your own life or observations in which delinquent young adults experienced different consequences because of their privilege or lack thereof?

Wednesday, June 18: Gender and the Construction of Deviance

- POST a response to one of you classmates’ posts from yesterday.
- READ A&A ch. 19: Binde and Taub, “Homophobia and Women’s Sport”
- WATCH [Policing the Parenting of Boys](#)
- WATCH [this Veet ad](#) (and read the blog post about it too!)
- TAKE Quiz 4
- REACT: Identify a gender norm in addition to the three covered in the above material. How is it enforced? What are the consequences for those who do not conform? What function do you think this norm serves?

Thursday, June 19: Deviant Identity

- READ A&A Pp. 247-256
- READ A&A ch. 24: Weinberg, Williams, and Pryor, “Becoming Bisexual”
- READ A&A ch. 27: Cromwell and Thurman “The Devil Made Me Do It: Use of Neutralizations by Shoplifters”
- TAKE Quiz 5

Friday, June 20: Stigma Management

- READ A&A ch. 30: Roschelle and Kaufman, "Fitting In and Fighting Back: Homeless Kids' Stigma Management Strategies"
- READ A&A ch. 31: Martin, "Collective Stigma Management and Shame: Avowal, Management, and Contestation"
- TAKE Quiz 6
- EMAIL me your topic for you final paper.

Week 3: The Social Organization of Deviance

Monday, June 23: Deviant Individuals

- READ Pp. 381-388
- READ A&A ch. 32: Sirles, "Drug Use and Disordered Eating Among College Women."
- TAKE Quiz 7

Tuesday, June 24: Deviant Communities

- READ A&A ch. 34: Jenkot, "Cooks are Like Gods: Hierarchies in Methamphetamine-Producing Groups"
- READ excerpt from Righteous Dopefiend [D2L]
- REACT. Prompt TBA.

Wednesday, June 25: Deviant Organizations

- Read A&A ch. 35: Miller, "Gender and Victimization Risk Among Young Women"
- Read A&A ch. 36: Godson and Olson, "International Organized Crime"
- TAKE Quiz 8

Thursday, June 26: The Economics of Deviance

- Read A&A ch. 37: Rothe, "War Profiteering"
- LISTEN this [this podcast](#) on the Economics of Crack Dealing (21 minutes)
- POST. Prompt TBA.

Friday, June 27: The Economics of Deviance Cont.

- POST a response to one of you classmates' posts from yesterday.
- WATCH [The Pot Republic](#) (Frontline).
- READ [Marijuana Economics 101](#)
- DISCUSS. Prompt TBA.

Week 4: Structure of the Deviant Act

Monday, June 30

- READ A&A ch. 38: Turvey, "Autoerotic Sexual Ashyxia"
- TAKE Quiz 9

Tuesday, July 1

- READ A&A ch. 39: Draus and Carlson "Trading Sex for Crack: Gender and Power"

- READ A&A ch. 40: Durkin, “Show Me the Money: Cybershrews and On-Line Money Masochists”
- TAKE Quiz 10

Wednesday, July 2

- Read A&A ch. 41: Armstrong, Hamilton, Sweeney, “Sexual Assault on Campus”
- Read A7A ch. 42: Oskar, “Opportunity Structures for White-Collar Crime”
- REACT. Prompt TBA.

Thursday, July 3

Film and (Online) Discussion: *The Weather Underground*. Prompt TBA. You must make an initial post by 11:59pm today and respond to one your classmates’ posts by 11:59pm tomorrow.

Friday, July 4: Day off for Independence Day

Week 5: Deviant Careers

Monday, July 7: Entering Deviance

- READ A&A Pp. 521-526
- READ A&A ch. 43: Wright and Decker, “Deciding to Commit a Burglary”
- READ A&A 44: Yip, “Gay Male Christian Couples and Sexual Exclusivity”
- TAKE Quiz 11

Tuesday, July 8

- READ A&A 45: Williamson and Cluse-Tolar, “Pimp-Controlled Prostitution”
- REACT. Prompt TBA.

Wednesday, July 9

- READ A&A ch. 46: Adler and Adler, “Shifts and Oscillations in Upper-Level Drug Traffickers’ Careers”
- READ A&A ch. 47: Howard, “Obstacles to Exiting Emotional Disorder Identities”

Thursday, July 10

Film and (Online) Discussion: Excerpts of *After Porn Ends*. Prompt TBA. You must make an initial post by 11:59pm today and respond to one your classmates’ posts by 11:59pm tomorrow.

FINAL PAPER DUE BY SUNDAY JULY 13

Assignment Instructions

Reading Quizzes

For some assigned readings, there will be a short quiz comprised of multiple choice, true or false, matching and fill in the blank questions. These quizzes must be completed on D2L by 1:59pm on the day the reading is assigned. These quizzes are open book, but I do NOT recommend

attempting the quiz without having already read the assigned pages. You will only be allowed one attempt per quiz.

Reading Reactions

Some days you will be required to write a reaction which must be at least 100 words (about a paragraph) and must be submitted by dropbox on D2L by 11:59pm on the day the reading is assigned. These are not read by your classmates.

Online Discussions

There are various points in the class in where I ask you to discuss the materials with your classmates. Your initial post, responding to the prompt, must be posted on the D2L discussion forum by 11:59pm on the day the reading is assigned. You will not be able to see your classmates' responses until you post yours. You must then respond to one of your classmates' responses by 11:59pm the next day.

Final Paper

Pick a type of deviance that has always been intriguing to you. It can be something you have experience with, or it may be something you have never understood. You must email me by the end of Week 2 to tell me what topic you have chosen. Keep in mind that your task is NOT to evaluate the merits of the behavior, but to develop sociological knowledge that aims to explain how deviance is defined and how individuals come to participate in deviance.

In at least 4 pages double spaced, describe the form of deviance you have chosen. What norm does this form of deviance break? Why is this topic interesting to sociologists of deviance? Has this always been deviant? Can you find other cultures or times in history when this was not considered deviant? Which of the sociological theories best explains this kind of deviance? You must cite at least three class readings and three reputable outside sources (academic articles, journalistic accounts, documentaries, etc.).