

Introduction to the Study of Deviance

University of Maryland, College Park
SOCY 227 – SECTION 0201, SPRING 2008
ASY 1213, 1:00-1:50PM, MWF

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Office location: ASY 3108

Office hours: MWF, 12:30-1:00, 2:00-3:00

Class Description

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of deviance. We will examine how sociologists define and view deviance and we will explore various theorists and theoretical perspectives. “Deviance” may be generally thought of as the violation of social norms. Since norms are themselves social constructions that vary across cultural and historical contexts, we first have to consider the relative definitions of what we consider “normal” and “deviant.” In other words, what is “deviant” or “normal” for some, in a given social or cultural environment, might be very different for others in another environment. Why are some people, behaviors, and relationships stigmatized as abnormal and “deviant” while others are not? By examining how our society defines “deviance,” we can gain valuable insight into the important social issues and structural inequalities in that society. We will therefore explore the mechanisms and processes through which ideas and representations of “deviance” are constructed. Rule-making and rule-violation are fundamental characteristics of human society, and in every society there are many social groups that compete for dominance; that is, they try to get everyone to follow their sets of rules. However, all of us occasionally violate some of society’s rules, while some of us violate many of the rules continuously. Sociologists therefore study “deviance” or non-conforming behavior not because it is marginal, exotic, or esoteric, but because it is an integral feature of virtually all human behavior.

Class Requirements

Required Text

“Theories of Deviance,” 1999 Stuart H. Traub & Craig B. Little (5th edition)

Recommended Text

“Deviant Behavior” 2006 Alex Thio (8th edition)

Additional Readings

You will be provided with additional readings via the ELMS website

(<http://www.elms.umd.edu>) and occasional e-mails. (You will need to log into this website,

using your UMD Directory ID and Password, and then subscribe to this class, SOCY227.) PLEASE check your email regularly. This is not a request but a requirement of the course. You are responsible for materials sent via email as well as those posted on the course website.

Exams

There will be three, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams spaced at regular intervals throughout the course. These three exams together will account for 45% of your total final grade and will include material from readings and lectures.

- Exam #1 – 02/29/2008
- Exam #2 – 04/07/2008
- Exam #3 – 05/16/2008

Papers

You will be required to produce a brief paper proposal, in which you provide me with an outline of your final paper. In the final paper itself you will be expected to examine a form of deviance from a specific theoretical perspective, or compare and contrast the ways in which several theoretical perspectives deal with a specific form of deviance.

- Paper proposal due – 04/16/2008
- Paper due – 05/16/2008

Quizzes

There will be a number of unannounced quizzes interspersed throughout the course, and they will be based on both readings and lecture notes. It is therefore important that you keep up with the readings and attend lectures regularly. Please note that there will be NO make-ups offered on missed quizzes.

Grading

The grading scale for exams and your final grade is as follows:

A = 90 – 100%; B+ = 86-89%; B = 80 -85%; C+ = 76-79; C = 70-75; D = 65-69; F = below 65

1. Three non-cumulative multiple choice exams: 15% per exam (45% of total grade)
2. Paper proposal (2-3 pages): 15%
3. Final paper (6-8 pages): 20%
4. Unannounced quizzes 10%
5. Class participation: 10%

I DO NOT negotiate about final grades and WILL NOT assign any extra credit work. You are expected to keep up with the readings and to perform to the best of your ability on all the required assignments. Please see me about your progress during the semester if you are concerned, not after the class is over.

Class Expectations and Policies

Participation & Attendance

I do not take specific attendance but you are expected to keep up with the work and to complete all the required assignments on time. To be able to do this you will have to attend class regularly. If you miss assignments because of generally poor attendance, that is your responsibility alone. Time is valuable and you are expected to arrive on-time for class. *Participation* does not mean simply showing up; it means that you have to be actively engaged while in class.

If you participate in a sport or any other extracurricular activity that might present a conflict with a scheduled class assignment, you are required to provide me with a written explanation of absence. Student athletes must furnish an “away” game schedule.

Missed Exams, Religious Holidays, Inclement Weather

To make up a missed exam, you must provide me with a signed doctor’s note or some other written – and official – form of explanation for the absence. Religious holidays are respected and all reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate the faiths and beliefs of all persons. From time to time the University will close due to inclement weather. In this event, we will adjust the class schedule accordingly.

Disability Accommodations

If you need any specific accommodation due to a disability, please see me as soon as possible so that we may make appropriate arrangements. Information regarding any disability will be treated as confidential.

Classroom Behavior

Given that we will be dealing with potentially controversial and often explicit material throughout this course, I expect mature and sensitive behavior and commentary at all times. I have zero tolerance for disruptive and inappropriate (racism, sexism, homophobia, etc.) behavior and/or language. The classroom is a tolerant environment within which we will engage in an open and thoughtful discussion.

Plagiarism – AVOID IT!!!!

The university’s Code of Academic Integrity defines plagiarism as “...*intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise*”

(<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html#definitions>). Plagiarism is a very serious offense and all suspected cases will be referred to departmental and university authorities. Any idea that is not your own and all sources used by you must be cited, using appropriate American Sociological Association (ASA) style.

E-mail

Please direct all communication about class-related matters to my UMD address, at: Ldejager@socy.umd.edu E-mail will be our preferred method of contact during this course and you will be notified of any changes in class times, readings, school closings and cancellations

via e-mail. You are therefore strongly encouraged to use only a UMD e-mail address to correspond with me about class issues. Please note that I will NOT accept any responsibility for lost/missing communications that result from the use of non-UMD e-mail addresses (Yahoo, Hotmail, Gmail, etc.).

Office Hours & Meetings

My office hours are currently set to be a half hour before class and immediately following class, as needed. Additional meetings are to be scheduled via e-mail. Wednesdays and Fridays are most convenient for me.

READINGS¹

Part 1: What is Deviance? Theoretical Perspectives

Week 1

Mon. Jan. 28: Introduction to the course.

- Review of syllabus and general administrative issues.

Wed. Jan. 30: What is Deviance?

- Thio & Calhoun, *Introduction* (pp.1-23) [BB]
- Jack Gibbs, *Conceptions of Deviant Behavior: The Old and the New* (pp.41-45) [BB]
- Jeffrey Victor, *The Search for Scapegoat Deviants* (pp.45-49) [BB]

Fri. Feb. 1: Functionalism

- Emile Durkheim, *The Normal and the Pathological* (pp.4-8) [T&L]
- Kai Erikson, *On the Sociology of Deviance* (pp.22-30) [T&L]

Week 2:

Positivist Theories:

Mon. Feb. 4: Functionalism (continued)

- Melvin Tumin, *The Functionalist Approach to Social Problems* (pp.30-42) [T&L]

Wed. Feb. 6: Functionalism (concluded)

- Keith Durkin & Clifton Bryant, *“Log on to Sex”: Some Notes on the Carnal Computer and Erotic Cyberspace as an Emerging Research Frontier* (pp.42-55) [T&L]

Fri. Feb. 8: Social Disorganization

- W.I. Thomas & Florian Znaniecki, *The Concept of Social Disorganization* (pp.67-70) [T&L]
- Robert Park, *Social Change and Social Disorganization* (pp.71-74) [T&L]

Week 3

Mon. Feb. 11: Social Disorganization (concluded)

¹ [T&L] → Traub & Little: your required text. [BB] → Blackboard.

- Finn-Aage Esbensen & David Huizinga, *Community Structure and Drug Use: From a Social Disorganization Perspective* (pp.107-121) [T&L]

Wed. Feb. 13: Anomie & Social Strain

- Emile Durkheim, *Anomic Suicide* (pp.131-141) [T&L]

Fri. Feb. 15: Anomie & Social Strain (continued)

- Robert K. Merton, *Social Structure and Anomie* (pp.142-167) [T&L]

Week 4

Mon. Feb. 18: Anomie & Social Strain (concluded)

- Richard A. Cloward, *Illegitimate Means, Anomie, and Deviant Behavior* (pp.174-191) [T&L]

Wed. Feb. 20: Social Learning Theory: Differential Association & Neutralization

- Edwin Sutherland & Donald Cressey, *The Theory of Differential Association* (pp.237-243) [T&L]

Fri. Feb. 22: Differential Association & Neutralization (continued)

- Ronald Akers, *Is Differential Association/Social Learning Cultural Deviance Theory?* (*Criminology*, 34(2):229-247) [BB]

Week 5

Mon. Feb. 25: Differential Association & Neutralization (continued)

- Donald Cressey, *Other People's Money* (pp.244-248) [T&L]
- Gresham Sykes & David Matza, *Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Deviance* (pp.251-260) [T&L]

Wed. Feb. 27: Differential Association & Neutralization (concluded)

- Gailey & Prohaska – “Knocking off a fatgirl:” *an exploration of hogging, male sexuality, and neutralizations.* (*Deviant Behavior*, 27:31-49, 2006) [BB]

Fri. Feb. 29: EXAM #1 – In class.

Week 6

Mon. Mar. 3: Control Theory

- Travis Hirschi, *A Control Theory of Delinquency* (pp.312-325) [T&L]

Wed. Mar. 5: Control Theory (continued)

- Michael Gottfredson & Travis Hirschi, *The Nature of Criminality: Low Self-Control* (pp.329-342) [T&L]

Fri. Mar. 7: Control Theory (concluded)

- John Braithwaite, *Crime, Shame and Reintegration* (pp.702-713) [T&L]

Week 7

Constructionist Theories:

Mon. Mar. 10: Labeling Theory

- Frank Tannenbaum, *The Dramatization of Evil* (pp.380-384) [T&L]
- Edwin Lemert, *Primary and Secondary Deviation* (pp.385-390) [T&L]

- Howard Becker, *Career Deviance* (pp.390-397) [T&L]

Wed. Mar. 12: Labeling Theory (continued)

- Gill Green et al., "They say that you are a danger but you are not": representations and construction of the moral self in narratives of "dangerous individuals." (*Deviant Behavior*, 27:299-328, 2006) [BB]

Fri. Mar. 14: Labeling Theory (concluded)

- Penelope Mclorg & Diane Taub, *Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia: The Development of Deviant Identities* (pp.434-445) [T&L]

Week 8

March 17 – 21: SPRING BREAK

Week 9

Mon. Mar. 24: Stigma/Moral Panics/Stereotypes

- Erving Goffman, *Stigma and Social Identity*, (pp.1-40) [BB]

Wed. Mar. 26: Stigma/Moral Panics/Stereotypes (continued)

- Gerald Cromer, *Children from Good Homes* (*The British Journal of Criminology*, 44(3):391-400, 2004) [BB]

Fri. Mar. 28: Stigma/Moral Panics/Stereotypes (concluded)

- Welch et al., *Moral Panic over Youth Violence: Wilding and the Manufacture of Menace in the Media*. (*Youth & Society*, 34(1):3-30, 2002) [BB]

Week 10

Mon. Mar. 31: Conflict Theory/Class-based Theories

- Richard Quinney, *The Social Reality of Crime* (pp.462-468) [T&L]
- Richard Quinney, *Conflict Theory* (pp. 59-63) [BB];

Wed. Apr. 2: Conflict Theory/Class-based Theories (continued)

- Steven Spitzer, *Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance* (pp.495-509) [T&L]

Fri. Apr. 4: Conflict Theory/Class-based Theories (concluded)

- John Hagan et al., *The Class Structure of Gender and Delinquency: Toward a Power-Control Theory of Common Delinquent Behavior* (pp.656-669) [T&L]

Week 11

Mon. Apr. 7: EXAM #2 – In class.

Wed. Apr. 9: Feminist Theory

- Sally Simpson, *Feminist Theory, Crime, and Justice* (pp.673-690) [T&L]
- Kathleen Daly, *Feminist Theory* (pp.64-69) [BB]
- Meda Chesney-Lind, *Feminist Theory* (pp.98-104) [BB]

Fri. Apr. 11: Feminist Theory (concluded)

- David John Erickson & Richard Tewksbury – *The “gentlemen” in the club: a typology of strip club patrons* (Deviant Behavior, 21:271-293, 2000) [BB]

Week 12

Part 2: Substantive Issues

Mon. Apr. 14: Sexual Deviance/Prostitution/Pornography

- Dinesh Bhugra, *Paraphilias Across Cultures* (pp.106-116) [BB]
- Alex Thio, *Deviant Behavior*, chapter 9: Heterosexual Deviance (pp.226-244) [BB]

Wed. Apr. 16: Sexual Deviance/Prostitution/Pornography (continued)

- Claire Hoffman, “Baby, Give me a Kiss” (LA Times, August 6, 2006) [BB]
- Vicki Mayer, *Soft-Core in TV Time: The Political Economy of a “Cultural Trend”* (Critical Studies in Media Communication, 22(4):302-320, 2005) [BB]
- [PAPER PROPOSAL DUE!! – In class.]

Fri. Apr. 18: Sexual Deviance/Prostitution/Pornography (concluded)

- Scully & Marolla, *Convicted Rapists’ Vocabulary of Motive: Excuses and Justifications* [BB]

Week 13

Mon. Apr. 21: White-Collar/Corporate Crime

- William Domhoff, *Who Rules America?* [BB]

Wed. Apr. 23: White-Collar/Corporate Crime (continued)

- Piquero et al., *Examining the role of differential association and techniques of neutralization in explaining corporate crime* (Deviant Behavior, 26:159-188, 2005) [BB]

Fri. Apr. 25: White-Collar/Corporate Crime (continued)

- Rick Matthews & David Kauzlarich, *The Crash of ValuJet 592: A Case Study in State-Corporate Crime* (Sociological Focus, 3(3):281-298, 2000) [BB]

Week 14

Mon. Apr. 28: Social Control & Surveillance

- William Staples, *Everyday Surveillance in Postmodern Society* (pp.324-329) [BB]
- David Rosenhan, *Being Sane in Insane Places* (pp.150-155) [BB]

Wed. Apr. 30: Social Control & Surveillance (continued)

- Gary Marx, *The New Surveillance* (pp.1-8) [BB]
- Gary Marx, *Ironies of Social Control* (Social Problems, 28(3):221-246, 1981) [BB]

Fri. May. 2: Social Control & Surveillance (concluded)

- Mitchell Gray, *Urban Surveillance and Panopticism: will we recognize the facial recognition society?* (pp.1-17) [BB]

Week 15

Mon. May. 5: Postmodern Deviance?

- David Friedrichs, *Postmodernist Theory* (pp.70-75) [BB]

Wed. May. 7: The Way Forward?

- Alexander Liazos, *The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts, and `Preverts.'* (pp.472-491) [T&L]
- Patricia & Peter Adler, *The Deviance Society* (Deviant Behavior, 27:129-148, 2006) [BB]

Fri. May. 9: The Way Forward? (concluded)

- Erich Goode, *Does the Death of the Sociology of Deviance Claim Make Sense?* (pp.1-13); [BB]

Week 16

Mon. May. 12: Exam Review Day [In class]

Wed. May. 14: Exam Study Day

Fri. May. 16: FINAL EXAM – 1:30 to 3:30 PM

- [FINAL PAPER DUE – In class]
