

DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

SYP 4570, Sections 2-6

Florida State University

Fall 2006

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This distance learning course presents a review and analysis of sociological approaches to the study of deviance and social control. The course objectives are (1) to provide you with a solid foundation in major theoretical perspectives on deviant behavior and social reaction processes, (2) to introduce you to important empirical methods in the study of deviant phenomenon, (3) to familiarize you with significant lines of research on various forms of deviance, and (4) to strengthen your critical awareness and sociological understanding of contemporary debates about deviance and social control in North America.

The required text for the course is *Deviant Behavior: Crime, Conflict, and Interest Groups* (7th Edition) by James H. McCaghy, Timothy A. Capron, J.D. Jamieson, and Sandra Harley Carey (Pearson Education, 2006; softcover ISBN: 0-205-44728-7). I will also assign articles from a required reader edited by Henry N. Pontell, *Social Deviance: Readings in Theory and Research* (5th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005; softcover ISBN: 0-13-144419-0). Both books can be ordered from the FSU Bookstore, Bill's Bookstore, or from various online booksellers, but *please make sure you get the correct edition*. I will post other required reading material under "Lectures" in the Online Review on Blackboard. Please let me know immediately by e-mail if you have any problems obtaining the required books or using the course website.

The grade for the course will be based on the *total number of points* you earn out of 125 possible in the following areas:

(1) Completion of "Online Bio" on Blackboard = 5 points

Your first task after you finish reading this syllabus should be to complete the Online Bio, a brief survey which is posted in Assignments. You will automatically receive five points for answering several questions that will help me know more about your background and interests.

(2) Three one-hour exams, each consisting of five short-essay questions = 30 points possible

The three exams will cover material from the text, the reader, and from reading material posted on Blackboard. Each exam will cover a third of the course and will include five "open-ended" (short-essay) questions, worth two points each, for a total of ten points. The questions will ask you to write a paragraph or two about important theories, concepts, research findings, criticisms, controversies, or other points discussed in assigned readings and online material. Each exam will be scheduled on a specific day and will be available to students during a five-hour window, from 3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Once you begin taking an exam, *you must complete it within one hour*. We will grade each question on a two-point scale, where a good, complete answer is worth two points, a partially correct answer is worth one point, and an incorrect answer earns zero points.

(3) Three short papers = 30 points possible

One of these papers will require you to conduct "research" on deviance using online resources, whereas the other papers will ask you to write brief essays about controversial issues in the area of deviance and social control. Each paper will be graded on a 10-point scale, will be submitted in electronic form on Blackboard. Be sure to keep copies of your papers.

(4) Six open-book quizzes, each consisting of five questions = 30 points

These multiple-choice quizzes will be posted in Assignments on Monday at two week intervals throughout the semester. You will be able to find the answers to each of the five questions on these quizzes in the assigned readings or online material for the current and previous week. Not only will these quizzes be “open-book,” but you will be given the questions *before* you begin taking the quiz. You will have a five-day window (Monday to Friday) to take each quiz.

(5) Three group discussions on the Discussion Board = 30 points

At three points in the semester, a discussion topic will be posted in the Groups folder on Blackboard. The class will be divided into four groups, and you will participate in a discussion with other members of your group. Each student will be expected to post a 150 word response to the discussion topic and to post two 75 word replies to other students’ responses. Based on the quality of your posts, you can earn a possible ten points for your contribution to each group discussion. No credit will be given for late postings on the discussion board or for “flaming” and other inappropriate responses.

At the end of the course, I will sum the points earned by each student on all of these requirements and use the empirical distribution of total points to determine letter grades for the course. NOTE: I do *not* base letter grades on arbitrary percentage cut-points (such as 95% = A, 85% = B, etc.). Instead, I take the actual performance of the class and difficulty of exams into account by using the frequency distribution of total points to determine letter grades (this is similar to “grading on a curve”). I try to set the cut-offs for letter grades where there are clear and meaningful breaks in the distribution of scores. I will calculate *preliminary* letter grade distributions at several times throughout the course to give students an indication of their performance on assignments they have completed. However, keep in mind that final grades for the course will be determined empirically by the observed distribution of *total points* on all course requirements rather than by an average of letter grades or by pre-set percentage cut-points. I will not use the plus/minus grading scale in this class. Scores on exams and other assignments will be available after grading in Student Tools.

Students must take exams (and complete other assignments) during the times indicated on the syllabus except by making prior arrangement with the instructor *at least one week in advance*. If you are severely ill or otherwise unable to complete a requirement as scheduled, you must contact the mentor or the instructor as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Any missed work will receive a score of zero, except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Missing work is not a sufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete (“I”). You are expected to ensure that your computer and internet connection are functioning properly prior to exams or other online exercises. If necessary, please seek technical assistance from ACNS or other online resources listed on the Bulletin Board under “Help with FSU Procedures and Technology.”

Students with a disability or some other special reason for modification of course procedures should contact me within the first week of the semester and should register with the Student Disability Resource Center. I expect students to uphold the Academic Honor Policy published in the *FSU Bulletin* and to agree to the Policy on Student Conduct posted on Blackboard and on the following website: <http://www.e-soc.net>. This policy prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid. Exams, papers, and other written assignments must be your own work. Similarly, you must not “share” material for written assignments with other students. Violations of the Honor Code will be grounds for a grade of F for the course as well as any additional university action that might be warranted.

Again, please let me or your mentor know if you have any problems obtaining the texts, understanding assignments, or using the website. I hope you enjoy the course!

Course Calendar for SYP 4570 – Fall 2006

All times are Eastern time. Updates to this calendar will be indicated **in red**.

<i>Readings</i>	<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Exams, Papers, and Discussions</i>
Week 1 (Aug. 28-Sep. 1): Perspectives on Deviance and Social Control		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 1; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 1 		Online Bio, Complete by 9/1, 8:00 p.m.
Week 2 (Sep. 4-8) Historical Development of the Sociology of Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 2; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 21-44 	Quiz #1; Due 9/8, 8:00 p.m.	
Week 3 (Sep. 11-15): Macro-Normative Theory: Anomie Theory and Subculture Theory		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 3, “Macro-Normative Tradition”; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 2, pp. 44-77; ▪ Pontell, pp. 37-45 (Merton), pp. 45-49 (Cloward and Ohlin), pp. 128-132 		
Week 4 (Sep. 18-22): Micro-Normative Theory: Social Learning Theory and Control Theory		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 3, “Micro-Normative Tradition”; ▪ Pontell, pp. 139-141 (Sutherland); pp. 146-168 (Gottfredson and Hirschi); pp. 168-180 (Geis) 	Quiz #2; Due 9/22, 8:00 p.m.	
Week 5 (Sep. 25-29): Micro-Relativistic Theory: Labeling Theory		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 3, “Micro-Relativistic Tradition”; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 3; ▪ Pontell, pp. 2-7 (Becker), pp. 74-77 (Lemert), pp. 96-106 (Goode) 		Group Discussion #1: “Is deviant behavior a ‘normal’ response to social conditions or is it an ‘abnormal’ product of individual pathology?” Board open from 9/25, 5:00 p.m. to 9/29, 11:00 p.m.
Week 6 (Oct. 2-6): Macro-Relativistic Theory: Conflict Theory		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 3, “Macro-Relativistic Tradition”; ▪ Pontell, pp. 112-126 (Liazos) 	Quiz #3; Due 10/6, 8:00 p.m.	

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Week 7 (Oct. 9-13): Drug-Related Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 4, including Orcutt and Turner article, “Shocking Numbers and Graphic Accounts”; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 8; ▪ Pontell, pp. 132-139 (Becker) 		Exam #1: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 1-6; Online Monday, 10/9, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Week 8 (Oct. 16-20) : Alcohol-Related Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 5; ▪ Pontell, pp. 228-237 (Gusfield); pp. 247-254 (Orcutt) 	Quiz #4; Due 10/20, 8:00 p.m.	Paper #1: “Deviance and the Mass Media,” 2-4 pages; Due Wednesday, 10/18, 8:00 p.m.
Week 9 (Oct. 23-27): Psychiatric Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 6; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 9 ▪ Pontell, pp. 448-460 (Rosenhan) 		Group Discussion #2: “The ‘War on Drugs’: success or failure? What would you do differently?” Board open from Monday, 10/23, 5:00 p.m. to 10/27, 11:00 p.m.
Week 10 (Oct. 30-Nov. 3): Domestic Violence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 7; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 6; ▪ Pontell, pp. 20-32 (Pfohl) 		Exam #2: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 7-10; Online Friday, 11/3, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Week 11 (Nov. 6-10): Violent Crime		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 8; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 4; ▪ Pontell, pp. 273-286 (Scully and Marolla) 	Quiz #5; Due 11/10, 8:00 p.m.	
Week 12 (Nov. 13-17): Materialistic Crime		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 9; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 5; 		Paper #2: “Girls gone wild?: Research on gender and crime,” 2-4 pages; Due Friday, 11/17, 8:00 p.m.

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Week 13 (Nov. 20-24): Gender, Crime, and Social Control		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 10; ▪ Pontell, pp. 181-196 (Chesney-Lind), pp. 196-205 (Jolin), pp. 212-226 (Gagne) 		
Week 14 (Nov. 27-Dec. 1): Corporate Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 11; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 7 ▪ Pontell, pp. 425-431 (Benson) 	Quiz #6; Due 12/1, 8:00 p.m.	Group Discussion #3: Topic TBA; Board open from Monday, 11/27, 5:00 p.m. to 12/1, 11:00 p.m.
Week 15 (Dec. 4-8): Digital Deviance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online Review, Unit 12; ▪ McCaghy et al., Ch. 10 		Paper #3: “A Case Study of Corporate Deviance,” 2-4 pages; Due Friday, 12/8, 8:00 p.m.
Week 16 (Dec. 11-15): Finals Week		
		Exam #3: One-hour exam with five short-essay questions covering Weeks 11-15; Online Wednesday, 12/13, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.