

Deviance and Social Control (SYP 4570 Sections 1-5)

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Department of Sociology
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Distance Learning

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Course Description and Objectives

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.

Please check the announcements page on the course website frequently and make sure to check your FSU email often – daily if possible.

Course Requirements:

Your final grade will be based on the quality of your performance with respect to the course assignments and responsibilities. The allocation of points is as follows:

(1) Online Bio – 5 points. **IMPORTANT:** You must complete the Online Bio before **Midnight on Monday, August 25th** to satisfy the FSU "first-day attendance" policy. If you fail to do so, you may be dropped from the course. The Online Bio is a brief survey that will be posted in Assignments during the first week of the summer session. You will receive five points for answering several questions about your academic 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 “lectures” posted in the Online Review 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, 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.-10:00 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) Research paper = 10 points possible. This paper will require you to conduct research on deviant behavior and social reactions to deviance using online resources. The paper will be graded on a 10-point scale and will be submitted in electronic form on Blackboard using the Digital Dropbox. Be sure to keep a copy of your paper.

(4) Five open-book quizzes, each consisting of five questions = 25 points possible. These multiple-choice quizzes will be posted in Assignments on Monday at two-week intervals throughout the course. 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 possible. At three points in the semester, a discussion topic will be posted in the Groups folder on Blackboard. The class will be divided into three groups, and you will participate in a discussion board with other members of your group. Each student is expected to post a 150 word position statement, in essay form, in response to the discussion topic and then to post two 50-75 word replies to other students’ statement postings. Based on the quality of your posts, you can earn a possible 10 points for your contribution in each group discussion. There will be no credit given for late postings on the discussion board or for “flaming” and other inappropriate responses.

Grading Summary

Online Bio = 5 points
Three Exams = 30 points
Research Paper = 10 points
Open Book Quizzes = 25 points
Discussion Boards = 30 points
Total = 100 points

Grading Scale

A 93-100	C 73-76.99
A- 90-92.99	C- 70-72.99
B+ 87-89.99	D+ 67-69.99
B 83-86.99	D 63-66.99
B- 80-82.99	D- 60-62.99
C+ 77-79.99	F below 60

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 your mentor or me 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. **Read the course calendar carefully and check the Blackboard website frequently for dates of assignments.** 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 course and 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, original 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!