

SOCI 4630: Deviance and Control, Spring 2023

BASIC INFORMATION

Instructor: Ronald Kwon

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Office: 288D Sycamore

Office hours: Thursday 3:30-5:00 pm (please email me a confirmation you are coming)

Meeting Classroom: LIFE A419

Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20 pm

Course Number: SOCI 4630

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Deviance and Control (Sociology 4630)! We examine the sociological construction of deviance. In the class, we draw from diverse theories that range from theories of stigma to theories of social control to help explain who is deviant, why they are considered deviant, and how the meanings attached to deviance can slowly change over time. In doing so, we answer several key questions that include why people choose to be deviant, how do those who are labeled as deviant respond to labeling processes, and why some embrace the deviant labels while others reject the label.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Introduce students to some of the major sociological lenses through which sociologists often understand and explain deviance
- 2) Highlight those moral definitions are couched within systems of power.
- 3) Highlight the social construction of deviance and how social deviance becomes transformed.
- 4) Understand how race, class and gender intersect with moral definitions surrounding deviance.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Anderson, Tammy. 2014. *Understanding Deviance: Connecting Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: Routledge. (UD is the acronym for this book)

Other required readings will be made available on the university's instructional web-based system or are downloadable articles using the library's website. They are available under the "Readings" folder. I expect students to read these before class. Occasionally, the readings will be start or end in the middle of a chapter and/or have omitted sections. Please only read the sections that are complete. The readings are designed to preview, overlap, as well as reinforce lectures and the other readings. The amount of reading is manageable and necessary to perform well in the class.

COURSE GRADING BASIS

In class participation, pop quizzes and attendance (15%)

Students are expected to finish the readings before the start of class. I expect students to attend lectures, participate in in class assignments, and use topics from reading materials to engage in in class discussions.

If you miss class when participation or quizzes are recorded, you cannot make these up without a valid medical excuse. That is, you will need to provide documentation. Simply saying, I was sick, is not enough.

Research Paper (20%)

Students will conduct a norm breaching experiment and write down their findings and interpret results. More instructions will be given closer to the due date of the paper. The paper will be due during finals week and students will submit their paper through canvas. Please be aware that submissions will be processed through Turnitin for plagiarism and cheating.

Please do not copy and paste from internet sources. Please do not turn in a paper that was previously turned into another class. Turnitin will likely flag these submissions and I will review them carefully. Students who break these rules will be given a zero on their assignment and likely reported for academic misconduct.

Midterm Examination (25%):

The midterm will cover topics covered in lecture, the assigned readings, and films shown in class. The test will be composed of 35 multiple-choice questions and short answers. Please bring a scantron and a blue book for the exam.

Presentations (15%)

Students will do research on an area of deviance that has gone through substantial change over time in the US. Then students will do a 15 minute powerpoint presentation that highlights their key findings. Specific types of answers they should provide is what was/ or still is the deviant act? Who were the major actors that shaped definitions? What factors shaped changes in the meaning behind the deviant act? What major theoretical perspectives can be applied to understand the deviant act (i.e., strain theory, anomie theories)? What major policy changes has the US or organizations enacted to control the act? Has it been successful? At the end of the presentation, a short Q & A session will ensue, and student presenters will field questions. Further instructions will be posted on Canvas closer to the presentation due date near the end of the semester.

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions and short answers in a format that very much resembles the midterm. Topics for the exam will predominantly focus on the latter part of the course. Please bring a scantron and blue book for the exam.

Missing and/or rescheduling the exams will require extreme circumstances and must be discussed with me before the exam date. I do not accept late assignments without prior notification and a good reason of why it is late. Without these, I will not consider extensions at all.

The grading breakdown is as follows below:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

It is important for students to stay up with assignments and complete them on time. You CANNOT procrastinate. I will do my best to be straightforward and fair. Please feel free to approach me if you encounter any difficulties.

However, final grades are final and are NOT OPEN FOR DEBATE. Please do not ask for makeup assignments, extra credit, or a grade bump up once final grades are posted.

I calculate grades at the end of the course. If you have a pressing desire to know what your grade is after each assignment, you can easily calculate your grades by weighting the posted grades.

For example:

if quizzes are worth 15% and you have an average grade of 100% on quizzes, you will get 15 points.

if the research paper is worth 20% and you received a 90%, you will get 18 points.

if the midterm is worth 25% and you received a 100%, you will get 25 points.

If the presentation is worth 15% and you received an 80%, you will get 12 points

Combined this puts you at 70 points out of a possible 75 points or a 93.3% going into the final.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

Attendance: I cannot overemphasize the importance of regular class attendance. A substantial amount of exam questions is based on lecture materials, which may not be covered in the readings. This is still fair game for the exam. Moreover, class is (by far) the optimal time to ask questions to clarify. Please arrive to class on time. It is incredibly disruptive for other students and the instructor.

Electronic use: Please keep electronic use during the class period confined to class materials. It is distracting for me as well as other students when it is not. I will ask students to leave the classroom if I see that they are using their electronic classes for non-class reasons.

All students are expected to take their own notes and students are not permitted to record lectures in any format.

Please turn off all cell phones or put them on silent. In the event of a distraction, I have the authority to change a student's seat or request a student to exit the classroom. One-day suspensions will be reported to appropriate departmental and collegiate personnel.

Make up exams and/or incompletes: I generally do not give make-up exams or give incomplete grades, except under the most extreme emergencies. If you encounter an emergency, you should contact me before the test is administered.

Classroom decorum: A great deal of this course involves class discussion. Please respect the “rules of good discussion”. In particular, please consider the following: a) be good listeners to your fellow students (a democratic and open classroom necessitates a respectful environment); b) try to focus your discussion on course material; c) discussion is usually more stimulating when many people are involved, thus I ask for your help in trying to get everyone to contribute.

Respect the UNT guidelines for academic integrity:

<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf>

I appreciate the majority of students are honest. To the few students who do not hold such ideals, I want to stress that cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to work together and discuss problem sets. However, I expect each student to complete their own work.

Failure to do so will result in a zero on the assignment in question. A second offense will result in a failure of the course.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in the class or to complete all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to my attention promptly so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Students must register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. For additional information, please visit the ODA website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>.

Lectures and other classroom documents: Many of the classes key materials can be found under files. Lectures will be posted after class. They will be organized by week headings and contain under FILES>LECTURES. The syllabus will also be contained under FILES>SYLLABUS. The rubric for assignments can also be found here, however, but will be posted after the class. Materials for exam reviews will be under FILES>EXAM MATERIALS.

CALENDAR:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION, PERSPECTIVES ON DEVIANCE

WEEK 2: TYPES OF DEVIANCE & STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALISM, STRAIN THEORY

WEEK 3: CONSTRUCTING DEVIANCE, MORAL ENTREPRENEURS

WEEK 4: LABELING THEORY & SOCIAL CONTROL THEORY

WEEK 5: CONFLICT THEORY, ELITE DEVIANCE

WEEK 6: MIDTERMS

WEEK 7: ACCOUNTS

WEEK 8: THE ORGANIZATION OF DEVIANCE, IDENTITY

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: STIGMA, CONFORMITY

WEEK 11: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, SEX WORK

WEEK 12: SEX WORK, EXITING DEVIANT CAREERS

WEEK 13: DETERRENCE THEORY, RACE, AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM;
SOCIAL LEARNING THEORIES.

WEEK 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 15: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 16: FINAL REVIEW AND FINAL

**These are tentative dates and I reserve the right to alter assignment given sufficient notice.