

**SYLLABUS**  
**CJ 482 Social Deviance**  
**Summer I 2008**

**Instructor:** Lisa C. Bowman

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**Class Hours:** Monday – Friday: 2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

**Classroom:** A 115

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Course Description:**

This course will provide the upper-level undergraduate student with an understanding of deviance and deviant behavior. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how deviance and deviant behavior are identified and how this is reflected within the Criminal Justice System. A particular focus will be on theories that endeavor to provide a more complete understanding of these behaviors.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Describe the ways that our definitions of social deviance are relative.
2. Describe classical, positivist, and constructionist theories explain deviance
3. Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze deviance topics in today's society.
4. Actively discuss how people (both individuals and groups) assume identities as either normal or deviant and the mechanisms by which they maintain these identities.
5. Describe deviance in the context of rule-making, rule-breaking and social control.

**Required Text:**

Thio, Alex (2007). *Deviant Behavior* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.) Allyn and Bacon; Boston, Massachusetts.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.

Regular attendance of classes is crucial to a passing grade. The course includes in-class discussion activities that cannot be made up. Alternative assignments can be arranged due to unavoidable situations. One exam per semester can be taken as make-up by arranging a mutual time with the instructor. Subsequent missed exams will require prior notification to the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities:**

“Students with disability (disabilities) which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.” The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by telephone (ext. 1720). You are also welcome to discuss any concerns with the instructor. Please refer to: <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

**Religious Holidays:**

Please contact instructor of any applicable scheduling concerns due to religious holidays. Complete information on this policy can be found at : <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html#holyday>

**Class Discussions and Mutual Respect:**

Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other, especially in a course such as this. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. When participating in discussions, it is perfectly acceptable to have strong opinions – in fact I encourage you to do so. I also encourage you to discuss your own personal experience and relate it to that of others. In the process, however, I expect you to respect the basic intelligence and humanity of each participant in the discussion. Conflict is not negative, as long as there is a commitment to mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

The use of electronic devices is restricted during class time. Cell phones are to be off or on vibrate and text messaging is not permitted. If use is necessary, please leave the classroom quietly. Notebook computers are allowed in as much as it does not interfere with the learning environment.

**Academic Honesty:**

The university administration and faculty consider integrity of academics an integral part of a commitment to quality of education. In particular this instructor considers academic integrity a direct reflection of the character of both the instructor and the student. This being stated, cheating on papers, tests or other academic works will be dealt with in accordance with the university’s policy. This includes the use of others’ materials, words, or ideas without direct permission and/or proper citation of sources. If the student has questions or concerns about the proper use of materials, the assignment should be reviewed with the instructor prior to submittal.

The university's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines), delineating the course of action you will follow in cases of academic dishonesty.

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

### **Grading Policy and Course Requirements: (500 points total)**

Student course grades are:

Percentage Scale:

1. Test #1	20%	A = 90-100
2. Test #2	20%	B = 80-89
3. Test #3	20%	C = 70-79
4. Test #4	20%	D = 60-69
5. Chapter Discussions	20%	F = 59 and below

**Tests:** Tests will consist of multiple choice questions. The tests will cover material presented in class as well as material for the assigned reading in the textbook. This will **not** be an open book or open note test.

**Class Discussions:** Each student will be expected to critically answer eight (8) chapter questions over the course of the class semester. An additional handout providing the questions and requirements of this graded portion will be provided on the first day of class (see attached).

**Writing Center:** The utilization of the writing center is encouraged. The Sam Houston Writing Center is located in Wilson 114 and is open from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday, and 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday. Writing tutors will be available to help generate, organize, or revise a draft of assignments. Either drop by or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

### **Course Outline:**

This outline is subject to change according to the needs of the course and the students. It does not include detailed information about assignments. The outline serves only as a general overview of daily activities.

**\*NOTE: It is highly recommended that reading of chapter(s) to be reviewed is done preceding the class to assist in understanding and participation.**

Date:	Assigned Readings	Discussion and Lecture
June 3		Introduction to Class
June 4	Chapter 1	What is Deviant Behavior?
June 5	Chapter 2	Positivist Theories
June 6	Chapter 3	Construction Theories/ Review
June 9	<b>Test 1</b>	
June 10	Chapter 4	Physical Violence <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 11	Chapter 5	Rape and Child Molestation <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 12	Chapter 6	Family Violence <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 13		Review and Video
June 16	<b>Test 2</b>	
June 17	Chapter 7	Suicide <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 18	Chapter 8	Mental Disorder <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 19	Chapter 9	Heterosexual Deviance <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 20	Chapter 10	Gays and Other Victims of Stigma <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 23	<b>Test 3</b>	
June 24	Chapter 11	Drug Use <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 25	Chapter 12	Drinking and Alcoholism <b>Discussion Questions</b>
June 26	Chapter 13	Privileged Deviance
June 27	Chapter 14	Under privileged Deviance
June 30	Chapter 15	Internet Deviance
July 1	<b>Final Test</b>	

## **Discussion Question Format:**

- During the course, each student will be responsible for providing an oral answer to eight (8) questions – to be graded by the professor, with a well critically explained answer receiving the maximum of 25 pts.
- The questions will not be assigned.
- The chapters for these questions are noted on the previous outline.
- Two students will be allowed to answer the same question, by providing different insights, except for questions #1 and #9.
- Answers are expected to be brief, within an approximate two minute time frame, but informative and analytical.
- References outside of the textbook will be expected. (example: internet article, news story).
- The professor will point out, when applicable, answers that tie to testable material.
- Students will be limited to one answer per class discussion.
- Students are not to answer the same type of question more than once during the course.
- If, due to extended absence, a student will miss more than one discussion day, an alternative assignment will be allowed with excusable justification. The student is responsible for contacting the professor to arrange the assignment.
- On discussion days, approximately the first 30 minutes of class will be lecture. The following hour will be class discussion, followed by a review.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Define the type of social deviance
2. Identify the pertinent beliefs, values, norms that influence the way we define and respond to this type of social deviance
3. Identify the pertinent roles and statuses that influence the way we define and respond to this type of social deviance.
4. Describe the role of who is doing it, who is viewing it, when and where it is happening in defining this behavior as social deviance.
5. Explain how this type of deviance is different from other types?
6. Describe how this type of deviance is similar to other types?
7. Explain what it is about this type of deviance that makes it so troublesome for some.
8. Identify what it is about this type of deviance that makes it so desirable for others?
9. Identify portion(s) of the Texas Penal Code related to this behavior.
10. Explain which theory or theories of social deviance is/are best for explaining this behavior.
11. Identify the costs and benefits of this type of behavior to society.
12. Speculate about how you believe this behavior will be viewed by the time you reach retirement age and explain why you believe this.