



CJ660: Seminar in Deviant Behavior

Spring, 2007
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Brian A. Lawton Office: C127
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Class Hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:50pm Classroom: CJC A181
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-3:00pm

Required Texts:

Adler, Patricia A. & Adler, Peter. (2006). *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context and Interaction, 5th ed.* Thomson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Braithwaite, John. (1989). *Crime, Shame and Reintegration.* Cambridge University Press: New York, NY.

Goffman, Erving. (1963). *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity.* Simon and Schuster Inc.: New York, NY.

Katz, Jack. (1988). *Seductions of Crime.* Basic Books: Philadelphia, Pa.

Additional required readings will be available online.

Course Description: This course examines the concept of deviance and considers it from the positivistic (realism) and the constructionistic (objectivism) perspective. Special attention is paid to the idea of changing social norms and the reflection of this in our understanding of deviant behavior. A particular goal of the course is to examine differences between behaviors considered deviant versus those considered criminal, and the overlap between the two.

Course Objectives:

1. To critically evaluate how behaviors are identified as criminal versus deviant.
2. To understand how criminological theory helps us to understand the changing characteristics of criminal behavior.
3. To examine positivistic versus constructionistic perspectives on defining deviance.
4. To evaluate the fluctuating definition of deviance.

Additional Readings: (Available on Blackboard)

Adler, Patricia A. & Adler, Peter. (2006). *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context and Interaction, 5th ed.* Thomson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Plato: Meno

Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics (Books 1, 3, 5 and 7)

Hobbes: Leviathan (Chapters XV and XXVII)

Hume: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (Chapters XI and XII)

Kant: Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals (Section 1)

Mill: On Liberty (Chapters 3 and 4)

Rousseau: The Social Contract (Book1)

Vail: "Tattoos are like potato chips"

Bader: "Supernatural Support Groups"

Attendance Policy: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 (2004)

1.01 Regular and Punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.

1.02 It is expected that each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.

As a graduate class it is assumed that taking attendance is only a formality. However, any student missing over eight classes will receive a failing grade for the semester.

Grading Policy:

Final Exam	30%	A= 90-100
Midterm Exam	30%	B= 80-89
Evaluation Papers	30% (10% x 3)	C= 70-79
Class Participation	10%	F= 69 and below

Make-up Exams: A make-up exam will only be considered when a student can demonstrate appropriate cause for missing an exam. The student must inform me prior to missing the exam, or following when the situation is warranted. Students who cannot demonstrate appropriate cause will receive a failing grade for the exam.

Exams: Class exams will take the form of a series of essay questions. The exams will be open book, allowing a student to incorporate personal notes as well as the texts from class. The questions will encompass both material discussed in class as well as from the textbooks and other assigned readings.

Note: I will keep all exams following the class. If you wish to see your test and discuss your grade please make an appointment.

Evaluation Papers: Three of the assigned texts in the class will be the topics for evaluation papers due over the semester. Each paper will be 5-8 pages typed, double spaced.

Class Participation: As a graduate class it is expected that the students will have opinions and knowledge that they would like and be willing to share. While an open discussion is strongly encouraged, it must be done in a respectful manner. A course like this cannot be taught as a strict lecture class, students are expected to contribute each class to the discussion on the readings assigned for that week, as well as to integrate material from previous class discussions. Each week it is understood that students will lead the discussion on each of the readings.

Academic Honesty: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213(1990)

5.3 Academic Honesty. The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

5.31 The University and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Disabled Student Policy:

"Students with a disability 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 (x-1720). Students are also encouraged to discuss any concerns with the instructor.

Services for Disabled Students:

Information on a variety of services available to disabled students can be found at: www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html

Student Absences on Religious Holiday Policy: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 861001(2004)

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student who is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

Students should meet with the instructor in the first two weeks of the course to discuss appropriate times to make up any work to be missed.

Schedule

Week	Date	Readings
1	(01/16)	Introduction Syllabus Review
2	(01/23)	What is deviance? Who are deviants? Adler and Adler: Chapters 1-3 Plato: Meno
3	(01/30)	The Positivistic Perspective Adler and Adler: Chapters 5, 6, & 8 Aristotle: Nicomeachean Ethics Book 1 & Book 3
4	(02/06)	The Constructionistic Perspective Adler and Adler: Chapters 4, 7, 9 & 10 Aristotle: Nicomeachean Ethics Book 5 & Book 7
5	(02/13)	Studying Deviance Adler and Adler: Chapters 11-13 Hobbes: Leviathan Chapter XV and XXVII
6	(02/20)	Deviance as a Social Construction Adler and Adler: Chapters 14-20 Katz: Seductions of Crime Chapters 1-5
7	(02/27)	<i>Katz: Seductions of Crime Chapters 6-9</i> <i>Paper 1 Due (Seductions of Crime)</i>
8	(03/05)	<i>Midterm</i>
9	(03/12)	Spring Break- No Class
10	(03/19)	The Social Integration/Organization of Deviance/Deviants Adler and Adler: Chapters 29-33 Hume: Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion: XI & XII
11	(03/26)	<i>Crime, Shame and Reintegration (Braithwaite, John)</i> <i>Paper 2 Due (Crime, Shame and Reintegration)</i>
12	(04/02)	Defining an Act of Deviance Adler and Adler: Chapters 34-38 Kant: Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals (Section 1)
13	(04/09)	The Deviant Individual Adler and Adler: Chapters 21-25 Mill: On Liberty (Chapter 3)
14	(04/16)	The Deviant Career Adler and Adler: Chapters 39-42 Mill: On Liberty (Chapter 4)
15	(04/23)	<i>Stigma (Goffman, Irving)</i> <i>Paper 3 Due (Stigma)</i>
16	(04/30)	Reactions to Deviance Adler and Adler: Chapters 26-28 Rousseau: The Social Contract (Book 1)
17	(05/07)	Extreme Deviance Vail, Angus: Tattoos Bader, Christopher: Abductions
18	(05/14)	<i>Final Exam 5:00pm to 7:00pm.</i>