



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE 482H**  
**SOCIAL DEVIANCE – HONORS SECTION**  
**FALL 2007    TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 9:30-11 A.M.    A213, CJ CENTER**

### **SYLLABUS**

This course is described in your course catalogue as the study of *the psychological and sociological aspects of socially deviant behavior; theoretical overviews and implications for social control and social policy.*

**Deviant:** *A person whose behavior differs from accepted social or moral standards.*

### **PROFESSOR VICTORIA B. TITTERINGTON**

Office Hours: TR 9-9:30 a.m.  
and 11 a.m.-12 noon,  
or by appointment

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### **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the ways that our definitions of social *deviance* are relative.
2. Describe classical, positivist, critical and postmodern explanations/ theories of deviance.
3. Demonstrate your ability to critically think, write, and verbally communicate about deviance in today's society, through class discussions, book reviews and examination essays.
4. 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 READING**

Ferrell, Jeff. (2001). *Tearing Down The Streets: Adventures in Urban Anarchy*. ISBN: 0-312-23335-3.

Goode, Erich. (2008). *Deviant Behavior, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-240366-5.

Rotenberg, Mordechai. (2003). *Damnation & Deviance: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Failure*. ISBN: 0-7658-0988-5.

Other readings as assigned, via Class Handouts, Library Reserve and Blackboard.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES**

### WRITING STANDARDS

All papers for this course must be typed, double-spaced and free from grammatical errors and typos. Multiple pages should be stapled in the upper left-hand corner of the document. 20% of the grade on any written assignment will be based on technical quality.

### TOLERANCE

Students are expected to be courteous and considerate at all times. Distractions, rude comments or gestures, and otherwise intolerant behavior is unacceptable. Being considerate also entails not wearing clothing with obscene or offensive symbols or wording. Students wearing offensive or derogatory clothing will not be admitted to the classroom.

### ATTENDANCE

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Roll will be taken at the beginning or end of each class. Student not present at the time of roll call will be marked absent.

Students can miss up to two (2) classes without a grade deduction. On the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) absence the student forfeits five points from the final course grade. The final grade will be reduced by one letter grade for every absence beyond the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

There will be a number of Learning Assignments for this course. Late Learning Assignments will be deducted one letter grade and will only be accepted one class period late.

Unless I am notified in advance of your absence, and you provide a documented excuse for having missed an examination or your individual presentation, you will not be allowed to make up missed class work. In cases of excused absences the missed work will be completed by a mutually agreed-upon deadline.

### BLACKBOARD

Students must use their SHSU computer account. All e-mail communications between the professor and student will use the SHSU assigned e-mail. Also, all student will be required to log into Blackboard (<http://blackboard.shsu.edu>) using their SHSU student account.

Blackboard (<http://blackboard.shsu.edu>) will be used in this course. Written assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Grades will be posted on Blackboard. Check Blackboard regularly for course Announcements and to consult the Course Calendar.

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

You are welcomed to record class lectures and/or discussions with the understanding that no copies of these lectures and/or transcripts made from these recordings are sold or otherwise distributed for use by others. The use of personal iPods, text messaging or any other electronic communication is prohibited during class sessions. Please set any electronic communication devices to "silent mode" during class sessions. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

### INCOMPLETES

University policy specifies that any student who seeks an incomplete for a course must have passed a minimum of 50% of the course requirements with a C or better and have extenuating circumstances (e.g., documented health problems) that prevent him or her from completing the course.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty> Turnitin.com anti-plagiarism software may be used in this course.

### DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/schedule/>

### SERVICES FOR DISABLED STUDENTS

See <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/sswd.html>

### STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAY POLICY

See <http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html.holyday>

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

The following evaluation criteria are designed to assess your (1) [mastery of essential terms and concepts](#), (2) [mastery of critical thinking](#) and (3) [mastery of written and oral communication](#).

### LEARNING ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to attend all classes, read all class materials and come to class ready to discuss the readings in detail. On a regular basis, students will be asked to engage in debates, problem-solving and real-world application exercises in class. Among other things, this will include short written answers to the questions posed at the end of each of the 13 chapters of our primary textbook (Goode). These answers will be submitted on the second of the two class days that each chapter is covered (see Outline).

### BOOK REVIEWS

Each student will write book reviews of Jeff Ferrell's *Tearing Down The Streets: Adventures in Urban Anarchy* and Mordechai Rotenberg's *Damnation & Deviance: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Failure*. The objectives of these assignments are to exercise your critical thinking and writing skills. A sample book review will be provided in class and the due dates for these reviews are shown in your course outline. The books will be discussed in the classes subsequent to each review.

### EXAMINATIONS

There will be three examinations in this class. These exams will be one-half objective questions and one-half essay questions. Material to be covered in each is shown in the Course Outline. The examinations will be administered via Blackboard.

### INDIVIDUAL CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Each student will prepare a class presentation on one type of social deviance. This will include a written paper and an oral presentation. The oral presentation may include audiovisuals (i.e. music or video clips, Powerpoint slides, etc.) and a 5-question student quiz that will be administered at the completion of the presentation.

Students may select a type of deviance included in the primary textbook (Goode) or one chosen independently. Selections are to be made by the September 4 class and are subject to Instructor approval. The due date for each presentation will be based on the type of deviance to be covered.

The cover page for this presentation will include the course number and title, instructor's name, student name and date. Page length for these presentations will be 10-15 pages, including the cover page, body of text and references. The teaching materials (i.e. Powerpoint slides and quizzes) are not part of this page length.

These papers are to be written in Microsoft WORD, double-spaced, in 10-, 11- or 12-point font. Use 1-1/2" margins at the top of each page and 1" margins elsewhere. There should be a cover page (not part of page length) that includes the paper title, your name, the date, the course name, number, section and Instructors' name. Your name and a page number should also be in a header at the top right corner of each page beyond the cover.

The written paper should be prepared using the style of the American Psychological Association. There are several internet resources for APA style, including:

<http://www.genesee.edu/library/Citation/APAStylesheet> and  
<http://www.docstyles.com/apacrib.htm> .

The same piece of work should be submitted for credit in more than one course only with the permission of all instructors involved.

For this course, *Wikipedia* is not considered an academic source of information. The *Journal of Deviant Behavior*, *The Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* are examples of academic journals.

Your presentation should:

- ✓ Define the type of social deviance.
- ✓ Identify the pertinent "beliefs," values," "norms," "roles," and "statuses" that influence the way we define and respond to this type of social deviance.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Explain how this type of deviance is different from other types?
- ✓ Describe how this type of deviance is similar to other types?
- ✓ Explain what it is about this type of deviance that makes it so troublesome for some.
- ✓ Identify what it is about this type of deviance that makes it so desirable for others?
- ✓ Identify portion(s) of the Texas Penal Code (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/petoc.html> ) related to this behavior.
- ✓ Explain which theory or theories of social deviance is/are best for explaining this behavior.
- ✓ Identify the costs and benefits of this type of behavior to society.
- ✓ Speculate about how you believe this behavior will be viewed by the time you reach retirement age and explain why you believe this.

These individual class presentations will be graded on:

- ✓ technical quality,
- ✓ use of course material,
- ✓ use of outside resources,
- ✓ content accuracy (i.e. concepts and definitions) and
- ✓ creativity.

GRADING

Learning Assignments (average of all)	100 points
Book Review – Ferrell	50
Book Review – Rotenberg	50
Individual Class Presentation	100
Exam #1	50
Exam #2	50
Examination #3 (Final)	<u>100</u>
Total	500 points

450 – 500 points = A      400-449 points = B      350-399 points = C  
 300-349 points = D      < 300 points = F

**ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**

As a student of Sam Houston State University, several valuable resources are available to you with all of your courses. These include:

- \*\*Student Advising and Mentoring (SAM) Center ([http://www.shsu.edu/~sam\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/)),
- \*\*Sam Houston Writing Center (<http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>) and
- \*\*Sam Houston Reading Center ([http://www.shsu.edu/~rdg\\_www/](http://www.shsu.edu/~rdg_www/)).


I encourage you to use these services as needed.

COURSE OUTLINE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS		
DATE	TOPICS	READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS
August 21	Course Overview	Syllabus In-Class Assignment
Part I Defining Deviance		
August 23	Introduction	Goode, Chapter 1  Newspaper Assignment
August 28	Approaches to Deviance	Goode, Chapter 2, pp. 22-30  "A Typology of Deviance Based on Middle Class Norms"
Part II Theories of Deviance		
August 30	Approaches, continued	Goode, Chapter 2, pp. 31-41 Written Answers for Chapter 2  "The Normal and the Pathological"
September 4	Explaining Deviant Behavior: Positivist Theories	Goode, Chapter 3, pp. 42-52  Individual Presentation Topics Selected

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September 6	Positivist Theories, continued	Goode, Chapter 3, pp. 53-64 Written Answers for Chapter 3
September 11	Constructionist Theories of Deviance	Goode, Chapter 4, pp. 65-85 "Moral Panics: The Case of Satanic Day Care Centers"
September 13	Constructionist Theories, continued	Goode, Chapter 4, pp. 86-99 Written Answers for Chapter 4 "Homophobia and Women's Sport"
September 18	Examination #1	Chapters 1 – 4 via Blackboard
September 20	Studying Deviance: Methods in Social Research	Goode, Chapter 5, pp.100-116
September 25	Studying Deviance, continued	Goode, Chapter 5, pp. 117-125 Written Answers for Chapter 5
September 27	Criminal Behavior	Goode, Chapter 6, pp. 126-136 "Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive"
October 2	Criminal Behavior, continued	Goode, Chapter 6, pp. 137-148 Written Answers for Chapter 6
October 4	Book Review of Jeff Ferrell's <i>Tearing Down The Streets: Adventures in Urban Anarchy.</i>	Submit Book Review Via Blackboard
October 9	Book Review of Jeff Ferrell's <i>Tearing Down The Streets: Adventures in Urban Anarchy.</i>	Class Discussion
October 11	Criminal Violence	Goode, Chapter 7, pp. 149-163
October 16	Criminal Violence, continued	Goode, Chapter 7, pp. 164-173 Written Answers for Chapter 7
October 18	Illicit Drug Use	Goode, Chapter 8, pp. 174-193
October 23	Illicit Drug Use, continued	Goode, Chapter 8, pp. 194-211 Written Answers for Chapter 8
October 25	Examination #2	Chapters 5 – 8 via Blackboard
October 30	Deviant Organizational Behavior	Goode, Chapter 9, pp. 212-222 "The Crash of Value-Jet Flight 592: A Case Study of State-Corporate Crime"
November 1	Deviant Organizational Behavior, continued	Goode, Chapter 9, pp. 223-237 Written Answers for Chapter 9
November 6	Sexual Deviance	Goode, Chapter 10, pp. 238-252
November 8	Sexual Deviance, continued	Goode, Chapter 10, pp. 253-268 Written Answers for Chapter 10
November 13	Cognitive Deviance: Holding Unconventional Beliefs	Goode, Chapter 11, pp. 269-280

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November 15	Book Review of Rotenberg, Mordechai.'s. <i>Damnation &amp; Deviance: The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Failure.</i>	Submit Book Review Via Blackboard
November 20	Cognitive Deviance: Holding Unconventional Beliefs, continued	Goode, Chapter 11, pp. 281-293 Written Answers for Chapter 11
November 22	 <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	No Class
November 27	Mental Disorder	Goode, Chapter 12, pp. 294-308
November 29	Mental Disorder, continued	Goode, Chapter 12, pp. 309-325 Written Answers for Chapter 12
December 4	Physical Characteristics as Deviance	Goode, Chapter 13, pp. 326-339
December 6	Physical Characteristics as Deviance, continued	Goode, Chapter 13, pp. 340-353 Written Answers for Chapter 13
December 11	Final Examination, 8 – 10 a.m.	½ on Chapters 1-8 ½ on Chapters 9-13 via Blackboard

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Break!





