

CJ 482W
Social Deviance
Spring 2008
Monday, 6:00-9:00 PM
UCTR

Instructor: Dr. Jurg Gerber
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Office Hours: Tu, W 9:00 AM –noon
Th 1:00-3:00 PM
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Course Description

Catalogue: The psychological and sociological aspects of socially deviant behavior; theoretical overviews and implications for social control and social policy.

Objectives: “Nonconformity to social norms” is the broadest definition of deviance. Norms tell us how to act—not observing them constitutes deviance. In this class we will analyze the causes of such nonconformity, its extent, manifestations, and possible treatments. Questions to be examined include: What is deviance? Who has the power to define deviance? What is the extent of deviance? How many forms of deviance exist? Why do people deviate? Why do most people conform most of the time? What can be done about deviance? Should anything be done about deviance?

Sociological approaches to deviance will be emphasized in this class.

Required Readings

Adler, Patricia A., and Peter Adler. 2009. *Constructions of Deviance: Social Context, Power, and Interaction, sixth edition*. Belmont, CA: Thompson.
Heiner, Robert. 2008. *Deviance across Cultures*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Class Requirements

This class will be taught as a combination of seminar and lecture. This means that the students will have to assume some responsibility for the content of the course. Furthermore, the class is listed as writing-enhanced and will therefore require considerable writing.

Grading

Four (4) take-home examinations. These examinations will be distributed throughout the semester. Answers are to be typed and double-spaced—approximate length is 5-8 pp. (4 x 50 points)	200 Points
Two (2) in-class examinations (Midterm and Final: 2 x 100 points)	200 Points
Class Participation	<u>50 Points</u>
Total	450 Points

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given.

Make-up Examinations

Take-home examinations will be distributed at least two weeks before they are due. Except under highly unusual circumstances (e.g., lengthy hospitalization) there will be no opportunity to make up such examinations. The two in-class examinations will be administered on March 31 and May 12, 2008. Make-up examinations can be scheduled in case of documented emergencies (going on vacation in Cancun does not constitute an emergency).

Grade Distribution

405-450 Points	A
360-404 Points	B
315-359 Points	C
270-314 Points	D
0-269 Points	F

Academic Honesty

The Faculty of the College of Criminal Justice expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual, entitled, *Student Guidelines*, distributed by the Division of Student Services (Reference Section 5.3 of the guidelines—my translation of the material: you cheat, you flunk).

Attendance

The university requires me to take attendance on a regular basis (see the university policy at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf). However, for purposes of grading I will record attendance only on a random basis. It should be noted, though, that class participation is a factor in determining semester grades.

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. Please consult the following website for more information: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/811006.pdf .

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Consistent with the Texas Education Code and SHSU University Policy 861001, students who desire to be absent from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day shall present the professor with a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). I will then notify the students of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

Tobacco Products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time; the second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.

Electronic Devices in the Class Room

Students are free to record class lectures with the understanding that no copies of these lectures or transcripts made from these recordings are sold or otherwise distributed for use by others. Please make sure to set any electronic communication devices to “silent mode” during class sessions.

SHSU Writing Center

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington Hall 111, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Tentative Order of Topics and Reading Assignments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1/28	Introduction	
2/4	Defining and Researching Deviance	A&A: Part 1 and 3
	Approaches to defining deviance including relativism, harm-based, and social power will be studied. Furthermore, we will look at different approaches taken by researchers to studying social deviance.	
2/11	Theories of Deviance	A&A: Part 2
	Several theoretical perspectives including anomie, strain, social learning, labeling, and social control theory will be studied.	
2/18	First Take Home Paper Due	
2/18	Theory of Deviance continued	H: Parts 1 and 8
2/25	Constructing Deviance and Moral Panics	A&A: Part 4 H: 2
	We will look in detail at the question of how deviance is not necessarily “objectively real,” but rather that it can be socially constructed. Special emphasis will be placed on the creation of moral panics.	
3/3	More on Moral Panics	A&A: Part 4 H: 2
3/10	Second Take Home Paper Due	
3/10	Deviant Identities	A&A: Part 5
	We will study how people develop a self-concept of being deviant, and how they engage in stigma management.	

3/17 Spring Break

3/24 Deviant Identities continued A&A: Part 5

3/31 Midterm Examination (6-7PM)

3/31 Social Organization of Deviance A&A: Part 6

We will study the different organizational forms deviance can take: loners, subcultures, countercultures, gangs, and formal organizations. Special emphasis will be placed on corporations and other formal organizations.

4/7 More Social Organization of Deviance H: Part 6

4/14 Third Take Home Paper Due

4/14 Structure of Deviant Acts A&A: Part 7

Some forms of deviance involve individuals acting alone, while others involve cooperation among willing participants, while yet others involve conflict among the participants.

4/21 Deviant Careers A&A: Part 8
H: Part 5

Deviants enter careers, go through several stages and then often exit deviance.

4/28 Sex, Sexuality, and Prostitution H: Parts 3 and 4

We will study different forms of sex and sexuality that have been considered deviant in some cultures and a certain times.

5/5 Fourth Take Home Paper Due

5/5 Deviance and Religion H: Part 7

Religion and religious beliefs are sometimes linked with participation in deviance.

5/12 Final Examination

Guidelines for the Four (4) Take-Home Examinations

In addition to the two in-class examinations, students will be required to submit four take-home examinations. The professor will provide several general topics and each student must choose one of these general topics and is then free to select a sub-topic within this general topic. The purpose of these papers is to be analytical and reflective rather than being simple summaries of what has been read and learned.