

Course Syllabus

SYP3510 Deviance

Instructor: Professor Marian J. Borg

Email: mborg@ufl.edu

Email (directly or via our Canvas course site) is the most effective way to reach me. I will do my best to return your email quickly and within 24 hours. I generally do not check email on the weekends, so please expect a slower response if you email then.

Office hours: My semester office hours will be via Zoom on Thursdays, Noon-1:30, Fridays in person, Noon-1:30, and also by appointment via Zoom or in-person. Please feel free to email me so that we can set up a convenient time. If you have a question I may be able to answer via email, please let me know. I will do my best to respond quickly, depending on the volume of student traffic. I expect more email prior to assignment due dates and will answer your questions as quickly as possible. In general, I check my email (Monday to Friday) for the last time around 5:00 pm, so please plan accordingly if your questions are “urgent.”

Course Description and Objectives

This on-line course is an introduction to the sociological study of deviance, including patterns associated with deviant behavior and with society's reaction to it. We will address three general areas over the course of the semester. First (in Modules 1-2), we will examine how sociologists define deviance and study it from different perspectives. Next (in Modules 3-6), we will review two sets of theories. The first aims to explain the “causes” of deviant behavior. The second focuses on understanding how deviance is “created” and on describing the implications of society's reaction to deviance. In the remaining modules (7-12), we will analyze various forms of deviance including: homicide, alcohol abuse, human trafficking, and suicide.

The course should help you:

- Explain, apply and assess the major perspectives used by sociologists to define and study deviance, including the specific theories associated with each perspective.
- Differentiate and evaluate the formal and informal ways in which society reacts to deviance and the implications of those responses for individuals and society.
- Collect, analyze and interpret data on the social context of various types of deviant behavior, including the characteristics of those involved in deviance and what their involvement means to them.
- Critically analyze data and research to formulate policies and programs that provide effective responses to deviance.

Note: Specific objectives associated with each module are listed within each module.

Course Readings

There is **one required textbook** for the course: *Perspectives on Deviance and Social Control*, by Michelle Inderbitzin, Kristin A. Bates and Randy Gainey, 2015, Sage Publications. There are several different editions available. One has a front cover with mostly red and one blue fish; another has blue and yellow fish; and a third has black street signs and directional arrows. Any one of those is fine—buy whichever is cheapest. I have posted the reading pages that accompany the specific editions within each module.

Additional required readings are available via links within each module.

Course Requirements

Syllabus Quiz

The syllabus quiz is required and is worth 5 points towards your final grade. The quiz is open book/open notes. Please check the course calendar for open and close due dates. There will be 5 questions on the quiz; each question is worth one point. You will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz, you must finish it once you start, and you must submit your answers by 11:55 pm on the due date (please consult the course calendar). **Your syllabus quiz is worth 5 points toward your final grade.**

Introduce Yourself Post

An “introduce yourself” assignment is required and is worth 10 points towards your final grade. Follow the assignment and complete **all** posts on the due dates (see the course calendar) to earn the full points. **Your introduce yourself post is worth 10 points towards your final grade.**

Quizzes

Over the course of the semester, there will be six substantive quizzes covering material from lectures, assigned chapters, supplemental readings and video material. The quizzes are not cumulative, except to the extent that material covered later in the course builds upon that discussed earlier. Quizzes will cover two modules worth of material, and will take place at the end of modules 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. Five of the 6 substantive quizzes will count toward your final grade, so your lowest substantive quiz score will be dropped from your final grade. **Thus, your substantive quizzes are worth a total of 100 points toward your final grade (5 quizzes worth 20 points each).**

Once you have completed all of the assigned tasks for a module (i.e., the chapter and supplemental readings, lectures, video links, etc.), make sure you study this material thoroughly. You should then be ready to take the quiz. The quiz is timed, so should know all the material prior to starting the quiz (**i.e., there will not be enough time to look up each answer in your notes, so you should prepare as if your notes were not available to you**). You will have 25 minutes to complete each quiz.

Quizzes will open on Fridays at 12:01 a.m. and remain open until Friday at 11:55 pm. You are responsible for completing your quizzes by 11:55 pm on the due date. You will have 25 minutes to complete your 20 question quiz. If you are still taking the quiz when the due time for the quiz passes, you will not be allowed to submit your quiz. Thus, the latest start time for each quiz is 11:30 pm Eastern Time on quiz days. You **MUST** take the quiz **BEFORE** the deadline listed. Make up quizzes will be given according to the makeup policy (see below) and will be scheduled at my discretion.

If you have any trouble with your quiz, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-4357 / option 2. Once you have done so, email me immediately with the details of your problem along with your HelpDesk ticket number. Before taking your first quiz, view the [Canvas video tutorial on taking quizzes](#).

Discussion Assignments

Regular participation in the discussion component of the course is required. There are 4 discussion assignments throughout the semester. You will be required to complete 3 of the 4 (your choice) discussion assignments. To earn the full points, make sure to follow the directions associated with each discussion assignment. Each of the four consists of an initial discussion assignment/post and a follow-up post. Each discussion assignment is worth a total of 25 points. **Thus, there are a total of 75 discussion assignment points that will count toward your final grade (3 required discussion assignments worth 25 points each).**

Journal Project

The last component of your grade will consist of 3 short (2-3 pages each, double spaced) "journal entries." These entries should be of "observations" that you make and/or data that you collect during the course of the semester. Each observation or data item should illustrate or reflect a topic addressed in our course modules (i.e., lectures, reading material, etc.). Please see the journal project instructions for more specific directions. **Each entry counts 20 points toward your final grade, for a total of 60 points. Please see the course calendar for the due date of your journal entries.**

Course Surveys/Evaluation Process

At the end of the semester, you are also asked to complete the course evaluation available on Canvas via the Gator Rater link on the course homepage. Please take the time to complete these evaluations as I appreciate your valuable feedback.

Grading

Final grades will be determined from a combination of quizzes and assignments, according to the following structure. GPA equivalents are also noted below. Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be accessed [here](#).

Syllabus quiz	5 points
Introduce Yourself Post	10 points
Quizzes (5 of 6, 20 points apiece)	100 points
Discussion Assignments (3 @ 25 apiece)	75 points
Journal Project	60 points
Total possible points	250 points

Points Earned	Percent	Grade	Corresponding Grade Points
232-250	93-100%	A	4.00
224-231	90-92%	A-	3.67
217-223	87-89%	B+	3.33
199-216	80-86%	B	3.00
194-198	78-79%	B-	2.67
189-193	76-77%	C+	2.33
174-188	70-75%	C	2.00
169-173	68-69%	C-	1.67
164-168	66-67%	D+	1.33
149-163	60-65%	D	1.00
144-148	58-59%	D-	.67
0-143	Below 58%	E	0.00

Makeup Policy

I understand that sometimes one's personal life interferes with one's ability to take an exam, turn in a paper, participate in a discussion, etc. If you have a legitimate reason for missing a class assignment (e.g., documented illness, religious holiday, death in the family), and **can provide documentation**, you will be allowed to make up what you missed IF you contact me (via email) before/ immediately after the missed assignment. Your makeup will be scheduled at my discretion.

Making up quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade in this class is dropped at the end of the semester. Therefore, if you miss one quiz, you do not need to provide documentation for me. However, if you miss more than one quiz, you need to provide documentation for ALL missed quizzes (including the dropped quiz) to make up any quizzes. So, if you miss one quiz, keep the documentation just in case you need to miss another one and would like to make up the quiz that will count toward your final grade.

Students with Disabilities

Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center.](#) Please share your accommodation letter with me and discuss your access needs as early as possible in the semester. The DRC is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.

Administrative Information

This syllabus is provided for your information and may change as deemed necessary. You are responsible for learning all the material contained in the syllabus as well as any modifications that are made to the syllabus over the course of the semester. All changes to the syllabus will be announced and emailed to you. If you have any questions about the syllabus or course requirements, please feel free to contact me. An approximate semester schedule appears below.

Semester Schedule and Due Dates

For all course deadlines, please see the table below.

Date	Details
Tuesday, January 17	Introduce Yourself Discussion Activity, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Thursday, January 19	Syllabus Quiz, due by 11:55 pm
Thursday, January 19	Introduce Yourself Discussion Activity, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday, January 27	Quiz 1 over Modules 1-2, due by 11:55 pm
Monday, January 30	Discussion 1.1 Journal Assignment, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Wednesday, February 1	Discussion 1.2 Journal Assignment, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday, February 10	Quiz 2 over Modules 3-4 due by 11:55 pm
Friday, February 24	Quiz 3 over Modules 5-6, due by 11:55 pm
Monday, February 27	Discussion 2.1 Hiring an Ex-Felon, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Wednesday, March 1	Discussion 2.2 Hiring an Ex-Felon, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday, March 10	Quiz 4 over Modules 7-8, due by 11:55 pm
Tuesday, March 21	Discussion 3.1 Human Trafficking, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Thursday, March 23	Discussion 3.2 Human Trafficking, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday, March 31	Quiz 5 over Modules 9-10, due by 11:55 pm
Monday, April 10	Discussion 4.1 Rethinking Drinking, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Wednesday, April 12	Discussion 4.2 Rethinking Drinking, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday, April 14	Quiz 6 over Modules 11-12, due by 11:55 pm
Friday, April 21	Journal Project Due, 11:55 pm