

Course Syllabus

SYP3510 Deviance

Instructor: Professor Marian J. Borg

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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, 2:00-3:00 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. There is no time limit, and you may re-take it as many times as you wish. Please submit your answers by 11:59 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 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 quizzes will count toward your final grade, so your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final grade. **Your quizzes are worth a total of 100 points toward your final grade (5 quizzes worth 20 points each).**

Once you have completed all 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 you 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 Sunday at 11:59 pm. You are responsible for completing your quizzes by 11:59 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. 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

There are three discussion activities available in the course. **You are required to complete two of these activities—your choice.** Which 2 you decide on is up to you--make your decision based on your interest in the assignment and your schedule (i.e., the assignments are spaced throughout the semester, so you might want to consider due dates in other courses, work schedules, family responsibilities, etc. in helping to decide which of the 2 assignments to submit). **But please note: I will grade the first two discussion activities you submit. Please DO NOT submit a third!** Detailed instructions for each activity are located via links under the appropriate tabs in Canvas. To earn the full points, make sure to follow the directions associated with that discussion activity. Each activity consists of an initial discussion post and a follow-up post, and each activity is worth a total of 30 points. **There are a total of 60 discussion activity points that will count towards your final grade (2 required discussion activities worth 30 points each).**

Journal Project

The last component of your grade will consist of three (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 25 points toward your final grade, for a total of 75 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 an evaluation of the course. Please take the time to complete these evaluations as I appreciate your valuable feedback. Here are [UF instructions](#) regarding the evaluation process: "Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>."

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 (2 @ 30 apiece) | 60 points |
| Journal Project | 75 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 with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the [“Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their 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.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness: [U Matter, We Care](#): If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [UMatter, We Care](#) website or call 352-392-1575 to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

[Collegiate Veterans Success Center](#): The Collegiate Veterans Success Center supports UF student veterans, service members, and family members of veterans with a designated space on campus to study, socialize, and meet with on and off campus resources in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Please visit the website or contact 352-294-7233 for more information.

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357.

[Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

[Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

[Teaching Center](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

[Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).

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 (subject to change)

For all course deadlines, please see the table below and in Canvas.

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------|---|-----------------|
| Thu Aug 29 | Introduce Yourself—initial post Syllabus Quiz | due by 11:59 pm |
| Fri Aug 30 | Introduce Yourself -- follow up post | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Sep 15 | Quiz #1 Covering Modules 1-2 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Sep 17 | Discussion Activity 1: Journal Article Review | due by 11:55pm |
| Thu Sep 19 | Discussion Activity #1 --follow up post | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Oct 6 | Quiz #2 covering Modules 3 and 4 | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Oct 20 | Quiz #3, covering Modules 5-6 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Oct 22 | Discussion Activity 2: Talking With a Relative About Deviance | due by 11:55pm |
| Thu Oct 24 | Discussion Activity #2 -- follow up post | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Nov 3 | Quiz #4 Covering Modules 7-8 | due by 11:59pm |
| Tue Nov 12 | Discussion Activity 3: Learning More About Human Trafficking | due by 11:55pm |
| Thu Nov 14 | Discussion Activity #3 --follow-up post | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Nov 17 | Quiz #5 covering Modules 9 and 10 | due by 11:59pm |
| Sun Dec 8 | Quiz #6 covering Modules 11 and 12 | due by 11:59pm |
| Mon Dec 9 | Assignment: Journal Project | due by 11:59pm |