

T 4 R 4-5 periods  
Weil Hall 279  
Office Hours: T R 1:00-3:00  
And by appointment

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***DEVIANCE (SYP3510 / MB40)***  
***GEN-ED (S)***  
***Spring Semester 2024***

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the sociological study of deviance, including patterns associated with deviant behavior and with society's reaction to it. During the semester our discussions will address three general areas. First, we will examine how "deviance" is defined by sociologists who approach the topic from different perspectives. Next, 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 deviant behavior. In the last section of the course we will analyze various forms of behavior typically defined as deviant in our society.

This course should help you: 1) develop a knowledge of the major perspectives used by sociologists to study deviance; 2) acquire a more informed understanding of the patterns associated with several types of deviant behavior, including the characteristics of those who typically engage in the behavior and what their involvement means to them; and 3) become more familiar with some formal and informal ways in which society reacts to deviance and the implications of those responses for individuals.

**Information Pertaining to General Education Program:**

This course is designated as fulfilling 3 credits towards the Social and Behavioral Sciences area of the General Education Program. Please see [this link](#) for a statement of the objectives in the (S) area. **Please note: a minimum grade of C is required for Gen-Ed (S) credit.**

As a course that aligns with Gen-Ed (S) program goals, this course offers students the opportunity to: 1) learn the history, key themes, principles, terminology, theories, and methodologies used in the sociological study of deviance and social control; 2) engage with empirical studies that identify, describe and explain various forms of behavior considered deviant and different institutional responses to such behavior; 3) assess and analyze the implications, including ethical, of different social control responses for the "deviant" individual; 4) critically analyze public policy alternatives for the prevention and management of deviant behavior; and 5) apply and consider the limitations and contributions of various methodological approaches in the sociological study of deviance.

**Specific General Education Student Learning Outcomes (S)**

<b>Student Learning Outcomes (Social and Behavioral Sciences)</b>	<b>Assessed Through these Course Assignments/Requirements</b>
Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.	Exams Semester project (journal assignment) Class discussions
Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.	Exams Semester project (journal assignment) Class discussions
Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.	Semester project (journal assignment) Class discussions

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance:** “Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.” You should attend all class meetings, especially since most of the assigned reading will complement (but usually not duplicate) the issues we discuss in lecture. Whether or not you attend class, you are responsible for all material and assignments, including any that may be added or altered during the semester. Plagiarism, cheating, selling course notes, and other forms of stealing one another's work will be considered grounds for immediate course failure and referral to Student Honor Court.

**Tests:** There will be 3 multiple choice tests covering material from lecture AND readings. Each test counts 40 points toward your final grade. The tests are not cumulative, except to the extent that material covered later in the course builds upon that discussed earlier. Test dates are listed on the Course Schedule. Make-up exams will be administered according to UF policy. Unless otherwise decided by me, all make-up exams will be given on the FINAL EXAM DATE for the course.

**Journal Entries:** The last component of your grade will consist of 3 short (approx. 2 pages, single spaced, each) "journal entries." These entries should be of observations that you make during the course of the semester and that illustrate a topic addressed in lecture, class discussions and/or reading material. More

specific directions are attached to the syllabus and included on our course website. Each entry counts 10 points toward your final grade, for a total of 30 points. Your journal entries are due on Tuesday, April 23.

Required Reading Material: All required reading material is available on our Canvas course shell.

Class Participation: I welcome and encourage class participation and discussion. During the semester, we will occasionally have group discussions focusing on particular topics we're covering in the course. Being in class, participating in the discussions, and/or submitting short (1-2 pages) reaction papers to these events may comprise extra credit points added to your final grade points. If you are not in class, then you cannot participate and therefore cannot receive extra credit points.

Grading Structure: Please note: Minus grades are an available option that instructors may choose to use. Equivalent grade point conversions and information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is available on the Registrar's website:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Points Accumulated</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>94-100</i>	<i>141-150</i>
<i>A-</i>	<i>90-93</i>	<i>135-140</i>
<i>B+</i>	<i>87-89</i>	<i>130-134</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>80-86</i>	<i>120-129</i>
<i>C+</i>	<i>77-79</i>	<i>115-119</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>70-76</i>	<i>105-114</i>
<i>D+</i>	<i>67-69</i>	<i>100-104</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>60-66</i>	<i>90-99</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>59 and below</i>	<i>0-89</i>

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center (352-392-8565). [Click here](#) to get started with the Disability Resource Center. 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.

### **Additional Emergency Contact Information:**

The Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/> at 352-392-1575 and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **Course Evaluations:**

“Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.”

### **General Course Outline:**

#### I. The Nature of Deviant Behavior

- A. Sociological definitions of deviant behavior: normative and reactive
- B. The social embeddedness of deviance (audience, actor, situation)
- C. Strategies of Social Control (formal, medical, informal)

#### II. Theories of Deviant Behavior

- A. Explaining Deviant Behavior (strain; control; learning theories)
- B. Understanding/Reactions to Deviant Behavior (labeling; shaming theories)

#### III. Analyzing Forms of Deviant Behavior

- A. Alcohol Use and Abuse
- B. Suicide
- C. Human Trafficking
- D. Interpersonal Violence and Homicide

**(APPROXIMATE) COURSE SCHEDULE:  
TOPICS, READINGS, IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER  
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

WK #1 Jan 9-11	Introduction: Who's/what's deviant anyway?	No reading
WK #2 Jan 16-18	Defining and Reacting to Deviance	Becker <a href="#">Conrad</a>
WK #3 Jan 23-25	Social Control Strategies: Formal, Informal and Medical	Evans, Chat Room Culture <a href="#">Vuolo, Kadowaki, and Kelly</a>
WK #4 Jan 30-Feb 1	Theories: Explaining Deviance Anomie/Strain Theories	<a href="#">Lyon-Callo</a> Coontz
WK #5 Feb 6-8	General Strain Theory <b>***** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8: TEST #1 *****</b>	
WK #6 Feb 13-15	Social Bond Theory Social Learning Theories	Sykes and Matza McCabe Sampson and Laub
WK #7 Feb 20-22	Theories: Reacting to Deviance Labeling and Shaming Theories	Goffman Rayburn and Guittar <a href="#">Marvasti</a>
WK #8 Feb 27-29	Shaming and Japanese society Victim Offender Mediation Programs	Choi and Severson
WK #9 March 5-7	<b>***** THURSDAY, MARCH 7: TEST #2 *****</b>	
March 11-15	<b>***** March 11-15 SPRING BREAK! *****</b>	
WK #10 March 19-21	Alcohol Use and Abuse: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	<a href="#">What's behind the increase in overdose deaths for Black Americans?</a>  <a href="#">This family didn't wait for 'rock bottom' to help a loved one with their addiction</a>
WK #11 March 26-28	Suicide: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	<a href="#">Johnson</a>
WK #12 April 2-4	Human Trafficking: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	

WK #13 April 9-11	Interpersonal Violence & Homicide: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	<b>Meehan Pike and Brookman</b>
WK #14 April 16-18	Interpersonal Violence (end) <b>***** THURSDAY, APRIL 18, TEST #3 *****</b>	
WK #15 April 23	<b>***** TUESDAY, APRIL 23, JOURNAL PROJECTS DUE *****</b>	

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