

T 7 R 7-8 periods
Anderson 013
Office Hours:
T 3:00-4:00 W 1:30-2:30 (zoom)
And by appointment

Professor Marian J. Borg
Office: 3364 Turlington Hall
e-mail: mborg@ufl.edu

DEVIANCE (SYP3510 / MB40)
Spring Semester 2025

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 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 of different social control responses for the "deviant" individual; 4) critically analyze public policy alternatives for the prevention and management of deviant behavior.

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: [Attendance Policies < University of Florida](#)." 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. 2-3 pages, double-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 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 29.

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. Information on equivalent grade point conversions and current UF grading policies for assigning grade points is available [here](#).

<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 [UF Faculty Evaluations](#). 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 [Public Results - UF Faculty Evaluations](#).”

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. 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 14-16	Introduction: Who's/what's deviant anyway?	No reading
WK #2 Jan 21-23	Defining and Reacting to Deviance	Conrad Lyon-Callo
WK #3 Jan 28-30	Social Control Strategies: Formal, Informal and Medical	Evans Vuolo, Kadowaki, and Kelly
WK #4 Feb 4-6	Theories: Explaining Deviance Anomie/Strain Theories	Invisible Child. Girl in the Shadows: Dasani's Homeless Life, part 1 OPTIONAL: Remaining parts 2-5 are available on Canvas. You are required to read only part 1. Parts 2-5 recommended if you are interested.
WK #5 Feb 11-13	General Strain Theory ***** THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13: TEST #1 *****	
WK #6 Feb 18-20	Social Bond Theory Social Learning Theories	McCabe Sampson and Laub, Chapter 6 on Desistance OPTIONAL: Sampson and Laub, Chapter 7 on Persistence. Chapter 6 only is required.
WK #7 Feb 25-27	Theories: Reacting to Deviance Labeling and Shaming Theories	Rayburn and Guittar Marvasti
WK #8 March 4-6	Shaming and Japanese society Victim Offender Mediation Programs	Choi and Severson
WK #9 March 11-13	***** THURSDAY, MARCH 13: TEST #2 *****	
March 18-20	***** March 11-21 SPRING BREAK! *****	
WK #10 March 25-27	Alcohol Use and Abuse: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	Herman-Kinney and Kinney
WK #11 April 1-3	Suicide: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	Johnson
WK #12 April 8-10	Human Trafficking: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	See Canvas Module
WK #13 April 15-17	Interpersonal Violence & Homicide: Patterns, Explanations, Responses	Pike, Allsop and Brookman Copes et al.
WK #14 April 22	***** TUESDAY, APRIL 22, TEST #3 *****	
WK #15 April 29	***** TUESDAY, APRIL 29, JOURNAL PROJECTS DUE *****	

Guidelines for Journal Entries

The purpose of your journal entries is to allow you to creatively apply a sociological perspective to observations and experiences regarding deviance in your everyday life. Deviance is an issue that affects our lives in many different ways. We are daily confronted with both fictional and non-fictional accounts of deviant behavior in various media. Sizeable proportions of our local, state and national budgets are devoted to managing certain types of deviant behavior. Tragically, some of us have been personally harmed by criminal deviance or know a friend, family member or acquaintance who has been victimized. Others have experienced the stigma of being labeled "a deviant" because of our appearance, beliefs, personal lifestyle choices, or for some other reason. Chances are you enrolled in this course not to "fulfill a requirement," but perhaps in part because deviant behavior and the process of reacting to deviance are very real issues in our everyday lives and because you wanted to develop a more thorough understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of various types of deviant behavior.

This writing opportunity is meant as a vehicle for you to merge some of the observations and reflections you make regarding deviance in your private life and the theories, explanations and general information you will learn about deviance in this course. The goal is to help you recognize the value of a sociological perspective on deviance, especially in terms of being better able to critically evaluate the way in which deviant behavior is understood, defined, reacted to and portrayed in everyday life.

Instructions:

1. Please follow the instructions on our course homepage to submit your journals on-line.
2. Please be sure that your journal includes 3 separate entries related to 3 separate observations. Each entry should be approximately 2-3 pages (double-spaced) in length. It is easier for me to grade if you clearly label/separate each entry.
3. You are to record 3 observations or reflections on social behavior related to deviance. These observations could be made in the course of your interaction/conversations with other people; in reaction to a newspaper or news magazine article you read, a news story you saw on TV or one you read on the Internet; or after watching a movie, TV show or reading a fictional/non-fictional book. The observation could also be related to an experience you had, either of being reacted to or treated as a deviant, or of yourself reacting to someone/something else as deviant. These personal observations often tend to be the most insightful since you have first-hand knowledge of all of the "details" of the event/experience.

For each entry, briefly describe your observation or topic. Then discuss how your observation relates to what you have learned in this course. For your discussion, you may use any material from lecture, class discussion, or your assigned readings. You may discuss observations that either support or contradict material learned in the course. You may apply a theory or a particular theoretical concept or hypothesis we covered regarding deviant behavior or reactions to deviance. You may discuss how a particular observation illustrates the relativity involved in defining deviance and/or the ambiguities involved in applying labels of deviance. You may

discuss how an observation "fits with," or doesn't, a pattern regarding the incidence and/or social correlates of a particular type of deviance you learn about. You might discuss why you think someone (including yourself) did or did not react to a situation as if it constituted an instance of deviance. Obviously you cannot address all of these possibilities in 2-3 pages (double spaced); these are simply suggestions for starting points in your discussion. You are free to write about anything, as long as your discussion integrates course material, is analytical (i.e., not simply a statement of your opinion), and is sociological in nature.

4. **The assignment is due on Tuesday, April 29 at 11:59 pm and is worth 30 points towards your final grade (10 points for each of the observations). Points will be deducted for late assignments.** You will be graded on creativity, sociological insight, thoroughness, and your ability to apply material from the course. Please feel free to see me during office hours if you have any questions about any part of the assignment.