

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. **Please include SYP3510 in the email subject line.**

Office hours: My Summer semester office hours are by-appointment and via Zoom. I am more than happy to meet with you to discuss questions, assignments, topics we are covering in the course, etc. Send me an email to set up an appointment, or feel free to ask questions via email. 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. Also, be sure to check ANNOUNCEMENTS in Canvas for any additional information I might post. In general, I check my email (Monday to Friday) for the last time around 5:00 pm, so please plan accordingly.

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 Gaaney, Sage Publications. First or 2nd edition is fine; see the notes within modules for the appropriate page numbers depending on the edition you have.

Additional required readings are available via links within each module. Make sure to download the VPN software available on the UF Library homepage. **You will need to be logged into VPN via Cisco connect in order to access readings for discussion assignments.** If you have problems downloading the VPN software, please contact the UF Help Desk for assistance (392-HELP).

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, and must be completed by Wednesday, May 11 at 11:55 pm. The quiz will be open beginning on Monday, May 9 at 12:00 am and close on Wednesday at 11:55pm. There will be 5 questions on the quiz, each worth one point. You will have 25 minutes to complete the quiz, you must finish it once you start, and you must submit your answers by 11:55 pm. The latest start time is 11:35 pm. **Your syllabus quiz is worth 5 points toward your final grade.**

Introduce Yourself Post

An “introduce yourself” assignment is required and is worth 5 points towards your final grade. Follow the assignment and complete all posts to earn the full points. The assignment will open on Monday, May 9 at 12:00 a.m. and all posts are due on Wednesday, May 11 at 11:55 pm. **The introduce yourself post is worth 5 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 open book/open notes, they 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. Each will take place at the end of modules 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. **Quiz 6 is OPTIONAL**; you may take it if you wish to replace one of your earlier quizzes. In the end, I will count your 5 highest quiz scores toward 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. After you've studied the material, you should be ready to take the quiz. The quiz is timed, so it is necessary for you to 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 1-5 will open on Fridays at 12:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) and remain open until Sunday at 11:55 pm. Quiz 6 will open on Thursday (June 16) and remain open until Saturday (June 18) at 11:55 pm. You are responsible for completing your quizzes by 11:55 pm on the due date.

If you are still taking the quiz when the due time for the quiz passes, you will not be able to submit your quiz. Thus, the latest start time for each quiz is 11:30 pm Eastern Time on the last quiz day. 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 Help Desk ticket number.

Before taking your first quiz, view the [Canvas video tutorial on taking quizzes](#).

Discussion Assignments

There are 2 required discussion assignments posted for the semester. More specific details are contained within each discussion assignment in Canvas. Please take note of the instructions and the due dates for these assignments. Each discussion is worth 30 points, for a total of 60 points towards your final grade. To earn the full points, make sure to follow the directions associated with each discussion assignment. Each discussion consists of an initial assignment/post (25 points) and a follow-up post (5 points). **Thus, there are a total of 60 discussion assignment points that will count toward your final grade (2 required discussion assignments worth 30 points apiece).**

Journal Project

The last component of your grade will consist of 1 “journal entry,” approximately 700-900 words. This entry should offer an **analytical discussion** of an actual experience you have had in the past (your own or someone you know); an actual event that has taken place during the course of the semester (i.e., local, state, national, international events somehow related to deviance as we discuss it in the course); or another “observation” that you make and/or “data” that you collect during the course of the semester. Your experience, 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 in Canvas for more specific directions. **Your journal project counts 30 points toward your final grade and is due on Friday, June 10 at 11:55 pm.**

Grading

Final grades will be determined from a combination of quizzes and assignments, according to the following structure. GPA equivalents are also noted below:

Syllabus quiz	5 points
Introduce Yourself Post	5 points
Quizzes (top 5 quiz scores, 20 points apiece)	100 points
Discussion Assignments (2 @ 30 apiece)	60 points

Journal Project			30 points
Total possible points			200 points
Points Earned	Percent	Grade	Corresponding Grade Points
185-200	93-100%	A	4.00
179-184	90-92%	A-	3.67
175-178	88-89%	B+	3.33
159-174	80-87%	B	3.00
155-158	78-79%	C+	2.33
139-154	70-77%	C	2.00
135-138	68-69%	D+	1.33
119-134	60-67%	D	1.00
0-118	Below 60%	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, Covid or other, religious holiday, death in the family), and **can provide documentation**, you will be allowed to make up what you missed within a reasonable time IF you contact me (via email) before/ immediately after the missed assignment. Your makeup will be scheduled at my discretion.

Making up quizzes. If you miss a quiz, please contact me ASAP to discuss. I generally require documentation, particularly if more than one quiz has been missed. Keep in mind that only your 5 highest quiz scores will be counted towards your final grade. Plan on completing Quiz 6 to replace earlier missing or "low" quiz grades.

Students with Disabilities

(reprinted from UF website, http://www.ir.ufl.edu/fac_handbook/syllabi.html):

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

You should contact me and the Disability Resource Center, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>, as early in the semester as possible. 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
Wednesday, May 11	Syllabus Quiz, due by 11:55 pm
Wednesday, May 11	Introduce Yourself Discussion Activity, all posts due by 11:55 pm
Friday-Sunday, May 15	Quiz #1 over Modules 1-2, due by Sunday, 11:55 pm
Tuesday, May 17	Discussion 1.1 Journal Assignment, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Thursday, May 19	Discussion 1.2 Journal Assignment, 2 nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday-Sunday, May 22	Quiz#2 over Modules 3-4 due by Sunday, 11:55 pm
Friday-Sunday, May 29	Quiz #3 over Modules 5-6, due by Sunday, 11:55 pm
Tuesday, May 31	Discussion 2.1 Hiring an Ex-Felon, 1 st post due by 11:55 pm
Thursday, June 2	Discussion 2.2 Hiring an Ex-Felon, 2nd post due by 11:55 pm
Friday-Sunday, June 5	Quiz #4 over Modules 7-8, due by Sunday, 11:55 pm
Friday, June 10	Journal Project due by 11:55 pm
Friday-Sunday, June 12	Quiz #5 over Modules 9-10, due by Sunday, 11:55 pm
Thurs-Saturday, June 18	Quiz #6 over Modules 11-12, due by Friday, 11:55 pm