

**Sociology of Deviance**  
**SOC 303:001 – Fall 2011**

MWF– 8am-8:50am – Communications 1022

Instructor: Kate Niman

Office Hours: MWF 9-11am, and by appointment

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**Subject Matter:** This course offers a review of sociological perspectives used in the study of deviance and deviants. Does deviance have functions in society? How is it that a group of individuals comes to be defined as deviant? We will examine societal reactions to deviance and consequences for people defined as deviant. This course is designed to give students an overall understanding of various types and theories of deviance. This will not be a comprehensive course, as it would be impossible to fit such a broad category of scholarship into a single semester. This course should open the door to those who want a glimpse into the broad scholarship of the sociology of deviance, and for those who want to explore it further, this should be a good starting place for such an exploration.

**Class Materials:** The following book is required. Please purchase/rent the text and bring it to class each day:

Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. By Patricia Adler and Peter Adler, 2012.

**Assignments:** Grades will be comprised of the following components:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Class Presentation                        | 15 points         |
| Response Papers (5 total, 10 points each) | 50 points         |
| Movie Reviews (2 total, 10 points each)   | 20 points         |
| <u>Participation</u>                      | <u>15 points</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>100 points</b> |

**Grading Scale:**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| A | 90-100       |
| B | 80-89        |
| C | 70-79        |
| D | 60-69        |
| F | 59 and below |

**Class Presentations**

Each student will be required to present one of the readings from the book. Each presentation should be no less than 10 minutes and no more than 15 minutes and should include a summary, explanations of major ideas, and 3-5 discussion questions.

**Response Papers \***

The book we draw our readings from has eight sections. These sections are clearly marked in the table of contents for the book. For five (5) of these sections, you will choose one of the readings and write a 4-6 page paper. Each paper must include a summary of the reading (at least one page, but not more than 2 pages) and a sociological discussion that must draw on the theories and other readings from your book and ideas we have discussed in class. All papers must be typed. Late papers will be docked a full letter grade for every day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

**Movie reviews**

Deviance is all around us. To examine this, I require that you watch two movies during the course and write 5-7 page papers detailing the deviance you observed in these movies and discussing it using the sociological insights on deviance

you will develop during the course, including the use of one or more sociological theories of deviance. You must give a very brief summary of the film, including a discussion of the deviant behavior you find in the film, addressing why it is deviant, and what the norm for that situation may be (or a number of optional norms that could be used). I have provided a list of pre-approved movies that you may choose from without checking with me first. I must approve any movie that is not on the list prior to you turning the paper in. Any paper I receive on an unapproved source will be given a grade of zero. I may be willing to allow alternative media (TV Series, Web Series, Plays, Radio Dramas, etc.) However, any series must encompass an entire season or story arc, and as with anything not on the list, be sure to contact me before deciding to use these.

Improving one's writing is an important part of the college experience, and spelling and grammar will be a part of your grade in this course on all written work. If you need additional assistance, I encourage you to contact the SIUC Writing Center. They are located in Room 236 of the Morris Library, and their phone number is (618)453-1231.

### **Class Participation.**

This is a junior level class. Upper division classes are supposed to get students prepared for the world they will eventually live and work in. Although much communication in today's world is mediated through technology, many good ideas still come out through discussion. This is not a lecture-based class. Each of you will participate in some significant way this semester. It does not have to be every day, but it needs to be frequent. If I have not heard from you in a few classes, I will ask you questions, and you should be able to answer them. Each of you needs to read all the readings and be prepared for the class discussion. This participation can be in the form of asking questions, answering questions, commenting (in a meaningful way) to someone's statement, or by making statements of your own.

Come to class prepared, having read the materials with a few questions or comments to share with the class for discussion. Your participation grade will not be based simply upon your appearance in class or on your frequency of comments but also upon the *quality* of your comments and your active participation in class. Additionally, quality listening skills are important to the class--I value the ability to build discussion with other class members, and I expect you to value others' opinions and exhibit respect for one another in the classroom.

### **Extra credit.\***

As mentioned in the response papers section, there are eight (8) sections in our book. You are required to choose an article for five (5) of those sections. The other three (3) sections are opportunities for extra credit. In order to earn this extra credit, you must write a paper of the same format as the assigned papers, with the same requirements and page length as the other response papers. These papers will be graded using the same criteria as regular response papers, but rather than being worth 10 points each, each extra credit paper is worth 5 points.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. If special circumstances prohibit you from arriving to class on time on a regular basis, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are involved in university-sponsored or sanctioned events (i.e., athletic events, academic conferences and/or competitions), and will need to miss class due to such events, you will need to present me with a paper or email copy of said event, and the dates you will be absent from class, etc. Such documentation is usually provided by appropriate coaches or sponsors.

Sociology of Deviance is a broad topic. We have a short time for you to gain some exposure to this information. It is important for your success in this class that you make it to class every day. Each section has an assignment attached to it, and the daily summary and discussion of these readings will greatly help your ability to complete these assignments. This is much better than reading the material the night before it is due and trying to write the papers then. The movie review assignments will also use information that is discussed in class, so it is important that you are in class to hear this important information. Additionally, 15% of your grade is based on class participation; it is very difficult to participate when you are not present.

**Student Etiquette:** Students are asked to follow some guidelines to help maintain a constructive learning environment. Throughout the semester, we will discuss a variety of social issues and your fellow class members may hold diverse opinions about topics we cover. As such, we need to ensure a safe and a positive learning environment. Class discussions should take place within the context of academic inquiry and in the spirit of understanding diverse perspectives and experiences. It is essential that everyone treat each other with respect during class discussions. Disrespectful treatment of others will significantly lower your class participation grade. Do not engage in private conversations, interrupt another student who has the floor, express negative comments about the opinions of your fellow students, walk into class late or leave early (without prior notice), keep cell phones on, text message your friends, read the newspaper, or show general signs of disrespect for the course, instructor, or other students.

**Academic Ethics Policies:** Academic honesty is very important. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. The university and I expect that *all* work presented will represent original effort by the student. Any violations will be dealt with in the appropriate manner—*minimum* consequence is a zero for an assignment, *maximum* consequence is an F in the course. For more information, see [http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://www.siu.edu/gradschl/catalog/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)

**Other Policies:** The Family Educational Right to Privacy Act, also known as the Buckley Amendment, is a federal law designed to protect student privacy. This means that only *you* have legal access to your grades, not your parents, friends, or significant others. You have the option to sign a waiver to these rights, but if you have not signed said waiver, federal law prohibits me from sharing your grades with anyone but you.

**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:** To meet the expectations of this course, persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations are encouraged to bring this to my attention as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first week of the semester along with a request for special accommodations. Contact the SIU Disability Support Services (DSS) to facilitate requests: Woody Hall B-150, Mail Code: 4705. [DSSsiu@siu.edu](mailto:DSSsiu@siu.edu), Ph: (618) 453-5738 Fax: (618) 453-5700 TTY: (618) 453-2293

**Emergency Procedures:** SIUC is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT'S website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Public Safety's website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency. I will provide guidance and direction in the event of an emergency. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with me during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE:** As the semester progresses, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as I see necessary. I will keep you informed should the syllabus need alteration.

*Week One: Defining Deviance*

8/22: Introductions and Syllabus

8/24: Reading: General Introduction

8/26: Reading: Chapter 1

*Week Two: Defining Deviance*

8/29: Reading: Chapter 2

8/31: Reading: Chapter 3 AND Chapter 4

9/2: Reading: Chapter 5

*Week Three: Theories of Deviance*

9/5: LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

9/7: Reading: Chapter 6 AND Chapter 7

**DUE: Response Paper #1 (Part I of text)**

9/9: Reading: Chapter 8 AND Chapter 9

*Week Four: Theories of Deviance and Studying Deviance*

9/12: Reading: Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

9/14: Reading: Chapter 12

**DUE: Response Paper #2 (Part II of text)**

9/16: Reading: Chapter 13

*Week Five: Studying Deviance and Constructing Deviance*

9/19: Reading: Chapter 14

9/21: Reading: Chapter 15

**DUE: Response Paper #3 (Part III of text)**

9/23: Reading: Chapter 16

*Week Six: Constructing Deviance*

9/26: Reading: Chapter 17

9/28: Reading: Chapter 18 AND Chapter 19

9/30: Reading: Chapter 20

*Week Seven: Constructing Deviance and Deviant Identity*

10/3: Reading: Chapter 21

10/5: Reading: Chapter 22

10/7: Reading: Chapter 23

**DUE: Response Paper #4 (Part IV of text)**

*Week Eight: Deviant Identity*

10/10: FALL BREAK – NO CLASS

10/12: Reading: Chapter 24

10/14: Reading: Chapter 25

**DUE: Movie Review #1**

*Week Nine: Deviant Identity*

10/17: Reading: Chapter 26

10/19: Reading: Chapter 27

10/21: Reading: Chapter 28

*Week Ten: Deviant Identity*

10/24: Reading: Chapter 29

10/26: Reading: Chapter 30

10/28: Reading: Chapter 31

*Week Eleven: The Social Organization of Deviance*

10/31: Reading: Chapter 32

**DUE: Response Paper #5 (Part V of text)**

11/2: Reading: Chapter 33

11/4: Reading: Chapter 34

*Week Twelve: The Social Organization of Deviance*

11/7: Reading: Chapter 35

11/9: Reading: Chapter 36

11/11: VETERANS DAY – NO CLASS

*Week Thirteen: The Social Organization of Deviance and Structure of the Deviant Act*

11/14: Reading: Chapter 37

11/16: Reading: Chapter 38

**DUE: Response Paper #6 (Part VI of text)**

11/18: Reading: Chapter 39 AND Chapter 40

*Week Fourteen: Structure of the Deviant Act*

11/21: Reading: Chapter 41

11/23: THANKSGIVING VACATION – NO CLASS

11/25: THANKSGIVING VACATION – NO CLASS

*Week Fifteen: Structure of the Deviant Act and Deviant Careers*

11/28: Reading: Chapter 42

11/30: Reading: Chapter 43

**DUE: Response Paper #7 (Part VII of text)**

12/2: Reading: Chapter 44

*Week Sixteen: Deviant Careers*

12/5: Reading: Chapter 45

12/7: Reading: Chapter 46

**DUE: Movie Review #2**

12/9: Reading: Chapter 47

**FINAL EXAM**

The final exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13, 7:50-9:50am**. Since there is no final exam in this course, please turn in **Response Paper #8 (part VIII of text)** in my mailbox in Faner Hall, Room 3384 by 10am on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

| <b>Pre-Approved Movies</b>               | <b>Rating</b> |
|--|---------------|
| 500 Days of Summer (2009)                | PG-13         |
| 9 to 5 (1980)                            | PG            |
| About a Boy (2002)                       | PG-13         |
| Amelie (2001)                            | R             |
| Antz (1998)                              | PG            |
| Bend It Like Beckham (2002)              | PG-13         |
| Benny & Joon (1993)                      | PG            |
| Borat (2006)                             | R             |
| Breakfast on Pluto (2005)                | R             |
| Calendar Girls (2003)                    | PG-13         |
| Chasing Amy (1997)                       | R             |
| Clerks (1994)                            | R             |
| Connie & Carla (2004)                    | PG-13         |
| Cool Hand Luke (1967)                    | NR            |
| Date Night (2010)                        | PG-13         |
| Easy A (2010)                            | PG-13         |
| Empire Records (1995)                    | R             |
| Even Cowgirl's Get the Blues (1993)      | R             |
| Fight Club (1999)                        | R             |
| Garden State (2004)                      | R             |
| Grandma's Boy (2006)                     | NR            |
| Hamlet 2 (2008)                          | R             |
| Hard Candy (2005)                        | R             |
| Harold & Maude (1971)                    | PG            |
| How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (2003)      | PG-13         |
| I Heart Huckabees (2004)                 | R             |
| I Love You Phillip Morris (2009)         | R             |
| I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (2007) | PG-13         |
| Juno (2007)                              | PG-13         |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Kindergarten Cop (1990)                 | PG-13 |
| Knocked Up (2007)                       | R     |
| Little Miss Sunshine (2006)             | R     |
| Madea's Family Reunion (2006)           | PG-13 |
| Mallrats (1995)                         | R     |
| Mary & Max (2009)                       | NR    |
| Miss Congeniality (2000)                | PG-13 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Smith (2005)               | PG-13 |
| Mystery Team (2009)                     | R     |
| North Country (2005)                    | R     |
| Office Space (1999)                     | R     |
| Saving Face (2005)                      | R     |
| School of Rock (2003)                   | PG-13 |
| Sixteen Candles (1984)                  | PG    |
| Slums of Beverly Hills (1998)           | R     |
| Son in Law (1993)                       | PG-13 |
| The 40 Year Old Virgin (2005)           | R     |
| The Breakfast Club (1985)               | R     |
| The Ex (2006)                           | NR    |
| The House Bunny (2008)                  | PG-13 |
| The House of Yes (1997)                 | R     |
| The King's Speech (2010)                | R     |
| The Notebook (2004)                     | PG-13 |
| The Other Sister (1999)                 | PG-13 |
| The Switch (2010)                       | PG-13 |
| There's Something About Mary (1998)     | R     |
| Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (2009) | PG-13 |
| V for Vendetta (2005)                   | R     |
| Welcome to the Dollhouse (1995)         | R     |
| Wet Hot American Summer (2001)          | R     |
| World's Greatest Dad (2009)             | R     |