

S0320 Deviance
Instructor: B. Man
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Spring 2000
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SD'00

Pres

Course Description: The course will introduce the student to the nature of deviance, as witnessed as specific behavior, from the various theoretical traditions found in sociology. The student will study specific types of deviant situations and behaviors, from the point of view of competing theories. The merits of each theory, with respect to informing understanding of the behavior as deviant, will be discussed. Projects and readings, with paper assignments, will be made to provide exposure to some of these situations and behaviors, with the opportunity for the student to apply theory in attempting to understand the phenomenon.

Objectives: The learning objectives are:

- 1) a basic understanding of the nature of deviance from the sociological perspective;
- 2) familiarity with the different social theories, and
- 3) their application to the study of deviance and deviant behavior;
- 4) knowledge of the different types of deviant behavior;
- 5) knowledge of the socioeconomic and cultural correlates of deviance.

Student Evaluation: The student will be evaluated through several means. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, which will make up one third of the total number of points a student can earn in the course. Assignments (projects and outside readings, with short, reflective papers) will make up one third of the student's evaluation. The final third of the student's grade is assigned to the student's participation in a community center in a neighborhood that sits in a high crime area of Honolulu.

Text:

Liska, A. E. & Messner, S. F. (1999). Perspectives on crime and deviance (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Paper Requirements: Papers will be typed, double-spaced, 10 to 12-point font size. Papers are expected to present your reflections on the assigned project (e.g., field observations of deviant behavior) or outside readings, with respect to your understanding of the deviant behavior or situation, why you feel it is deviant based on the course material, and which theory best explains the deviance and how. Papers are expected to be 4 to 5 pages in length.

Outline:

- 1/19-21 Introduction to the course, to deviance as a concept. Ch. 1
- 1/24-28 Field project. Pick a site where you think deviance occurs. Do some non-participatory observation for about 1 or 2 hours (one sitting or several). Write field notes and write a paper based on these notes regarding the description of the deviant behavior (who, how, how often, others involved, etc.) and why you feel this is deviance.
- 1/31-2/4 Reflection papers are due and short presentations and discussions about them.
- 2/7-11 The structural-functional theory of deviance. Ch. 2
- 2/14-18 Durkheim and Merton. Readings #1 (on Library Reserve)

- 2/21 Presidents' Day No Classes**
- 2/23-25 Ecological Perspectives. Ch. 3
- 2/28-3/1-3 Learning Deviance Readings #2 (Library Reserve)
Read to discuss. One article will be discussed each class period.
Summarize and evaluate as an example of learning deviance.
- 3/6-10 Rational Choice (Classical Theory). Ch. 4
- 3/13 Midterm Essay Exam (Chapters 1-4 & readings)**
- 3/15-17 Labeling Perspective. Ch. 5
- 3/20-24 Labeling & Deviance Readings #3 (Library)
Read to discuss.
- 3/27-31 Spring Break No School**
- 4/3-6 Constructivism. Ch. 6
- 4/10-14 Constructing Deviance Readings #4 (Lib)
Read to discuss in class.
- 4/17-19 Conflict Theory. Ch. 7
- 4/21 Good Friday No School**
- 4/24-28 Conflict Theory and Deviance Readings #5 (Lib)
Read to discuss.
- 5/1-5 Overview of Perspectives and Integration of Them. Ch. 8
Readings #6 (Lib)
Due 5/1: Final Reflection Paper on field experience in the community center.
- 5/11, Thursday. Final Exam Chapters 5-8 & readings**
12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
H 121