Sociology 3560, Sociology of Deviance and Social Control
Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-10:15am
Dixie State College of Utah

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 11:00am-12:00pm
Or by appointment

The Course

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive sociological analysis of perceived deviant behaviors. We will empirically analyze norm breaking behaviors that exceed the tolerance level of society and, as a result, to which negative sanctions are applied. Conceptually we’ll look at deviance from some of the major sociological perspectives including labeling theory, differential association, strain, conflict, and functionalism. Empirically, we’ll examine such behaviors as crime, drug use, rebellion, and sexuality as forms of deviance.

Course Objectives

Students completing Sociology of Deviance and Social Control will:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists;

- demonstrate an understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion);

- demonstrate an understanding of basic sociological theoretical concepts relating to deviance such as conflict, functionalism, symbolic interactionism, labeling, and differential association;

- demonstrate an understanding of the major creators of sociological theories of deviance such as Becker, Durheim, Merton, Reiman, and Piliavin.

Text

Alex Thio, Deviant Behavior, 10th Edition.

Evaluation

Grades will be based on three exams, each worth 25% of your final grade, and one term paper worth 25% of your final grade.
Exams

Exams will be a mix of short answer and essay questions. They are worth 100 points each:

90-100 points = A  
80-89 points = B  
70-79 points = C  
60-69 points = D  
Less than 60 points = F

EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN ON ASSIGNED DATES.

Term paper

You will write a term paper in which you examine a major theory of deviance while applying it to empirical observations of your own.

Attendance is NOT mandatory. However, I lecture on material that is not in the text. There will be exam questions from my lectures, questions that are not from the text. If you miss class you risk missing information that will be on the exam.

NOTE: YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF YOUR LETTER GRADES, NOT ON YOUR ACCUMULATION OF POINTS.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all assignments and exams to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person’s work as one’s own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.

Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select
"dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

Course Schedule

Reading/Topic/Assignment Schedule

Week 1
Introduction to Sociology of Deviance
Reading: Chapter 1

Week 2
Social Control
Reading: Chapter 2

Week 3
Becoming Deviant
Reading: Chapter 3

Week 4
Theories of Deviance
Reading: Chapter 4

Week 5
Crimes of Interpersonal Violence
Reading: Chapters 5

Week 6
Nonviolent Crime
Reading: Chapter 6

Exam #1

Week 7
White-Collar Crime
Reading: Chapter 7

Week 8
Drug Use
Reading: Chapter 8

Week 9
Alcohol
Reading: Chapter 9

Week 10
Suicide
Reading: Chapter 10

Week 11
Heterosexual Deviance
Reading: Chapter 11

EXAM #2

Week 12
LGBT Issues
Reading: Chapter 12

Week 13
Physical Disabilities
Reading: Chapter 13

Term Paper Due

Week 14
Mental Disorders
Reading: Chapter 14

Week 15
Deviance in the Future
Reading: Chapter 15

Finals Week

EXAM #3