



**SOC 320.01W
Deviant Behavior
Summer 2016
(Online)**

Professor: William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science 229

Office Hours: By e-mail and by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required: There is no required text for this course. Required readings will be placed in "Shared Documents" in e-college.

Course Description: SOC 320. Deviant Behavior. 3 semester Hours. An introduction to the general phenomenon of social deviance. The course focuses on criminal as well as non-criminal deviance such as mental disorders, drug use, and prostitution. Theoretical approaches which seek to explain deviance will be critically explained. (Recommended prerequisite course: SOC 1301).

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course students should be able to:

- ❖ Develop a sociological perspective on deviant behavior;
- ❖ Explore and critically analyze major theoretical perspectives on deviant behavior;
- ❖ Explore and critically examine research on specific types of deviant behavior;
- ❖ Develop and foster critical thinking skills and the enhancement of students' abilities to express their ideas in written and oral communication.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: This is an online course. Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by combining Power Point slides, online discussions, reading and writing assignments. We will be discussing many current, interesting, and often controversial subjects. Thus, a mature attitude is assumed of all students. **Do NOTHING that will interfere with anyone else's opportunity to learn in this class. Inappropriate Behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.**

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points covering each week's class topics will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered in the assigned readings or discussed in class, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., and will be very helpful in preparing for exams and written assignments.

ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: There will be five online discussions (one each week) during the course. They are worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points. Start and end dates are listed in the syllabus. **A discussion cannot be re-opened once it is closed.** In order to earn 20 points you must enter the discussion early and post often. To get full credit, you must have at least:

- (1) at least one post that responds to the question(s) posited by the professor (1-10 pts.)
- (2) at least post that poses a relevant question to your classmates (1-5 pts.)
- (3) at least one post responding to questions posed by your classmates (1-5 pts.)

These are minimum requirements; hopefully you will engage in discussion and post more; in order to earn all 20 points will typically take at least 4 meaningful posts (saying “I agree” or “Interesting point” is not considered to be a “meaningful” post).

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We will be dealing with controversial topics. It is essential to treat these subjects seriously and courteously. The discussions should focus on ideas, research, data, facts, and information from the readings and power points. You will have strong personal opinions about some of these topics. That is fine, but you need not share them with the class. Before you post, read what you have written. Any sentence beginning with the words “I feel . . .” or “I believe . . .” are probably better deleted. Your feelings and beliefs are important to you and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them. **These are academic discussions, NOT therapy sessions or attempts to convince somebody else to think like you. Every discussion should reflect that you have read the material, engaged in the discussions, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.**

QUIZZES: There will be five quizzes worth 100 pts. each. The quizzes will include multiple choice questions. They are scheduled for each Thursday. Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with quiz dates! Quizzes will be open for a designated time only and will not be re-opened if missed. Once a quiz is opened you will have only 1 hour to complete it. If you open a quiz less than one hour before it closes then you will not have the complete hour to complete it (e.g., if you open a quiz 15 minutes before the scheduled closing time, you will only have 15 minutes to compete the quiz). **Grades will be posted in e-college after graded.**

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the five quizzes (100 points ea.= 500 pts.) and five online discussions for a total of 600 pts. The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

- A = 90% - 100% (540-600 pts)
- B = 80% - 89% (480-539 pts)
- C = 70% - 79% (420-479 pts)
- D = 60% - 69% (360-419 pts)
- F = Below 60% (<360 pts)

Grades will be posted as soon as each item has been graded in e-college

NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, e-college will calculate your total points and they will be applied to the scale on this syllabus. That is the grade you have earned, and that is the grade you will be assigned. (By the way, e-college reports percentages. There is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 600 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C—you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 6 points). **EARN your points during the course, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

EXTRA CREDIT: Don't ask, there won't be any. Two types of students usually want to do extra credit work: those who would like to make an even “higher” A; and those who are failing the course. In either case, extra credit makes no sense. Put in the time, energy, and effort on the “regular” work and you will not need any “extra” credit.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course is taught as an online class. Students need access to a computer (there are computer labs all over campus) in order to complete course requirements, check e-mails and to check grades on e-college.

- Students need to have ready access to a broadband connection to the internet such as Cable, DSL, or the TAMU-C campus network. (Dial-up, satellite, or other non-broadband internet connections will not function sufficiently with eCollege.)
- A computer with a 2.0Ghz or better processor and 1 GB of RAM. MAC computers with similar configurations will also work.
- Windows XP, Vista, or 7 operating system. MAC with the OS 9 or X operating system.
- Microsoft Office or similar package with a word processor, Power Point type presentation application, and a spreadsheet application. (OpenOffice is a free, open source application that is very similar to the Microsoft Office applications and is available for download at www.openoffice.org)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

The most effective way to communicate with the professor is through e-mail. (see statement below)

The professor will periodically communicate with the entire class or selected individual students by using the student's MyLeo e-mail address. Students should check their MyLeo account regularly for e-mails from the university and/or the professor.

If you encounter any technological difficulties with e-college contact the e-college help desk immediately.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: If you contact me via e-mail, please tell me your name and the course in which you are enrolled (I teach more than one) as part of your e-mail.

If you send me an e-mail, I will always read it and respond within a reasonable amount of time. Generally, if you send me an e-mail any time between Monday 8:00 a.m. and noon Thursday, I will respond within 24 hours or sooner if possible. If, however, you e-mail me after noon on Thursday, it will be Monday at the earliest before I respond. Fortunately, I am not a brain surgeon or cardiologist and none of the issues or assignments in this class are life or death matters. If you have a class-related problem or issue, **DO NOT PANIC. There no such thing as a "sociological emergency."** Any problem that is class-related that occurs over the weekend can wait until the following Monday to be addressed.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

THIS CLASSROOM IS A "SAFE SPACE"

All persons who enter this classroom will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of age, race, sex, social class, religion, politics, sexual orientation, and/or lifestyle. There will be "Zero Tolerance" in this classroom for any form of ageism, racism, sexism, sexual harassment, or any other form of prejudice, discrimination, or bigotry.

University Specific Procedures:

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

POLICIES ON ENROLLMENT, "X's", AND WITHDRAWAL: All policies regarding last day for enrollment, withdrawal from class, and the use of "X" will be rigidly adhered to in this course. Students should check the student handbook, current semester schedule, and the appropriate bulletin boards, which indicate the specific deadlines for withdrawing from courses without penalty. Seeing that all university procedures are followed is the students' responsibility.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR		
DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
<u>Week 1</u>		
M, 6 June	Defining Deviance and Deviants	
T, 7 June	Deviance and Social Identity	
W, 8 June	Pseudoscience, Science, and the Medical Model	

R, 9 June

Quiz

Week 2

M, 13 June

T, 14 June

W, 15 June

R, 16 June

Sociological Explanations of Deviance

Deviant Occupations

Sex, Gender, Sexual Deviance

Quiz

Week 3

M, 20 June

T, 21 June

W, 22 June

R, 23 June

Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse

Physical and Mental Deviance

Suicide

Quiz

Week 4

M, 27 June

T, 28 June

W, 29 June

R, 30 June

Extreme Deviance

Street Crime and Delinquency

Corporate Crime and Elite Deviance

Quiz

Week 5

M, 4 July

T, 5 July

W, 6 July

R, 7 July

Happy Holiday!

Cyberdeviance

Deviance, Deviants, and Social Control

Quiz