



**Soc 320
Deviant Behavior
Fall 2016
Online**

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COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets: Online Only

Textbook Required: Deviance & Deviants: A Sociological Approach by William E. Thompson and Jennifer Gibbs. Routledge, 2015; ISBN: 978-1-118-60459-5. Books should be available in the University bookstore and from a variety of online sources.

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 courses: SOC 1301).

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

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

CLASS FORMAT: Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials.

Because we will be dealing with controversial contemporary social issues, an open mind and a mature attitude are important requirements for this course. Students are expected to be polite and courteous and conform to online etiquette at all times. For detailed rules on “netiquette” go to the website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html> A summary of netiquette rules are provided below.

- [Rule 1: Remember the Human](#)
- [Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life](#)
- [Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace](#)
- [Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth](#)
- [Rule 5: Make yourself look good online](#)
- [Rule 6: Share expert knowledge](#)
- [Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control](#)
- [Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy](#)
- [Rule 9: Don't abuse your power](#)
- [Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes](#)

POWER POINTS ONLINE: The Power Points used in class will be posted online through e-college. Although they do not contain all of the material covered in the textbook, they do provide a general outline of topics, concepts, theories, etc., covered, so it may be helpful to review them before exams. It also is a good idea to review them after reading the chapters. *To access these in their true format, you will need to use Internet Explorer.*

DISCUSSIONS/PARTICIPATION: Reading all assignments and participating in all online discussions is essential for doing well in this course. Please refer to your syllabus or eCollege for Discussion windows. If you miss the “window” for participating in any online discussion, there is no way to make it up. I expect you to post more than 1 response as you should read your classmates posts and engage in discussion with them. To earn the maximum points, you will need to actively engage in discussions over the course of the discussion window. One or two posts on one day will not cut it.

NOTE: Online discussions should not be viewed as similar to a discussion around the dinner table with friends or family where everybody expresses their views, opinions, and beliefs on

some topic often which they know absolutely nothing about. This is an academic course and your discussion topics are directly linked to the Power Points and reading assignments in your textbook. Consequently, your posts should reflect a certain amount of knowledge on the topic based on research, facts, and data. It is fine to critique, interpret, and *occasionally* interject an opinion or two, but for the most part, this should be an academic and intellectual discussion of the topic at hand.

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions:

**Student responded to initial issue with at least a paragraph that addresses each of the questions or issues raised in the discussion topic
(6 pts)**

Student responded to other students' posts (1 pt)

Student asks questions and engages other students in discussion (2 pts)

Student's posts are error free, grammatically correct, and stay on topic (1 pt)

As you can see, one post to the discussion topic is the minimum expectation and will get the minimum points (6). To get the full 10 pts, you cannot wait until near the end of the discussion and make a post or two. To earn the full 10 points you must post an initial response to the issue/questions posed, and then post at least 3 additional times to respond to your classmates' posts. You need to post early and post often. This is a *discussion*, which means you need to interact with your classmates, asking and answering questions.

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 textbook and class. 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, attended class, and are applying critical sociological thinking to the topic.**

EXAMINATIONS: There will be three major examinations worth 100 pts. each. The exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The exams are scheduled in the course outline and will be taken online on designated Fridays. Adjust your schedule now--do not make plans that conflict with exam dates! There is a 24-hour window on test days to take the exam, but once the exam is started, you have only 1 hour to complete it. If you log off for any reason, the exam is over, and you cannot log back in. You are expected to take exams

without the aid of your textbook, notes, or any other type of help or aid from anything or any other person. You are on the honor system to take the exams just as if you were taking them in a classroom with the professor present. **Exam grades will be posted in e-college after graded.**

Assignments: There will be two assignments in this course. There will be a syllabus quiz the first week of class and one response paper for the course. The syllabus quiz is to be sure you understand the policies and procedures of this course. You may use it to help you with the quiz. The response paper will be under week 1 but will not be due until later in the semester. This will give you ample time to complete the assignment.

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the three exams (100 points ea.= 300 pts.); six online discussions (10 pts ea. = 50 pts.); a syllabus quiz (50 pts); an out of class assignment (100 pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

- A = 90% - 100% (450-500 pts)
- B = 80% - 89% (400-449 pts)
- C = 70% - 79% (350-399 pts)
- D = 60% - 69% (300-349 pts)
- F = Below 60% (<300 pts)

Grades will be posted 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. A few “bonus” points are built into each exam. 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 530 total points, you are not 1 point away from a C— you are actually 1 percentage point from a C which is 5.3 points). **EARN your points during the semester, 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.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

This is an online course so we will not meet face to face. A&M-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.

THIS ONLINE 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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- 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:

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail.

You must email me at mica.thompson@tamuc.edu. If you go through eCollege, I will not receive that email. Every effort will be made to reply to inquiries made Monday thru Thursday within a 24-hour period. . **E-mails received on Friday, or over the weekend will not receive a response until the following Monday.** *The professor absolutely will NOT be available on Saturdays or Sundays.* **YOU MUST INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL IF YOU EXPECT A PROMPT RESPONSE.**

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through e-college and/or MyLeo e-mail.

Consequently, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check your e-mail regularly for messages from me. I will **attempt** (*not guarantee*) to respond to any e-mail you send to me within 24 hours of receiving it unless the e-mail is received Friday-Sunday. If that is the case, it more than likely will be the following Monday afternoon before you receive a response. If you have a class-related issue that occurs over the weekend, DO NOT PANIC. There is no such thing as “sociological emergency” and I guarantee we can work it out as soon as I can address it.

Remember, this is not an adversarial relationship. I want you to be successful and am here to help you. If you do not receive an email from me in a timely matter, please try again. Sometimes emails go into the clutter folder and I may not see them.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

THIS ONLINE 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: Guns on Campus

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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, 29 Aug.	Syllabus, Defining Deviance & Deviants	Preface, Ch. 1
	SYLLABUS QUIZ OPENS 12:01 AM	
W, 31 Aug.	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants	
F, 2 Sept.	Online Discussion #1 opens @ 12:01 AM.	
	SYLLABUS QUIZ CLOSSES @ 11:59 PM	
<u>Week 2</u>		
M, 5 Sept.	Labor Day	
W, 7 Sept.	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants	Ch. 1
F, 9 Sept.	Online Discussion #1 closes @ 11:59 PM	
<u>Week 3</u>		
M, 12 Sept.	Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 2
W, 14 Sept.	Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 2
W, 14 Sept.	Essay Assignment due	
F, 16 Sept.	Online Discussion #2 opens @ 12:01 AM.	
<u>Week 4</u>		
M, 19 Sept.	Popular Notions and Pseudoscientific Explanations	Ch. 3
W, 21 Sept.	Popular Notions and Pseudoscientific Explanations	Ch. 3
F, 23 Sept.	Online Discussion #2 closes @ 11:59 PM	
<u>Week 5</u>		
M, 26 Sept.	Sociological Explanations for Deviance	Ch. 4
W, 28 Sept.	Sociological Explanations for Deviance	Ch. 4
F, 30 Sept.	Exam 1 Open 12:01 AM-11:59 PM	Ch. 1,2,3,4
<u>Week 6</u>		
M, 3 Oct.	Deviant Occupations	Ch. 5
W, 5 Oct.	Deviant Occupations	Ch. 5
F, 7 Oct.	Online Discussion #3 opens @ 12:01 AM	
<u>Week 7</u>		
M, 10 Oct.	Sexual Deviance & Deviant Lifestyles	Ch. 6

W, 12 Oct. F, 14 Oct.	Sexual Deviance & Deviant Lifestyles Online Discussion #3 closes @ 11:59 PM	Ch. 6
<u>Week 8</u>		
M, 17 Oct. W, 19 Oct. F, 21 Oct.	Alcoholism & Other Drug Abuse Alcoholism & Other Drug Abuse Online Discussion #4 opens @ 12:01 AM	Ch. 7 Ch. 7
<u>Week 9</u>		
M, 24 Oct. W, 26 Oct. F, 28 Oct.	Physical & Mental Deviance Physical & Mental Deviance Online Discussion #4 closes @ 11:59 PM	Ch. 8 Ch. 8
<u>Week 10</u>		
M, 31 Oct. W, 2 Nov. F, 4 Nov.	Suicide and Self-Harm Suicide and Self-Harm Exam 2 Open 12:01 AM-11:59 PM	Ch. 9 Ch. 9 Ch. 5,6,7,8,9
<u>Week 11</u>		
M, 7 Nov. W, 9 Nov. F, 11 Nov.	Beyond Range of Tolerance: Extreme Deviance Extreme Deviance Online Discussion #5 opens @ 12:01 AM	Ch. 10 Ch. 10
<u>Week 12</u>		
M, 14 Nov. W, 16 Nov. F, 18 Nov. F, 18 Nov.	Violence, Street Crime & Delinquency Violence, Street Crime & Delinquency Online Discussion #5 closes @ 11:59 PM Online Discussion #6 opens @ 12:01 AM	Ch. 11 Ch. 11
<u>Week 13</u>		
M, 21 Nov. W, 23 Nov. F, 25 Nov.	Corporate Crime & Elite Deviance Thanksgiving Holiday Thanksgiving Holiday	Ch. 12
<u>Week 14</u>		
M, 28 Nov. W, 30 Nov. F, 2 Dec.	Cyberdeviance Cyberdeviance Online Discussion #6 closes @ 11:59 PM	Ch. 13 Ch. 13
<u>Week 15</u>		
M, 5 Dec. W, 7 Dec. F, 9 Dec.	Deviance, Deviants, & Social Control Deviance, Deviants & Social Control Exam 3 Open 12:01 AM-11:59 PM	Ch. 14 Ch. 14 Ch. 10,11,12,13,14

W, 14 Dec.	1:00 p.m.	Make-up Exams	(taken online with permission only)
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