



**SOC 320.01W  
Deviant Behavior  
Summer 1 2020  
(Online)**

**Professor:** William E. Thompson, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Science 229

**Office Hours:** By e-mail

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5332; better to e-mail)

**University Email Address:** [William.Thompson@tamuc.edu](mailto:William.Thompson@tamuc.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook Required:** Deviance & Deviants: A Sociological Approach by William E. Thompson and Jennifer C. Gibbs, Wiley Blackwell, 2017, ISBN: 978-1-118-60459-5. Try to obtain this book before class begins, as reading assignments start immediately.

**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.**

**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. Discussions will begin each Monday at 12:01 a.m. and end each Thursday at 11:30 p.m.,. 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:

- (1) at least one post that responds to the question(s) posited by the professor (1-10 pts.)
- (2) at least two posts that pose relevant questions 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 the designated time limit to complete it. Give yourself enough time to complete the quiz. 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 online after graded.**

**GRADES:** Final grades will be based on the five quizzes (100 points ea.= 500 pts.) and five online discussions (100 pts.) 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 online**

**NOTE: We will NOT be negotiating for grades during or at the end of the semester. You have plenty of opportunities to earn points throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, D2L 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, D2L 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 online.

- 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](http://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 D2L contact the 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](mailto: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*).

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

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

**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.

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.

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>READING ASSIGNMENTS:</b>
<u>Week 1</u>		
M, 1 June	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants Online Discussion #1 begins at 12:01 a.m.	Ch. 1
T, 2 June	Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 2
W, 3 June	Popular Notions and Pseudoscientific Explanations of Deviance	Ch. 3
<b>R, 4 June</b>	<b>Quiz 12:01 a.m.-11:30 p.m.</b> Online Discussion #1 ends at 11:30 p.m.	<b>Ch. 1,2,3</b>
<u>Week 2</u>		
M, 8 June	Sociological Explanations for Deviance Online Discussion #2 begins at 12:01 a.m.	Ch. 4
T, 9 June	Deviant Occupations	Ch. 5
W, 10 June	Sexual Deviance and Deviant Lifestyles	Ch. 6
<b>R, 11 June</b>	<b>Quiz 12:01 a.m.-11:30 p.m.</b> Online Discussion #2 ends at 11:30 p.m.	<b>Ch. 4,5,6</b>
<u>Week 3</u>		
M, 15 June	Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse Online Discussion #3 begins at 12:01 a.m.	Ch. 7
T, 16 June	Physical and Mental Deviance	Ch. 8
W, 17 June	Suicide and Self-Harm	Ch. 9
<b>R, 18 June</b>	<b>Quiz 12:01 a.m.-11:30 p.m.</b> Online Discussion #3 ends at 11:30 p.m.	<b>Ch. 7,8,9</b>

Week 4

M, 22 June

Beyond the Range of Tolerance: Extreme Deviance  
Online Discussion #4 begins at 12:01 a.m.

Ch. 10

T, 23 June

Violence, Street Crime and Delinquency

Ch. 11

W, 24 June

Corporate Crime and Elite Deviance

Ch. 12

**R, 25 June**

**Quiz 12:01 a.m.-11:30 p.m.**

**Ch. 10,11,12**

Online Discussion #4 ends at 11:30 p.m.

Week 5

M, 29 June

Cyberdeviance

Ch. 13

T, 30 June

Online Discussion #5 begins at 12:01 a.m.

W, 1 July

Deviance, Deviants, and Social Control

Ch. 14

**R, 2 July**

Deviance, Deviants, and Social Control

Ch. 14

**Quiz 12:01 a.m.-11:30 p.m.**

**Ch. 13,14**

Online Discussion ends at 11:30 p.m.