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**Soc 320.01E Deviant Behavior**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2023**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am – 12:15pm**  
**January 17, 2023 - May 12, 2023**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Instructor:</b>                      | Dr. Willie Edwards, Associate Professor                           |
| <b>Office Location:</b>                 | McDowell Bldg., BA 102a   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b>                    | MWF 1:30pm - 4:30pm<br>for other times please make an appointment |
| <b>Office Phone:</b>                    | (903) 886-5331  |
| <b>Office Fax:</b>                      | (903) 886-5330  |
| <b>University Email Address:</b>        | willie.edwards@tamuc.edu  |
| <b>Preferred Form of Communication:</b> | Email - willie.edwards@tamuc.edu                                  |
| <b>Communication Response Time:</b>     | (within twenty-four hours during the weekday)                     |

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

Required Textbook: Deviance & Deviants: A Sociological Approach. 2017. William E. Thompson & Jennifer C. Gibbs. MA: Wiley Blackwell. ISBN: 978-111-8604595

**Required Readings (given as handouts and also placed in Resource Area in D2L):**

**Supplementary Readings:**

**Course Description**

## **Catalog Course Description:**

### **SOC 320 - Deviant Behavior**

Hours: 3

Deviant Behavior. Three 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.

## **Course Description:**

**This class will use a face-to-face and online format.** Every student should make sure he/she is familiar with D2L. Deadlines, due dates on D2L are set so please do not miss any of them. The class will review the dates and assignments placed on D2L, but it will be the student's responsibility to complete all assignments placed on D2L, or required to be turned in during class time. There will be no automatic opportunity for make-up or submitting assignments late. Such a matter will be dealt with on an individual basis.

This course will engage in threaded discussions, written assignments, and other modes of sharing information. Through readings, discussions and class participation this class will engage in exploring human activities that are often viewed as deviant or at least on the borderline of being unacceptable by society. We will work to see how sociology and sociologists approach each topic. We will cement a foundation of sociological knowledge in reference to the topics we visit. Students will be expected to be engaging and to demonstrate their level of sociological knowledge by using the jargon and displaying a degree of sociological professionalism.

This class will schedule for zoom meetings, they fall during our scheduled class time. The goal is to have them identified in the class syllabus. When they do occur, every students is expected to be on the zoom just as if they were in class.

Finally, there will be sensitive topics covered, presented, talked about in this class, all students are expected to approach these topics in a professional, adult, mature manner. We will respect individual ideas and comments. Those speaking or sharing comments should also respect the audience, your classmates. The environment and discussions must remain civil, and respectful. Rather than sharing personal opinions, and saying things like "I feel," "that is just disgusting," "that is sick," or "I believe," students are being asked to base comments on research, data, facts or information from peer reviewed sources, published sources and be careful with those websites that just write on a topic with no professional creditability.

## **Course Goals:**

### **Course Objectives:**

The course objectives are constructed based on the course goals, and the techniques employed in the learning outcomes assessment are to assist the student in the formulation of an overall sociological perspective focusing on deviance.

## **Suggested Readings:**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

(The Professor reserves the right to identify any additional reading material he deems beneficial in the teaching of this class).

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

Student Learning Outcomes reflect what the student ought to accomplish or be able to perform after completing this course. The student learning outcomes reflect the course goals and course objectives.

1. Students will participate in class discussions where they will be able to demonstrate their level of sociological jargon usage and understanding of the sociological perspectives used to approach the topic of deviance or deviant behavior.
2. Students will be able to elaborate on major theoretical perspectives from a sociological approach that may differ from other social sciences explanation or comments on deviant behavior.
3. Students will become familiar with specific research on selected, specific topics or types of deviant behavior.
4. Students will be able to communicate (orally or in written form) ideas concerning various topics or instances of deviant behavior as studied by sociologists, criminologists or other social scientists.
5. Students will demonstrate their level of developing, constructing, and conducting a research project by doing so for this class. The process will allow the student to further display the development of critical thinking in reference to deviant behavior.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Student in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

### **Instructional Methods**

#### **Course Requirements & Assignments**

##### **1. Discussion:**

During this course students will participate in a weekly threaded discussion. This assignment will allow students to demonstrating their gained knowledge of sociology. Twelve weeks of threaded discussions at 10 pts., each, total 120 pts.

These will be Threaded Discussions, meaning each student will see what their classmates have written. Each student's discussion must add some worthwhile thought to the topic or idea being discussed. Although the number of words or size/length of the discussion will be considered, there is not a set number of words or length of discussion required. The discussion must make a contribution and be worthy of points as determined by the professor. Brevity will not get you maximum points. However, long discussions not focused on the topic or relevant to the topic also will not get you maximum points.

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All Threaded Discussions are due by Sunday, 11:59pm of that week.

## 2. Class Writing Assignments:

Students will participate in five (5) writing exercises, this will permit them to demonstrate their knowledge of sociology and to practice their skills of writing clear ideas and developing content within a limited timeframe. The topic will be provided by the professor which may relate to the discussion or a topic of the day that a major in sociology ought to be familiar with and understand. Each writing will be worth 15 points. Missed writing exercise cannot be made up.

Initially, these writings will be done in the classroom, if the university goes back to full online classes this assignment will be moved to an online format.

The class writings will be conducted in the classroom. Again, no length is pre-determined, the student must write to satisfy the task.

**[If resources are used in either Threaded Discussions or Class Writings, proper citations must be employed. You are expected to use APA or ASA style citations.]**

## 3. Testing:

There will be two graded tests, one will be composed of multiple choice questions and the other one will be completely essay. These tests will be over the review of sociological material covered from the introductory text, and any additional required readings assigned during this class.

- The essay test will be composed of at least 5 questions (the number of essay questions may vary); this test will be worth 100 points. We will use a class periods to write/take this essay test in the classroom. Students will use a Blue Book for this exam. The multiple choice test will be composed of fifty items/questions; the test will be worth 100 points.

## 4. Research Paper:

This assignment will allow students to continue demonstrating their ability to construct a senior quality research paper. Students will demonstrate their skills in conceiving a thought and following it through to completion. Students may use the ASA or APA style of writing and citation (students ought to know the difference between these two styles of citation). The format for this assignment will be presented by the professor before the assignment is initiated. **This assignment will be submitted through D2L. The due date is**

- The research paper assignment will be worth 70 points.
- The paper must have at least 3 references.
- The paper must be at least 5 pages (not including the cover or the reference pages).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA

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(American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below and in the CJ 500 Orientation Course.

[www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/>

[www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa](http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa)

It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask. You are also encouraged to read/review the handouts on the research paper given out by the professor.

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

### **Tips on How to be successful in this Class:**

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the assigned readings.
2. Student should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures and class discussions.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams, writings and other assignments.
6. Students must make the most of the "easy" grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

## **GRADING**

### **Course Possible Points:**

### **The following grade scale will be used:**

A = 535 – 481 pts.

B = 480 – 428 pts.

C = 427 – 374 pts.

D = 373 – 321 pts.

F = 320 and below

## **Assessments**

The class assessments are connected to the Student Learning Outcomes.

1. *Students will participate in class discussions where they will be able to demonstrate their level of sociological jargon...* (this SLO will be accomplished by student participating in the threaded discussion; writing; and essay exam.
2. *Students will be able to demonstrate their level of sociological knowledge/information...* (by participating in the essay and objective exams; and

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completing the threaded discussions;

3.

4.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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## Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## Interaction with Instructor Statement

### ***Contact of Professor:***

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

#### **Class Policy:**

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>. A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled ‘Drop a class’ from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or “X.” You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@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.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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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.

### **Counseling Center Services**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

|               | <b>Course Outline/Calendar</b> |  |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Week</b>   | <b>Date (Mon - Sun)</b>        | <b>Activities</b>  |
| <b>Week 1</b> | <b>Jan 17, - Jan 22, 2023</b>  | Introduction, Review the definition & field of Sociology of deviance, deviant behavior |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>Jan 23, - Jan 29, 2023</b>  |  |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>Jan 30, - Feb 5, 2023</b>   |  |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>Feb 6, - Feb 12, 2023</b>   |  |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>Feb 13, - Feb 19, 2023</b>  |  |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <b>Feb 20, - Feb 26, 2023</b>  |  |
| <b>Week 7</b> | <b>Feb 27, - March 5, 2023</b> |  |

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|                |                                   |  |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
|                |                                   |  |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | <b>Mar 6, - Mar 12, 2023</b>      |  |
|                | <b>March 13 – 17, 2023</b>        | <b>Spring Break</b>                              |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | <b>Mar 20, - Mar 26, 2023</b>     |  |
|                |                                   |  |
| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>Mar 27, - April 2, 2023</b>    |  |
| <b>Week 11</b> | <b>April 3, - April 9, 2023</b>   |  |
| <b>Week 12</b> | <b>April 10, - April 16, 2023</b> |  |
| <b>Week 13</b> | <b>April 17, - April 23, 2023</b> |  |
| <b>Week 14</b> | <b>April 24, - April 30, 2023</b> |  |
| <b>Week 15</b> | <b>May 1, - May 7, 2023</b>       | <b>Essay Exam conducted in the classroom,</b>    |
| <b>Week 16</b> | <b>May 8, - May 14, 2023</b>      | <b>Objective Exam conducted in the classroom</b> |

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**Attachment A: Points to consider for maximum grade achievement on Research Paper**

|   | <b>70 – 60 points</b>   | <b>59 – 45 points</b>   | <b>44 or below points</b>   |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | <b>Very Good</b>  | <b>Moderate</b>   | <b>Poor/ Weak</b>   |
| <b>Thesis / Argument</b>  | Clearly describes central issues or thesis<br>Develops thesis with supporting arguments<br>Well argued<br>Critiques, compares multiple perspectives<br>Interesting, original, thought provoking | General, weak thesis<br>Straight-forward, somewhat simple arguments<br>Thesis gets lost in paper<br>Aware of only one perspective | Thesis or central themes unclear<br>Central themes not explained from the beginning<br>Poor arguments, little critical thinking               |
| <b>Organization</b>   |   |   |   |
| <b>Introduction</b>   | Clear thesis/ main themes<br>Organization stated  | Topics noted  | Thesis unclear<br>Organization unclear  |
| <b>Body</b>   | Makes substantiating arguments in support of thesis or main theme<br>Connects and synthesizes complex ideas<br>Detailed, with citations   | Little organizational continuity<br>Disjointed<br>General, unspecific<br>Little use of reading sources                            | No clear organization<br>Repetitive<br>Lacks detail<br>No Citations   |
| <b>Conclusion</b>   | Draws conclusions about the argument<br>Briefly summarizes body   | A Summary;<br>no conclusions<br>Summary digressed from argument   | Conclusion missing<br>Summary unrelated to central argument   |
| <b>Evidence</b>   | Thorough, Detailed, Specific<br>Numerous examples from reading and lecture materials  | Moderate use of supporting evidence and examples<br>Try to be more detailed and specific  | Repetitive, General, Simplistic<br>Incorrect examples, false data   |
| <b>Sources/ Citations</b>   | Thorough, critical engagement of relevant readings/sources<br>Professional Journals and texts<br>Numerous citations   | Basic, simple use of reading materials<br>Few citations<br>Relies too heavily on internet or encyclopedias                        | Little use of assigned reading sources or outside research<br>No citations<br>Need Works Cited page<br><br>Plagiarism! ( <b>automatic F</b> ) |
| <b>Language /Mechanics<br/>Rhetorical Quality<br/>Grammar/ Spelling</b> | Well written, clear, concise argumentation<br>Clear paragraphs<br>Grammatical writing<br>Correct spelling<br>No contractions  | General, unspecific writing<br>Awkward grammar, some grammatical errors<br>Some spelling errors<br>Use of conjunctions            | Unclear, awkward, repetitive language   |

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