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SOC 320.01W/02W Deviant Behavior

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mica Thompson

Online

Department Office Phone: 903-886-5332

Department Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: mica.thompson@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: M-Th within 24 hours, emails received after noon on Friday will be answered the following Monday. ***Always include your name the way you are enrolled in the class as well as the course number and section with all e-mail correspondence.***

COURSE INFORMATION

This course meets: Online Only

Textbook Required: Deviance & Deviants: A Sociological Approach by William E. Thompson and Jennifer Gibbs. Wiley, 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

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

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint

Instructional Methods

Every effort will be made to provide the best possible learning experience by blending PowerPoint presentations with discussions, reading assignments, and other materials in a solely online format.

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](#)

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

In order to be successful in this course, you will need purchase and READ the required textbook. You are expected to complete all discussions, submit any assignments on time, and take exams when they are scheduled. It is recommended you put all due dates and exam dates on your calendar. The PowerPoints 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.

GRADING

GRADES: Final grades will be based on the four exams (100 points ea.= 400 pts.); eight online discussions (20 pts ea. = 160 pts.); 2 response essays (50 pts. ea= 100pts.). The following grading scale will be used to calculate final grades:

- A = 90% - 100% (594-660 pts)
- B = 80% - 89% (528-593 pts)
- C = 70% - 79% (462-527 pts)
- D = 60% - 69% (396-461 pts)
- F = Below 60% (<395 pts)

Grades will be posted in D2L

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, your total points 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. (There is a big difference between a percentage point and a raw point. For example, if you earn 69% of the 560 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 semester, don't try to BEG for them at the end of it.**

Assessments

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.

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) one post that responds to the question(s) posted by the instructor using key terms, concepts, and theories from the required reading (10 pts.)

(2) one post that poses a relevant question to your classmates (5 pts.)

(3) two posts responding to questions posed by your classmates (5 pts.)

(these are minimum requirements; hopefully you will engage in discussion and post more; it takes at least 4 posts to earn all 20 points).

NOTE: Keep all discussions civil and academic/intellectual in nature. We may discuss 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 and we do not want to tread on them, but we also do not need to know them.

These are academic discussions, NOT 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. 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 PowerPoints 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.

RESPONSE ESSAYS: You will have 2 essays worth 50 points each. They will be responses to questions posed. These essays are considered formal writing – this means that I expect you to do all of the following: Write with purpose. Each sentence should contribute to your overall writing (no fillers like very very very very interesting). Additionally, you should use the same glossary of terms that the readings' authors use; do not make up your own descriptors or tell the reader "Basically..." Your tone should be literal and formal using proper English spelling and grammar. Do not use clichés, text speak (e.g. ROFL), emoji, non-text characters, or non-scholarly sources. You should write in paragraphs which are organized to fit together.

The Response Essays must use APA or ASA formatting for in-text citations and reference list and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. The assignment should be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be four 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** with the

exception of the final. **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.

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

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.

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

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>

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR: The best way to contact the professor will be through campus e-mail (mica.thompson@tamuc.edu). 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 may not receive a response until the following Monday.** Please include the course number in the subject of your email to expedite response times. I teach more than one course so it helps me best answer you if I know in which course you're enrolled.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION: I will communicate with the class through the online course 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 get sorted/filtered and I may miss them.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

All assignments need to be completed and turned in on time. Exams need to be taken on the days assigned. Makeup exams are offered for special circumstances which you must work out with the professor.

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 by email and posted in D2L.

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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<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>

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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

DATE:	TOPIC:	READING ASSIGNMENTS:
<u>Week 1</u> Aug 28-Sep 1	Defining Social Deviance and Deviants	Preface, Ch. 1 Online Discussion 1 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
<u>Week 2</u> Sep 4-8	Monday: Labor Day/NO CLASS Deviance and Social Identity	Ch. 2 Online Discussion 1 closes Friday at 11:30 PM
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 11-15	Pseudoscience, Science & the Medical Model	Ch. 3 Online Discussion 2 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 18-22	Sociological Explanations of Deviance	Ch. 4 Online Discussion 2 closes Friday at 11:30 PM EXAM 1 open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM
<u>Week 5</u> Sep 25-29	Deviant Occupations	Ch. 5 Online Discussion 3 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
<u>Week 6</u> Oct 2-6	Sexual Deviance & Deviant Lifestyles	Ch. 6 Online Discussion 3 closes Friday at 11:30 PM
<u>Week 7</u> Oct 9-13	Alcoholism & Other Drug Abuse	Ch. 7 Online Discussion 4 opens Monday at 12:00 AM Response Essay 1 Due Friday at 11:30 PM
<u>Week 8</u> Oct 16-20	Physical & Mental Deviance	Ch 8 Online Discussion 4 closes Friday at 11:30 PM Exam 2 open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM
<u>Week 9</u> Oct 23-27	Suicide	Ch. 9 Online Discussion 5 opens Monday at 12:00 AM
<u>Week 10</u> Oct 30-Nov 3	Extreme Deviance	Ch. 10 Online Discussion 5 closes Friday at 11:30 PM

<u>Week 11</u> Nov 6-10	Street Crime & Delinquency Online Discussion 6 opens Monday at 12:00 AM Exam 3 open Friday 12:00 AM-11:30 PM	Ch. 11 Ch. 9-11
<u>Week 12</u> Nov 13-17	Corporate Crime & Elite Deviance Online Discussion 6 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 12
<u>Week 13</u> Nov 20-24	Cyberdeviance Online Discussion 7 opens Monday at 12:00 AM THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/23-11/25	Ch. 13
<u>Week 14</u> Nov 27-Dec 1	Deviance, Deviants, & Social Control Online Discussion 7 Closes Friday at 11:30 PM Response Essay 2 Due Friday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 14
<u>Week 15</u> Dec 4-8	Summarizing What We've Learned Online Discussion 8 opens Monday at 12:00 AM Online Discussion 8 closes Friday at 11:30 PM	
Dec 11-13	Final Exam* (Exam 4) Opens Monday 8 AM; closes Wednesday at 11:30 PM	Ch. 12-14

***Please note the final is the only exam not given on a Friday.**