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### **SOC 320 01W: Deviant Behavior**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 1 2024 (6/3 through 7/3)

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: (Name & Title) Dr. Nicole Farris, Associate Professor  
Office Location: Ferguson 218  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Office Fax: 903-886-5330  
University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**  
Communication Response Time: **24-48 Hours**

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Textbook(s) 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*

Software Required Access to course website- you need to have an active email username and password. I will post your grades to the course website, as well as your powerpoints, assignments, and supplemental articles that I see fit to include in lecture.

Optional Texts and/or Materials None

### **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).

Deviance refers to behavior that violates social norms, expectations, or rules within a specific cultural or societal context. From a sociological perspective, deviance is not inherently negative or abnormal; rather, it is a socially constructed concept shaped by the values, beliefs, and power dynamics present in a given society. Sociologists study deviance to understand how individuals and groups navigate and negotiate social order, power structures, and collective morality.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

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, using presentation and graphics programs, etc.**

## **Instructional Methods**

**Main Course Meetings:** This course is entirely online, where the method of instruction will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and other assignments.

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

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success:

**Participation:** Participation is a crucial aspect of learning and contributes to a deeper understanding of course material.

**Readings and Assignments:** Complete all assigned readings and assignments on time and come prepared to discuss key concepts, theories, and case studies. Take thorough notes during lectures and readings to reinforce understanding and retention of course material.

**Critical Thinking:** Approach course material with a critical mindset, questioning assumptions, evaluating evidence, and considering alternative perspectives. Engage in thoughtful analysis and interpretation of sociological concepts and theories.

**Collaboration and Communication:** Collaborate with classmates, ask questions, and seek clarification when needed. Foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment where diverse viewpoints are respected and valued.

**Time Management:** Manage your time effectively to balance coursework with other responsibilities and commitments. Create a study schedule, set goals, and prioritize tasks to ensure consistent progress and success in the course.

**Seek Help When Needed:** Don't hesitate to reach out to the instructor or classmates for assistance or clarification on course material. Take advantage of office hours, tutoring services, and online resources to address any challenges or questions you may have.

**Stay Engaged and Motivated:** Stay motivated and engaged in the course by connecting course material to real-world issues, personal experiences, and future goals. Take ownership of your learning and actively seek opportunities for growth and intellectual development.

By adhering to these responsibilities and tips for success, you can maximize your learning experience in the course and achieve your academic goals in the study of deviance and other sociological concepts.

## GRADING

### COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION:

A- 180- 200 points

B- 160- 179 points

C- 140- 159 points

D- 120- 139 points

F- 119 points or below

There is always a chance that papers or grades get lost in transit. Please keep a record of your grades in case something unexpected should happen. Any student who is dissatisfied with his/her grades during this course is urged to discuss this with the instructor.

Assignment	Points
Reaction Paper 1	20
Reaction Paper 2	20
Reaction Paper 3	20
Reaction Paper 4	20
Discussion Participation	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>

Written work in the course will consist of the following:

1. Weekly, 2-3 page (double spaced) type written “reaction responses” based on the week’s assignments and/or readings. The nature of these assignments will be explained further.
2. Online discussion posts on relevant content areas.

## 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.

### **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**

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Farris, Professor Farris, Instructor Farris), an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. See

the attached page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

**Students are expected to hand in assignments on time.** However, late assignments (with the exception of discussions) will be accepted up to one week after they are due, and will incur a 10% penalty.

### **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.

### **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).  
<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: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).  
<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>

### **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

Gee Library- Room 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/>

### **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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)**

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

**6/3**

**Week 1: Defining Social Deviance and Deviants;  
Deviance and Social Identity**

*Readings: Text, Chapters 1 and 2*

Due: **Thursday 6/6** by 11:59pm: Discussion Question Response; **Sunday 6/9** by 11:59pm: Response to Peers (2); Reaction Paper



**6/10**

**Week 2: Sociological Explanations of Deviance;  
Deviant Occupations**

Readings: *Text, Chapters 4 and 5*

Due **Thursday 6/13** by 11:59pm: DQ Response; Due  
**Sunday 6/16** by 11:59pm: Response to Peers (2);  
Reaction Paper #2

**6/17**

**Week 3: Extreme Deviance; Street Crime +  
Delinquency**

Readings: *Text, Chapters 10 and 11*

Due **Thursday 6/20** by 11:59pm: DQ Response; Due  
**Sunday 6/23** by 11:59PM: Response to Peers (2);  
Reaction Paper #3

**6/24**

**Week 4: Corporate Crime + Elite Deviance;  
Cyberdeviance**

Readings: *Text, Chapters 12 and 13*

Due **Thursday 6/27** by 11:59pm: DQ Response; Due  
**Sunday 6/30** by 11:59pm: Response to Peers (2); Reaction  
Paper #4

**Week 5 (Short Week): Deviance, Deviants and Social Control**

*Readings: Text, Chapter 14*

Due **Wednesday 7/3** by 11:59pm Discussion Question Response