



## **SOC320.01W: Deviant Behavior**

COURSE SYLLABUS: SU1 2026

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Andrew M. Garcia, J.D., Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Ferguson Social Sciences 206

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, 12PM-2PM (Zoom)

\*\*\*Additional availability by appointment

**University Email Address:** [Andrew.Garcia@etamu.edu](mailto:Andrew.Garcia@etamu.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** E-mail

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours or sooner during normal M-F business hours.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook(s) Required**

*Rios, V. M. (2017). Human targets: Schools, police, and the criminalization of Latino youth. University of Chicago Press.*

Assigned readings (provided by instructor; accessible on D2L)

**Software Required**

Microsoft Office (or compatible) word processor

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is a) to investigate various definitions and forms of deviant behavior in their proper cultural and historical context, b) to examine research methodologies used in sociological inquiry that seek to understand deviant behavior, c) to provide possible and plausible theoretical explanations on the causes of deviant behavior and d) to examine the societal and individual impact of deviant behavior. The

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course is organized thematically around salient social issues, encompassing multiple concepts from culture, mass media, identity, criminology, and organizational studies.

Assigned readings and class lectures will introduce and critique the provided material while also exploring their empirical findings and policy implications. The course will include a pervasive emphasis on developing critical thinking skills when evaluating sociological theory, research, and public policy.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an introspective and sociological perspective on deviant behavior.
2. Explore and critically analyze major theoretical perspectives on deviant behavior.
3. Explore and critically examine specific types of deviant behavior through germane social issues.
4. Develop and foster critical thinking skills and the enhancement of the students' abilities to express their ideas in their communication.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Final course grades will be based on the criteria outlined below.

### Course Evaluation

Course Journal	30% (3 entries, each worth 10%)
Interview Assignment	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Human Targets Reading Quiz	10%
Final Paper (Rios)	20%
	<b>100%</b>

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## Assessments

\*\*\*Please check your ETAMU email account and D2L daily because important information about this class could be emailed or uploaded to you. A breakdown of course requirements and how each will contribute to your course grade is included below. Assignments and exams may be made up without penalty if they are missed due to an excused absence.

### **Course Journal (30%, 3 entries each worth 10%):**

Throughout the semester, students will be assigned three (3) journal prompts with topics based on video lectures and readings from the current and/or previous week. Students will be required to develop a written entry (roughly 500 words), which will be uploaded into the Assignments tab.

Successful journal entries will be thoughtful, introspective about how the topic relates to their own personal experiences and attempt to make connections between the course material and their own ideas. Other students will *not* have access to a student's personal journal and its content will only be viewed by the instructor of record. Each journal entry is graded on a 10-point scale and comprises 10% of the total grade in the course.

Each prompt on a journal week (see weekly course schedule at the end of this document for specific dates) will be released Monday morning. Students will then have until *11:59PM the following Sunday night to submit their entry.*

How to access course journal: the online student journal can be found by accessing the "Assignments" tab on the course D2L.

### **Interview Assignment (20%):**

All course writing assignments will be submitted online through D2L using plagiarism software. Papers should be in Times New Roman, size 12 font, one-inch margins and double-spaced.

The interview assignment will ask students to conduct and transcribe qualitative interviews on deviance with valued others. Afterwards, the students will produce a written essay that attempts to make connections between deviance theories and the findings from their interviewees (e.g., show how a layperson is using deviance theories without necessarily knowing it).

**Human Targets Reading Quiz (10%):** To ensure that students are progressing through the course text, an online reading and comprehension assessment will be given via D2L approximately midway through the semester. It will include 10-15 multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer questions.

**Final Analysis Paper (Rios' *Human Targets*, 20%):** The final assignment for the course is a critical analysis essay of the Rios text. Students will be given wide latitude to determine the theme and direction of their final paper but are strongly encouraged to incorporate course theories and make cross-application from semester readings. Students will also be required to cite a minimum of two peer-reviewed, academic

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sources that support their overall argument. An online video will be made available around the midterm that discusses the complete parameters of this assignment. A sample outline of a potential paper will also be disseminated to help students structure their assessment.

**Midterm Exam (20%):** One online exam will be administered (on Brightspace/D2L) in this course. The midterm will be graded on a 100-point scale and include 40-50 multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. The exam will cover the assigned readings, uploaded lecture videos, and assigned multimedia. As an online course, students will need access to reliable internet services and a quiet work environment conducive to test taking. **The exam and access password will be made available online on the D2L system on Friday, June 19th at 9AM and close Sunday, June 21st at 11:59PM. Once a student is ready during testing week and opens the exam, they will have one hour (60 minutes) to complete all the questions. Students will not be able to go back to it throughout the week!** More detailed information on the procedure for taking online tests in this course can be found on D2L under ONLINE EXAMS in the CONTENT folder.

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**Makeup Exam Policy:** I totally understand that life happens. Students that experience exceptional circumstances which cause them to miss a scheduled exam should contact me ASAP. Students that have a university approved absence or otherwise produce written documentation regarding their absence will be scheduled for a make-up time. Students that have not reported their absence or spoken to me within 2 days of the exam will be considered unexcused and receive a "0" score for that exam.

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## Classroom Guidelines

**Electronic Device Policy:** Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Laptops should only be used for note taking unless it is part of the instructor assignment and discussion for the class day.

**Classroom Civility, Respect and Tolerance:** University study is largely about exposure to a diverse range of worldviews and lived experiences. **This course relies on challenging and critiquing deeply held societal beliefs over a wide range of sensitive topics.** Students should engage in discourse with other students and the instructor respectfully. **My classroom is predicated on principles of mutual respect** and students are expected to exhibit this same respect for the diversity of ideas. **Forms of incivility towards other students or the instructor will not be tolerated.**

**Instructor Error:** Because instructor errors can and do occur, students should keep an extra copy of any work they submit. In addition, make sure to keep and safeguard graded assignments and tests until final course grades have been posted.

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## Course Policies

**Access to Grades:** All grades will be available in D2L. Please note that I am unable to furnish any information about grades or student status via e-mail or telephone. This is considered a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), even with student permission or at student request. Verify your D2L grades often. Discuss grade posting errors/omissions with me immediately.

**Borderline Grades:** Students will not be awarded extra points at the discretion of the instructor. Be aware at the outset that this course has a firm policy against grade “bumping”. However, students will be automatically rounded to a higher letter grade at the .5 threshold (i.e., 89.5% is an A).

**Incompletes:** Grades of “incomplete” are given only under rare circumstances when students provide detailed documentation of a significant crisis (e.g., serious illness of the student or death in the immediate family) near the end of the semester and which render them unable to finish the course. Incomplete grades will not be given under any other circumstances. Students with circumstances negatively affecting their class performance should discuss the situation with me immediately so that we can identify and implement strategies for managing the problem(s).

**PowerPoint:** Students with approved documentation from Student Disability Services may receive hard copies of the PowerPoint presentations used to develop the online videos. Email the instructor for more information.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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>

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## **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 ETAMU 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>

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

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

#### **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](#).

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<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>

### **ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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>

### **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**

East Texas A&M University  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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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**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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 ETAMU campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **Counseling Center Services**

The Counseling Center at ETAMU 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

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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)

### **ETAMU Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center ETAMU, 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)

### **AI use policy**

ETAMU acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

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# SOC320 Tentative Course Calendar

Week (Dates)	Topics, Videos, and Activities	Readings	Assignments
1 JUNE 1-5	<p><b>Course Introduction Video:</b> Syllabus, course structure, and assessment</p> <p><b>Video 1:</b> What is Deviance?</p> <p><b>Video 2:</b> Introduction to Deviance</p>	<p><i>Reading 1.1:</i> Mental illness stigma</p> <p><i>Reading 1.2:</i> Medicalization of mental illness</p>	<p>Introductions due June 5<sup>th</sup> @11:59PM</p> <p><b>Course Journal #1 due June 7<sup>th</sup> @11:59PM</b></p>
2 JUNE 8-12	<p><b>Video 3:</b> The Diversity of Deviance</p> <p><b>Video 4:</b> Introduction to Rios' <i>Human Targets</i></p>	<p><i>Reading 2.1:</i> Furrries?</p>	<p><b>Course Journal #2 due June 14<sup>th</sup> @11:59PM</b></p> <p><i>Deviance Worksheet (provide answers at end of Journal #2 Response)</i></p>
3 JUNE 15-19	<p><b>Video 5:</b> Anomie/Strain Theory</p> <p><b>Video 6:</b> Social Disorganization Theory</p>	<p><i>Reading 3.1</i> The American Dream</p> <p><i>Reading 3.2:</i> Broken Windows Theory</p>	<p><b>Rios Reading Quiz: June 17th</b></p> <p><b>Midterm Exam: Opens JUNE 19<sup>th</sup> @9AM, Closes JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> @11:59PM</b></p>
4 JUNE 22-26	<p><b>Video 7:</b> Differential Association/Social Learning Theories</p> <p><b>Video 8:</b> Labeling Theories</p>	<p><i>Reading 4.1:</i> Slut Shaming and College Campuses</p>	<p><b>Course Journal #3</b></p> <p><b>Interviewing assignment DUE June 28th at 11:59PM</b></p>
5 JUNE 29- JULY 2	<p><b>Video 9:</b> Critical Theories</p> <p><b>Video 10:</b> Conflict Theories</p>	<p><i>Reading 5.1:</i> School to Prison Pipeline</p>	<p><b>Final Rios Paper DUE July 1<sup>st</sup> at NOON</b></p>

**THE FINAL PAPER MUST BE UPLOADED BY JULY 1<sup>st</sup> AT NOON.**

Timing constraints in the summer session means **late final papers will not be accepted**

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