

Course Description and Objectives:

This course takes a sociological approach toward deviance as a consequential definitional process. That is, we examine how people come to be defined as "deviant" and what happens to them as a result. Included in societal reactions to these phenomena are the definitions of social scientists; thus, we will cover a broad range of objectivist theories of deviance as well as take a social constructionist approach that focuses on how groups of people have the power to shape social definitions and apply them to others. By the end of the semester, students will have a strong sense of the contribution sociologists have made to understanding deviance and will have acquired some facility with a conceptual framework that includes: definitions of deviance, non-sociological and sociological explanations of deviance, social order, social power, deviant identity construction, and deviant identity management. Students will also develop their ability to create a succinct précis of a reading, present and discuss complex theoretical perspectives and their application, and analyze topics of their choice.

Texts:

- Best, Joel. (2004). Deviance: Career of a Concept. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Chesney-Lind, Meda, and Katherine Irwin. (2008). Beyond Bad Girls: Gender, Violence and Hype. New York: Routledge.
- Erikson, Kai T. (1966 [2005]). Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Garland, David. (1990). Punishment and Modern Society. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Goffman, Erving. (1963). Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity. New York: Touchstone.
- Schur, Edwin. (1984). Labeling Women Deviant: Gender, Stigma, and Social Control. New York: Random House.
- Seidman, Steven. (2003). The Social Construction of Sexuality. New York: W.W. Norton.

- Readings available at through full-text electronic databases at Morris Library and on electronic reserve (**ER**)

Seminar Requirements

1. Regular attendance and active participation in discussion.
2. Completion of all readings on schedule.
3. Serving as discussion leader(s) as assigned.
4. Oral presentation of seminar paper.
5. Seminar paper (due by 4:00 May 5).

SEMINAR PAPER

The paper (of **potential** journal quality and length--25-30 pages) may be one of two types: {1} an analysis of empirical material (if you are currently engaged in research which is yielding data on deviance and/or social control) or {2} a literature review of significant theoretical and or empirical work beyond what is assigned in seminar.

(1) Data analysis: Character and format are to be worked out with me. Do not proceed until we have discussed focus (e.g., type of phenomena), question to be addressed, relevant literature, tentative outline, etc.

(2) Literature review: The goal here is the demonstration of your mastery and synthesis of a significant body of work within the sociology (or social scientific study) of deviance (beyond materials covered in the seminar itself). The organizing frame may be a *perspective* (e.g., conflict theory, labeling theory, control theory), a *specific form of deviance or social control* (e.g., drug use, young republicans, mandatory sentencing), a *specific type of deviance-related phenomena* (e.g., primary deviance, societal reaction, managing spoiled identities) or a *specialized concern* emerging out of your own research interests (e.g., the role of normative expectations in young women's sexual decision making, the amplification of deviance in athletes ordered to undergo psychological evaluation following racist remarks). Do not proceed, however, until you have discussed the organizing frame with me and I have approved it.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1 (January 14): Orientation and Introduction

Week 2—(January 21) MLK HOLIDAY (no meeting)

- Best, Joel. (2004). Deviance: Career of a Concept. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Garland: Chapter 1

Week 3 (January 28): Objectivist Theory: Functionalism

- Durkheim: "The Normal and the Pathological" in Rules of the Sociological Method (on ER)
- Merton: "Social Structure and Anomie" in American Sociological Review Vol. 3, No. 5 (JSTOR)
- Garland: Chapters 2 and 3
- Parnaby and Sacco: "fame and strain: the contributions of mertonian deviance theory to an understanding of the relationship between celebrity and deviant behavior" in Deviant Behavior 25(1) (EBSCO, others)

Week 4 (February 4): Functionalism, cont.

- Erikson, Kai T. (1966 [2005]). Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Week 5: (February 11): Objectivist Theory: Critical Theory

- Spitzer: "Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance" in Social Problems 22(5)
- Chambliss: "Toward a Political Economy of Crime" in Theory and Society 2(2)
- Garland: Chapters 4 and 5
- Anderson: "The Police and the Black Male" in Streetwise (on electronic reserve)

Week 6: (February 18): Critical Theory, cont.

Chesney-Lind, Meda, and Katherine Irwin. (2008). Beyond Bad Girls: Gender, Violence and Hype. New York: Routledge.

Week 7: (February 25): Interactionist Theory: Dramaturgical, Subcultural and Learning Theories

- Luckenbill: "Homicide as a Situated Transaction" in Social Problems 25 (JSTOR)
- Sutherland: "Differential Association" in On Analyzing Crime (on electronic reserve)
- Becker: "Becoming a Marijuana User" in American Journal of Sociology 59 (JSTOR)
- Fox: "Real Punks and Pretenders: in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 16(3) (Sage Publications)
- Muir and Seitz: "machismo, misogyny, and homophobia in a male athletic subculture : a participant-observation study of deviant rituals in collegiate rugby" in Deviant Behavior 25(4)

Week 8: (March 3): Social Constructionist Theory: Labeling and Societal Reaction

- Becker, H.S. (1963). "Outsiders," in Outsiders and "Introduction" in The Other Side," on ER
- Kitsuse: "Societal Reaction to Deviant Behavior" in Social Problems 9(3) (JSTOR).
- Lemert, E. "Paranoia and the Dynamics of Exclusion" in Sociometry 25(1) (JSTOR)
- Li and Moore: "disability and illicit drug use: an application of labeling theory" in Deviant Behavior 22(1) (EBSCO and others)

(March 10)--SPRING BREAK (no meeting)

Week 9: (March 17): Labeling, cont.

- Schur, Edwin. (1984). Labeling Women Deviant: Gender, Stigma, and Social Control. New York: Random House.

Week 10: (March 24): Identity Management

- Mills, C. (1940). "Situated Actions and Vocabularies of Motive" In American Sociological Review 5(6) (JSTOR).

- Scott, M., & Lyman, S. (1968). "Accounts." American Sociological Review 33(1) (JSTOR).
- Stokes, R., & Hewitt, J. P. (1976). "Aligning Actions." In American Sociological Review 41 (JSTOR).
- Sykes and Matza: "Techniques of Neutralization" in American Sociological Review 22 (6) (JSTOR).
- Copes and Williams: Techniques of Affirmation : Deviant Behavior, Moral Commitment, and Subcultural Identity in Deviant Behavior 28(3) (EBSCO and others)

Week 11: (March 31): Identity Management, cont.

- Goffman, Erving. (1963). Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity. New York: Touchstone.
- Dunn: "Defining Women" in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 26(4) (Sage Publications)

Week 12: (April 7): Social Control: Modernist Versions

- Sudnow: "Normal Crimes" in Social Problems 12 (JSTOR)
- Marx: "Ironies of Social Control" in Social Problems 28(3) (JSTOR)
- Conrad: "Medicalization and Social Control in Annual Review of Sociology 18 (JSTOR)
- Garland: Chapters 8-12

Week 13: (April 14): Social Control: Postmodern Arguments

- Foucault: "the Discovery of the Asylum" in Madness and Civilization on ER
- McCorkel: "Embodied Surveillance" in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 32(1) (Sage Publications)
- Seidman, Steven. (2003). The Social Construction of Sexuality. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Garland: Chapters 6 and 7

Week 14 and 15 (April 21, 28): Seminar Paper Presentations