

**St. Francis Xavier University,
Department of Sociology
Deviance and Social Control, Sociology 250
Course Outline 2013-2014**

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Office Hours: Mondays (9:30-11 and 12:30-2) and Thursdays (8:30-9:30 and 11:30-12:30) or by appointment.

Class Schedule

Section 11: Monday 11:15-12:30 & Thursday 12:45-2:00
Section 12: Monday 8:15-9:30 & Thursday 9:30-11:00

Important note: Students are not to attend sections of this course in which they are not properly registered.

Course Description

The overall goal of this course is to provide students an environment to think critically about the normative ordering of social reality. In particular, we will examine a variety of theories and empirical research into the study of deviance and social control.

We will examine theories and research ranging from classical sociological approaches to interpretive perspectives. We will also interrogate normative conceptions of deviance to look at the ways in which it is both socially constructed and used as a mode of social control. In this, we will be turning our attention away from the usual approach to 'deviance and crime' to learn about some of the techniques and functions of power and control in shaping everyday life.

Students should note that this course invites reflection and consideration of topics (images, audio, discussion and debate) that may be difficult and potentially upsetting to some.

Email and Office Policy

I will communicate through email for matters requiring brief responses, although I never provide grades by email. Students should make use of my office hours and ask questions in class. I do not check email on weekends or evenings.

Late Work:

The deadlines for course work are firm. You will lose 2 percent each day that work is handed in late. After five days (equivalent to 10% grade loss) your work will not be accepted for credit. However, real emergencies do arise, and in those instances there will be no penalty **if you inform the dean immediately of your circumstances and provide him or her with a medical note accounting for the days missed.**

Students Services

Please refer to the STFX Academic Calendar for a full description of student services and supports.

Academic Integrity Policy

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with the academic integrity policy set out on pages 13-14 of the STFX academic calendar. Failure to do so does not exempt students from these regulations.

Laptops and Cellular Phones

Laptops and other technologies may be employed for the purposes of note taking, or other activities directly related to class work. Please respect my classroom: **do not text or check social networking accounts** as this is disruptive to me, and disrespectful to other students.

Required Texts:

1. Olstead, Riley. 2011. Sociology 250 Course Kit –Deviance and Social Control
2. Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Anchor/Vintage.
3. Deutschmann, Linda, B. 2007. *Deviance and Social Control* 4th edition Toronto: Nelson Canada.

Grading Scheme:

1. October Test (20%)
 2. December Exam (30%)
 3. Final Exam (30 %)
 4. Critical Analysis Paper (20%)
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Critical Analysis Paper (20%) Due Monday, February 18th

Approximate length: 4-5 pages

Each student must submit a paper in which they examine a topic from the list below, using a critical, social constructionist perspective.

In order to satisfy the requirements for these papers, students must do the following:

- a) Provide a clear explanation of the critical, constructionist perspective you are taking to evaluate the topic. This requires that you establish both the dominant view taken toward the topic (for example, criminological, medical, religious, etc) and contrast this with a sociological, constructivist approach.
- b) Using 2 articles from peer-reviewed, sociological journals, examine the topic, using critical reading and writing skills (not personal opinion). To do this, you will be responding to the question: ‘what does a sociological, constructivist perspective show us, that is different from the usual ways in which this topic/issue is understood’?
- c) Provide a carefully organized and edited examination of the problem, paying

particular attention to the specific instances discussed in your articles, as well as the broader conceptual concerns that these instances point to.

Failure to address the points above (a-c) in a clearly articulated, critical and sociologically relevant way will result in a poor score. Be very careful not to simply describe the articles, but work with and critically analyze them from a sociological perspective that is interested in social relations of power. Also note that when scoring your work, I will consider the strength of your argument, all aspects of proficient writing, your research skills, the thematic coherence of your work, general organization, level of fluency with sociological ideas, use of concepts, thoughtfulness, criticality and overall sophistication.

List of possible topics:

1. Policing ethnicity and race
2. Moral regulation of personal behaviour
3. Regulating gender and sexuality
4. Race, class and/or gender—issues in crime and punishment
5. Youth and deviance
6. Looking deviant: the regulation of physical appearance
7. Mental ‘disorders’ and medicalisation

**** I reserve the right to shift readings and assignments as best suits the pace of the class or that makes room for special visits from guest speakers or other relevant events. Students should be reminded that it is their responsibility to keep abreast of changes to the schedule by attending all classes. Much of this course is driven by lecture material. It is essential therefore, that students attend class and take their own notes. I do not provide copies of my lectures.**

Calendar of Readings and Assignments

Week 1: Introduction Week of September 2nd

Introduction to course, review of goals and requirements, get syllabus

Week 2: What is deviance? Week of September 9th

Deutschmann, Chapter 1: Issues in the Study of Deviance

Deutschmann, Chapter 3: Pre-scientific Approaches to Deviance

Week 3: The demonic and supernatural Week of September 16th

Film: *The Burning Times*

Foucault, “Torture”, Pp. 3-72.

Week 4: Pre/Classical theories of deviance Week of September 23rd

“Torture”, continued.

Deutschmann, Chapter 4: Focus on Deterrence Theory and Rational Choice

Week 5: Biological theories of deviance Week of September 30th

Deutschmann, Chapters 5 & 6: The Body Did It and Theories of Body and Mind.

Week 6: Medicalization Week of October 7th

Conrad, Peter. 1992. "Medicalization and Social Control", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 18, 209-232.

Szasz, Thomas. 1963. "Introduction" Pp. 1-11, and "Chapters 2 and 3" Pp. 11-23 In *Law, Liberty and Psychiatry*. New York: Collier Books.

Week 7: Medicalization continued...Week of October 14th
October 14th: Thanksgiving: No class

Film: *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*

Week 8: October Test Week of October 21st

Finish film

October Test: 24th

Week 9: Deviance, Socially Constructed Week of October 21st

Deutschmann, Chapter 10: Interaction Theories

Rosenhan, D. L. 2001. "On Being Sane in Insane Places", Pp. 14-29 In *Self and Society* edited by Ann Branaman, Wiley-Blackwell.

Week 10: Obedience and Authority Week of October 28th

Milgram, Stanley. 2001. "Behavioral Study of Obedience", Pp. 134-149 In *Conflict, Order and Action: Readings in Sociology* 3rd ed., edited by Ed Ksenych and David Liu, Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Film Clip: *The Specialist*

Week 11: Deviance and identity formation Week of November 4th

Goffman, Erving. 1961. "The Inmate World." Pp.23-72 In *Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates*. Chicago: Aldine Publishers.

Film: *War*

Week 12: Stigma Week of November 11th

November 11th: Remembrance Day: No class

Goffman, Erving. 1986. "Stigma and Social Identity", Pp. 1-40 In *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Simon and Shuster.

Week 13: Body Norms Week of November 18th

Wendell, Susan. 1996. "The Flight from the Rejected Body." Pp. 85-116 In *The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability* New York: Routledge.

Week 14: Panic and Punishment Week of November 25th

Goode, Erich and Nachman Ben-Yehuda. 1994. "Moral Panics: An Introduction", Pp. 31-65 In *Moral Panics: The Social Construction of Deviance*. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Foucault, "Punishment", Pp. 73-131.

DECEMBER EXAM: TBA

Week 15: Critical discourse and the docile body Week of January 6th

Deutschmann, Chapter 12 Conflict, Critical and Postmodern Theories

Foucault, "Docile Bodies", Pp. 135-169. & "The Means of Correct Training", Pp. 169-194.

Week 16: Policing desire Week of January 13th

"Docile Bodies" & "The means of Correct Training" continued.

Ussher, Jane. 1997. "Framing the Sexual 'Other': The Regulation of Lesbian and Gay Sexuality." Pp. 106-130 In *Body Talk: The Material and Discursive Regulation of Sexuality, Madness and Reproduction* edited by Jane M. Ussher. New York: Routledge.

Week 17 : Sex and liberation Week of January 20th

Film: *Kinsey*

Week 18: Blaming Subcultures Week of January 27th

Deutschmann, Chapter 9.

Kwan, Samantha. 2009. "Competing Motivational Discourses for Weight Loss: Means to ends and the Nexus of Beauty and Health", *Qualitative Health Research*, 19 (9): 1223-1233.

Prentice, A. and S. Jebb. 2001. "Beyond Body Mass Index", *Obesity Reviews*, 2: 141-147.

Week 19: Surveillance Week of February 3rd

Foucault, "Panopticism", Pp. 194-308.

Walby, Kevin. 2005. "How Closed-Circuit Television Surveillance Organizes the Social: An Institutional Ethnography", *Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 30(2), 189-213.

Week 20: From danger to risk Week of February 10th

Beck, Ulrich. (1992). "On the Logic of Wealth Distribution", Pp. 19-50, In *Risk Society* London: Sage.

Week 21: Risk as social governance Week of February 17th

Rose, Nikolas. 2001. "The Politics of Life Itself", *Theory, Culture and Society*. 18 (6), 1-30.

Critical Analysis Paper (20%) Due February 17th

Week of February 24th : Mid-term recess

Week 22: Race, power and risk Week of March 3rd

Giroux, Henry 2006. "Katrina and the Politics of Disposability." Pp. 1-31 In *Stormy Weather: Katrina and the Politics of Disposability*. London: Paradigm Publishers.

Film: *Trouble the Water*

Week 23: Gender, age and risk Week of March 10th

Conrad, Peter and Deborah Potter. 2000. "From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults: Observations on the Expansion of Medical Categories," *Social Problems*, 47 (4), 559-582.

Malacrida, Claudia. 2002. "Alternative Therapies and Attention Deficit Disorder: Discourses of Maternal Responsibility and Risk", *Gender and Society*, 16 (3), 366-385.

Week 24: Elite deviance Week of March 17th

Callahan, David 2004. "A Question of Character", Pp. 98-133 In *The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead*. Orlando: Harcourt Brace.

Film: *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*

Week 25: The pleasure of deviance Week of March 24^h

Vail, D. Angus. 1999. "Tattoos Are Like Potato Chips... You Can't Have Just One: The Process of Becoming and Being a Collector", *Deviant Behavior*, 20 (3), 253-273.

Lyng, S. (1990) Edgework: A Social Psychological Analysis of Voluntary Risk Taking, *The American Journal of Sociology*, 95 (4), 851-886.

Week 26: Final exam preparation Week of April 1st

Students bring questions