

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Theories of Deviance and Social Control, Sociology 251.10
Course Outline 2019

Dr. Riley Chisholm

Office: Nicholson Tower 618

Office Phone: (902) 867-3854

Email: rchishol@stfx.ca

Office Hours:

Mondays 1 PM -2 PM

Tuesdays 11:30 AM -12:30PM

Thursdays 10 AM -12:00 PM

Time: 11:15-12:30 (Mondays) and 12:45-2 (Thursdays)

Location: Gilmora 001

Course Description:

This course offers students a theoretical foundation for understanding social processes of deviance and social control. Using various theoretical devices, students will critically examine the social category of deviance: how it is employed by social institutions and organizes daily social practices. Topics could include mental illness, marginal sexualities, the racial state and the climate emergency. 3 credits.

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

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 her with relevant documents or information accounting for the days missed.

Students Services

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

StFX Equity Policy: Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space—both face-to-face and online—that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and

respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>. Please feel free to talk to me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community in general. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

Electronics: Although electronic technologies may in certain cases be a useful learning tool, recent studies suggest that computers and phones brought into classroom environments, are more often a detriment to learning:

<https://bokcenter.harvard.edu/technology-and-student-distraction>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/04/28/why-students-using-laptops-learn-less-in-class-even-when-they-really-are-taking-notes/>.

For this reason, phones and computers should be turned off and away while class is being held. Some students genuinely require supportive technologies, for instance, a computer to take notes (where handwriting notes is not an option)—in such instances, students should let me know.

Course grades and lectures policy: I do not use PowerPoint in class and do not post/provide my lectures to students. Students who miss classes are responsible to get missed lecture notes from another student in the class. I also, do not discuss or provide grades over email.

Required Texts:

1. Rather than purchase a course kit, students access all readings (which are open-access, or otherwise publicly available online), using the links embedded in the course syllabus. Articles which do not have link options will be emailed to you in the first week of classes.
2. Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Anchor/Vintage. (Used copies may be available in the bookstore)
3. Deutschmann, Linda, B. 2007. *Deviance and Social Control* 4th edition Toronto: Nelson Canada. (Used copies are confirmed available in the bookstore)

Grading Scheme:

1. October Test (30%) October 21st
 2. Critical Analysis Paper (30%) November 14th
 3. Final Exam (40%) Date TBA
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Critical Analysis Paper (30%) Due Nov. 14th

Approximate length: 8-10 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 at least 2 **GOOD** 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. Mental ‘disorders’ and medicalisation
7. Domestic Terrorism
8. Prison Industrial Complex
9. Regulation of women and women’s bodies

**** I may 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 this course unfolds in organic relation to the real world and so will incorporate, adjust and edit readings as is determined by world events and our wish to take up analyses of these, in the class. It is students’ responsibility to keep abreast of changes to the schedule by attending all classes.**

Much of this course is driven by class-based discussion and collective engagement with the course 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 Sep 5th

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

Week 2: Modern social control: Authority and obedience Sep 9th and 12th

Burger, Jerry M. 2009. Replicating Milgram', *American Psychologist*, pp. 1-11.
<http://cms.scu.edu/cas/psychology/faculty/upload/Replicating-Milgrampdf.pdf>

Film Trailer: *The Specialist*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tt4a-abd7ug>

Week 3: Climate change, deviance and social control Sep 16th and 19th

The world's richest people — about 7 % — are responsible for 50% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. The poorest 50% are responsible for just 7% of emissions.

Sep 16th : Guest speaker: Mr. Patrick Yancey, Extinction Rebellion Nova Scotia

Sep 19th : Dr. Andrew MacDougall, "Climate 101" in MacKay Room, Bloomfield 5:15-6:30 PM .

Note: Sept, 20th: Global Climate Strike and, Sept. 20th-27th : Climate Week of Action:
<https://globalclimatestrike.net>

Week 4: The social construction of deviance Sep 23th and Sep 27th*

Berger and Luckmann:

http://wps.pearsoncustom.com/wps/media/objects/6714/6875653/readings/MSL_Berger_Luckmann_Construction.pdf

Note the date change!: Friday Sep 27th Either at 2-4 PM or 6-:30-8 PM
Educational Forum: Location TBA

Braiding Sweetgrass Chapters, "A Culture of Gratitude" and "Allegiance to the Beans".
(These chapters will be sent to you in the first weeks of class)

Gaard, Greta. 2015. 'Ecofeminism and climate change'. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 49, Pp. 20-33. (This article will be sent to you in the first weeks of class).

Week 5: Pre/Scientific & Classical theories of deviance Sep. 30th and Oct 3rd

Deutschmann, Chapter 3: Pre-scientific Approaches to Deviance

Foucault, "Torture", Pp. 3-72.

Media Clip with Moazzam Begg (April 19th, 2018):

https://www.democracynow.org/2018/4/19/former_gitmo_prisoner_moazzam_begg_explains

Week 6 : The birth of science Oct 7th and 10th

Deutschmann, Chapter 4: Deterrence Theory

Deutschmann, Chapter 5: The Body Did It

Week 7: Thanksgiving & Fall Study Break Oct. 14th and 17th

NO CLASSES THIS WEEK

Week 8: Biological theories of deviance Oct 21st and 24th

Deutschmann, Chapters 6: Theories of Body and Mind.

October Test: Oct 21st (30%)

Week 9: Medicalization Oct. 28 and 31st

Conrad, Peter. 1992. "Medicalisation and Social Control", *Annual Review of Sociology*, 18, 209-232. Available here:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/234838406_Medicalization_and_Social_Control

Szasz, Thomas. 1973. The Myth of Mental Illness (**This article will be emailed to you in the first weeks of class**)

Week 10: Mental illness, and social control Nov. 4th and 7th

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

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

https://www.canonsociaalwerk.eu/1971_stigma/1973%20Rosenhan%20Being%20sane%20in%20insane%20places%20OCR.pdf

Week 11: Deviance, Socially Constructed Nov. 11th and 14th

Monday Nov. 11th: Remembrance Day No Class

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

Critical Analysis Paper Due November 14th (30%)

Week 12: Morality and Identity Nov 18th and 21st

Film: *War: Anyone's Son Will Do* (1 hour)

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.

https://dl1.cuni.cz/pluginfile.php/415828/mod_resource/content/1/Goffman_Asylums-1-chapter.pdf

Week 13: Nov 25th and 28th

Last 2 classes: Review of main concepts, debrief, wrap up and prepare for final exam (40%)
