

**Sociology of Deviant Behavior**  
**Sociology 304**  
TF 12:00-1:20pm  
Fall 2011 9/1/11-12/23/11  
Tillett Hall 204 LC

**Instructor:** Kate Burrows  
Email: kburrows@sociology.rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: T 11:30-12:00  
Office: in our classroom

**Course Description:** Sociologists use the term *deviant* to refer to any behavior, belief, interest, activity, physical characteristic, or group affiliation used as a reason to mark people as wrong, immoral, criminal, psychopathic, subhuman. Deviance in itself is not necessarily immoral, illegal, or harmful; people are marked, put into the “deviance box,” for things that are trivial (bad table manners), harmless (wearing earrings), unjust (being Jewish), condemned by only a small minority (being a single parent), or practiced by almost everyone (drinking alcoholic beverages). Conversely, people often get away with things that are immoral (sabotaging another student’s lab experiment), illegal (premarital sex in some states), and harmful (eating high cholesterol foods), without being put into the “deviance box.” It is a matter of what someone in authority (religious leaders, scientists, professors, our parents, the mass media) *decides* is deviant.

This course adopts a sociological approach towards understanding deviant behavior. The first part of the course explores different theories of deviance. We consider positivist, or absolutist, and constructionist approaches. The middle part of the course will consider the construction of deviance, as well as we will explore in more detail sexual and drug deviance. The last part of the course deals with elements of the structure and organization of deviance.

This course focuses mainly on noncriminal deviance. If you’re more interested in crime and crime-related themes, consider taking a criminology course, offered through the Rutgers Sociology Department as 920:222.

**Required Texts:**

\* Adler, Patricia & Adler, Peter. 2008. *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Wadsworth Publishing.

\* Allyn, David. 2000. *Make Love Not War: The Sexual Revolution: An unfettered history* Routledge.

\* Sterk, Claire. 1999. *Fast Lives: Women Who Use Crack Cocaine* Temple University Press

These texts are available at the Livingston Bookstore. Copies of each can also be found on Amazon and Half.com

**Grading:** I follow Rutgers University's grading scale:

- A: 90-100 pts
- B+: 86-89 pts
- B: 80-85 pts
- C+: 76-79 pts
- C: 70-75 pts
- D: 60-69 pts
- F: below 60 pts

Grades will be based on the following class exercises:

Photo Essay:	15%
Breaching Experiment:	15%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	20%
Reading Quizzes:	10%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>

I do not take attendance. However, test questions will include material from lecture, as well as from readings, and in-class exercises and films, so you are unlikely to pass the tests unless you attend every course and take scrupulous notes. I will not post powerpoint slides on Sakai before the class period. If you miss your in-class presentation day, there is no make-up unless you have a documented excuse. No late work will be accepted without a documented excuse. **I do not negotiate grades.** If you are having a problem with the coursework, **please come see me** early in the course.

**Course Format:** The sociology of deviant behavior is a broad and complex field, and while we cannot attempt to cover all of it, we will be reading and writing intensively in the topic areas that we do cover. Therefore, we have a lot to work on in every class session, and I expect each of you to come prepared (i.e.: have read all required readings, done required homework or presentation prep, etc).

**Assignments:** There are 2 major assignments in this course.

**Breaching Experiment:** You will conduct a short "breaching experiment" outside of class and write a short (2-3 pages) paper on your experiment, results, and what these results tell you about social norms and deviance. Detailed instructions will appear on Sakai. This assignment is due to be posted on Sakai by **5pm TUESDAY OCTOBER 11.** Be prepared to discuss your experiment and findings in a small group in class. This assignment is worth 15 points.

**Photo Essay Assignment:** There are 2 parts to this assignment: a written essay (including photos), and an in-class presentation.

**Essay:** You must submit and analyze 3 to 5 photos *that you have taken yourself* that show an example of deviance. In your essay, apply at least two course ideas or concepts to the example you have chosen. Your essay must also refer to your photos, and use them as data in discussing your example in terms of course material. Your photos must be clear and, again, they must be your own. You are free to be creative in choosing your example of deviance. With the exception of obscenity, if you can take photos of some aspect of it, you can use it.

Essays should be 3 double-spaced pages long (points deducted for failing to meet the length requirement), not including photos, with 1-inch margins, in 12-point Times New Roman font.

**Presentation:** You will present your photos to the class in a 5-minute (no longer) presentation. You must bring them to class on a flash drive, in any photo format. Or, you may email me your photos before class. This is the preferred method. If you take pictures with a non-digital camera, make sure to scan them first.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on: the quality and relevance of your photos, the choice and application of course concepts and ideas to your example of deviance, and the succinctness and interest of your presentation.

**Due dates vary;** your written assignment is due the day you present. Presentation dates will be available for sign up on the first day of class.

This assignment is worth 15 points.

**Exams:** There are three exams in this course. These exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions and will cover concepts covered in the readings, in-class discussion, lecture, films, and student presentations. The exams are not comprehensive- each will only cover material since the last exam.

**Reading Quizzes:** There will be five short (5 questions) reading quizzes spread throughout the semester. These quizzes will not be announced prior to the quiz day. Each quiz is worth 2 points. There will be no make up for missed quizzes.

### **Class Schedule:**

**Please note:** All readings are expected to be completed prior to the course period in which they are listed. A typical class period will require about 20-40 pages of reading. If you did not get a chance to read the readings for the first day, please read them by the second class session. Selections marked with an \* appear on Sakai, selections marked with a # are from Allyn, selections marked with a \$ are from Sterk, All others are from Adler and Adler.

## **Theories of Deviance**

### **Fri, Sept 2 DAY 1**

Themes: Introduction and class overview

Readings: *\*This syllabus!*

*\*The Promise of Sociology*

**Tue, Sept 6 DAY 2**

Themes: Defining Deviance  
Readings: *General Introduction: 1-10*  
*Defining Deviance: 11-15*

**Fri, Sept 9 DAY 3**

Themes: Defining Deviance  
Readings: *On the Sociology of Deviance: Kai Erickson 17-24.*  
*Integrated Typology of DevianceL Heckert & Heckert 25-41.*

**Tue, Sept 13 DAY 4**

Themes: Defining Deviance  
Film: Devils Playground

**Fri, Sept 16 DAY 5**

Themes: Two Perspectives on Deviance  
Readings: *Relativism: Labeling Theory: Becker 41-45.*  
*Against Relativism: Harm-based Approaches: Costello 46-52.*

**Tue, Sept 20 DAY 6**

Themes: Perspectives on Crime  
Readings: *Social Power: Conflict Theory: Quinnery 53-58.*

**Fri, Sept 23 DAY 7**

Themes: Theories of Deviance, Part 1  
Readings: *Theories of Deviance: 49-70*

**Tue, Sept 27 DAY 8**

Themes: Theories of Deviance, Part II  
Readings: *Functionalism-The Normal and the Pathological: Durkheim 71-75.*  
*Strain Theory- Agnew 76-86.*  
*Differential Association: Sutherland & Cressey 97-89.*

**Fri, Sept 30 DAY 9**

Themes: Theories of Deviance, Part III  
Readings: *Control Theory- Hirschi 90-87*

*Feminist Theory- Chesney-Lind 98-104*  
*The Constructionist Stance- Best 104-109;*

**Tue, Oct 4 DAY 10**

Themes: Themes: Sexual Deviance  
Readings: #Single Girls, Double Standard 10-22  
#Obscenity on Trial 54-70  
Autoerotic Sexual Asphyxia 451-462

**Interlude I: Sexual Deviance**

**Fri, Oct 7 DAY 11**  
**MID TERM TODAY**

**Tue, Oct 11 DAY 12**

Themes: Sexual Deviance  
Film: Kinsey  
DUE: BREACHING EXPERIMENTS

**Fri, Oct 14 DAY 13**

Themes: Sexual Deviance  
Film: Kinsey  
Readings: # Strangers in a Strange Land 71-84  
#Loving vs. Virginia 85-92

**Constructing Deviance**

**Tue, Oct 18 DAY 14**

Themes: Moral Entrepreneurs  
Readings: *Constructing Deviance 147-151*  
*The Social Construction of Drug Scares 155-165*  
*Blowing Smoke 168-175*

**Fri, Oct 21 DAY 15**

Themes: Labeling  
Readings: *Constructing Deviance 151-153*  
*The Police and the Black Male 184-195*  
*The mark of a Criminal Record 207-217*

**Tue, Oct 25 DAY 16**

Themes: Resisting Labeling  
Readings: *Constructing Deviance 153-154*  
*The Saints and the Roughnecks 218-231*

**Fri, Oct 28 DAY 17**

Themes: Identity Development  
Readings: *Deviant Identity 241-245*  
*The Adoption of a fat identity 251-261*  
*Becoming Bisexual 262-272*

**Tue, Nov 1 DAY 18**

Themes: Accounts  
Readings: Accounts 245-247  
*Convicted Rapists Vocob of motive 284-299*

**Fri, Nov 4 DAY 19**

*NO CLASS*

**Tue, Nov 8 DAY 20**

Themes: Stigma Management  
Readings: stigmq management 2470259  
*Managing the Stigma of personal bankruptcy 309-323*  
*Men who Cheer 324-336*

**Fri, Nov 11 DAY 21**

Themes: MIDTERM TODAY

**Interlude II: Drug Abuse**

**Fri, Nov 15 DAY 22**

Themes: Drug Use  
Readings: \$ Getting Into Drugs 30-47  
\$ Patterns of Income Generation 47-77

**Fri, Nov 18 DAY 23**

Themes: Drug Use

Readings: \$ Significant Others 78-99  
\$ Reproduction and motherhood 99-119

**Tue, Nov 22 DAY 24**

Themes: Drug Use

Readings: \$ Drug Treatment 119-144  
\$ Violent Encounters 173-192

## **Social Organization of Deviance**

**Tue, Nov 29 DAY 25**

Themes: Loners & Subcultures

Readings: Introduction 371-378  
Self Injurers 379-386  
Recreational Ecstasy Users 387-394

**Fri, Dec 2 DAY 26**

Themes: Countercultures

Readings: Real Punks and Pretenders 395-405  
Gender and victimization 410-422

**Tue, Dec 6 DAY 27**

Themes: Formal Organization and State-Corporate Crime

Readings: Russian Organized Crime in America 423-432  
War Profiteering: Iraq and Haliburton 443-446

**Fri, Dec 9 DAY 28**

Themes: Cooperation

Readings: Intro to Structure 447-450  
Lesbian Cruising 463-475  
Naked Power 476-485

**Tue, Dec 13 DAY 29**

Themes: Conflict

Readings: Sexual Assault on campus 485-501  
Fraud and the American Dream 502-508

**FINAL EXAM**  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8am-11am**

**Classroom Policies**

**Be respectful** of me, of your classmates, of the university personnel and facilities. This means, at a minimum, turning off your cell phones and minimizing disruptive behavior in class, generally paying attention in class, arriving on time, and staying for the full class period.

**Please choose your words carefully.** The classroom must be a place in which everyone can participate. This means that every person must feel safe enough to express their opinions without fear of ridicule or intolerance. Remember that in good discussions, people critique ideas and not other people. The more heated the political issue we discuss, the more important it is to keep this in mind. Please use inclusive (non-sexist) language, when speaking and in your written work. This means, at a minimum, not using “man” to refer to all humans, and not using “he” exclusively to refer to all people. If you have questions about what inclusive language is, please consult a current style guide or ask me.

**Academic Integrity.** Cheating and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) such behavior as **quoting or paraphrasing** without complete citation, collaborating with others on assignments or exams without the explicit permission of the instructor, submitting work for more than one course without the instructors’ permission, and presenting another's work as your own. Penalties range from a failing grade for the assignment to permanent expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. As an instructor, I am **obligated** to report all suspected violations to the suspected student’s Dean; the Dean’s Office then makes recommendations. In other words, as soon as I suspect it, it is entirely out of my hands. Don’t put me, or yourself, in this position. See the full policy (<http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/>) for details. I may use the online service turnitin.com to identify possible plagiarized papers. Please ask me if you have any questions.

**Makeup Exams.** For in-class exams, I allow make-ups **only in very rare circumstances.** Oversleeping, missing the campus bus, getting a flat tire, etc. are NOT valid reasons for a makeup. Makeup exams consist of long-answer essay questions, and the bar is set high. It is not to your advantage to take a makeup exam in this class. See me as soon as possible if you know you will miss the final exam.

**Contacting me.** The best way to contact me is via **email:** [kburrows@sociology.rutgers.edu](mailto:kburrows@sociology.rutgers.edu). Please read the syllabus thoroughly before emailing me with questions about the course. Don’t email me an hour before class starts to ask me questions about the reading or exams; not only will I not have time to respond to you



before class, but I will also know you put off the assignment until the last minute. When you email, please put the name of the course (e.g., “Sociology of Deviance”) in the subject heading and include your full name in the email. Otherwise, I won’t be able to tell your email apart from the spam I delete without opening. I welcome anonymous emails with suggestions, critiques, or comments about the course, but I will not respond to such anonymous emails.

**Sakai.** We will use Sakai in this course for additional readings, announcements, and for posting and turning in assignments. Please let me know ASAP if you have any trouble accessing this site.

**Classroom Accessibility.** Please come see me no later than the third class if you have special learning needs. I will work with you to make the classroom and the material accessible. A great resource is the RU Learning Centers, where you can contact the Disability Coordinator for your school. Their website is <http://lrc.rutgers.edu/disabilities.html>.

**Acknowledgements:** Much of this syllabus has been pilfered and adopted from others at Rutgers, most notably Anna Harewood.

**I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus, as I see fit or necessary for the course.**