

Social Problems (SOCI 1306)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 lecture hours)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description

Application of sociological principles to the major problems of contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, deviance, or family problems.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Deviant Behavior* by Alex Thio, 10th edition, Allyn & Bacon Publishers.
 - a. ISBN number is 0 205 6932323 7
 - b. A package of #882 Scantrons and #2 pencils.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Acquire and use information in the social science area of social problems. (SCANS: C5, C6, C7, C14, F1, F2, F8, F9, F12, F17)
2. Think creatively, make decisions and know how to reason in reference to deviant behavior recognition and interpretation. (SCANS: F8, F9, F11, F12)
3. Explain problems of crime. (SCANS: C5, C6, C7, C14, F1, F2, F9, F17)

SCANS Skills and Competencies

Beginning in the late 1980's, the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) conducted extensive research and interviews with business owners, union leaders, supervisors, and laborers in a wide variety of work settings to determine what knowledge workers needed in order to perform well on a job. In 1991 the Commission announced its findings in *What Work Requires in Schools*. In its research, the Commission determined that "workplace know-how" consists of two elements: foundation skills and workplace competencies.

Course Outline

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| A. Syllabus | 2. Social Learning Theory |
| 1. Introduction of faculty and students | 3. Control Theory |
| 2. Instructor Resume | D. Chapter 3 Constructionist Theories |
| 3. Comments | 1. Labeling Theory |
| B. Chapter 1 What is Deviant Behavior? | 2. Conflict Theory |
| 1. The Positive Perspective | E. Chapter 4 Physical Violence |
| 2. The Constructionist Perspective | 1. Assault and Aggravated Assault |
| 3. An Integrated View | 2. Patterns of Killing |
| C. Chapter 2 Positivist Theories | 3. Characteristics of Homicide |
| 1. Anomic Strain Theory | 4. Mass Murder and Serial Murder |

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Course Syllabi

- 5. Stalking and Hate Crimes
- 6. Terrorism: the 9/11 Attacks
- 7. Why Do People Kill?
- F. Chapter 5 Rape and Child Molestation
 - 1. Patterns of Rape
 - 2. Consequences of Rape
 - 3. The Culture of Rape
 - 4. Why Men Rape Women?
 - 5. Males as Victims
- G. Chapter 6 Family Violence
 - 1. The Extent of Family Violence
 - 2. Wife Beating
 - 3. Child Abuse
 - 4. Elder Abuse
 - 5. Theories of Family Violence
- H. Chapter 7 Suicide
 - 1. Varieties of Suicide Experiences
 - 2. Groups with Higher Suicide Rates
 - 3. A Social Profile of a Suicide Bomber
 - 4. A Global Perspective to Suicide
- I. Chapter 8 Mental Disorder
 - 1. Types of Mental Disorder
 - 2. Social Factors in Mental Disorder
 - 3. A Global Perspective
- J. Chapter 9 heterosexual Deviance
 - 1. Teen Sex
 - 2. Extramarital Sex
 - 3. Pornography
 - 4. Phone Sex
- 5. The World of Prostitution
- K. Chapter 10 Gays and Other Victims of Stigma
 - 1. Gays and Lesbians
 - 2. Same Sex Practices
 - 3. Homophobia
 - 4. Victims of Social Stigma
- L. Chapter 11 Drug Use
 - 1. Illegal Drugs and Their Effects
 - 2. Becoming a Drug User
 - 3. Abusing Prescription Drugs
- M. Chapter 12 Drinking and Alcoholism
 - 1. What Alcohol Does to Its Users
 - 2. Becoming a Drug User
 - 3. Abusing Prescription Drugs
- N. Chapter 13 Privilege Deviance
 - 1. What is White Collar Crime
 - 2. Corporate Deviance
 - 3. Occupational Deviance
 - 4. Government Deviance
- O. Chapter 14 Underprivileged Deviance
 - 1. Robbery
 - 2. Auto Theft and Car Jacking
 - 3. Burglary
 - 4. Organized Crime
- P. Chapter 15 Internet Deviance
 - 1. Seeking Easy Money, Online
 - 2. Searching Cyberspace for Sex
 - 3. Expressing Hate Online

Grade Scale

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Unit Tests | 75% |
| 2. Comprehensive Final Exam | 15% |

Course Requirements

- 1. Written Research Project
- 2. Current Event Articles
- 3. Community Service Project

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Beepers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class.
3. The students are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. Students who stop coming to class and fail to drop the course will earn an 'F' in the course.
4. **Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.**

Disabilities Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reference
Week 1	Course introduction and policies	
Week 2 - 3	What is Deviant Behavior? Conflicting Definitions, Theories of Deviance	pp. 1-15
Week 4	Positive Theories, Social Learning and Control Theory Labeling and Conflict Theories	pp. 16-32 pp.33-51
Week 5	Physical Violence Exam I	pp. 53 - 82
Week 6	Rape and Child Molestation Patterns of Rape, Consequences of Rape	pp.83-94
Week 7	Continued-A Global Perspective on Wartime Rape, Why Men Rape	pp.99-111
Week 8	Family Violence	pp. 112-115
Week 9	Continued, Marital Rape, Wife Beating, Child Abuse	pp. 116-134
Week 10	Suicide, Groups with Higher Suicide Rates, A Social Profile of Suicide Bombers	pp. 135-166
Week 11	Mental Disorders Exam 2	pp. 167-200
Week 12	Heterosexual Deviance	pp. 201-233
Week 13	Gays and Other Victims of Stigma Substance Use and Abuse	pp. 234-265 pp. 267-299
Week 14	Drinking and Alcoholism Privileged Deviance Exam 3	pp. 300-329 pp. 331-356

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Week	Topic	Reference
Week 15	Underprivileged Deviance	pp. 363-384
	Internet Deviance	pp. 385-396
	Final Exam Review	
Week 16	Final Exam <i>**Given on the date and time specified by the official exam schedule.</i>	
	All Work Due	

Contact information varies by instructor.