

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Theories of Deviance and Social Control, Sociology 251.10
Course Outline 2017-2018

Dr. Riley Chisholm

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Office Hours:

Mondays 9-11 and 12:30-2

Tuesdays 11-2

Wednesday: No office hours

Thursdays 9:30-12:30

Friday: No office hours

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

Location: SCHW 330

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 and its use in social institutions and daily social practices. Topics could include mental illness, drug use, alternative sexualities, social violence and disability. 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 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 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 have the potential to enhance learning, recent studies suggest that the use of personal computers and other electronic devices can be detrimental to students' learning. See:

<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, I ask that students ONLY use devices for recording class notes. I reserve the right to ask students to leave the class should they not respect to this request. Cellular phones should be turned off and away, while class is being held.

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. Chisholm, R. 2017-2018. Sociology 251.10 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 (30%)
2. Critical Analysis Paper (30%)
3. Final Exam (40%)

Critical Analysis Paper (20%)

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 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 (ICE Agents)
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
8. Terrorism
9. Prison Industrial Complex
10. Regulation women and women’s bodies (Planned Parenthood)

**** 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 Sep 7th

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

Week 2: What is deviance? Sep 11th and 14th

Deutschmann, Chapter 1: Issues in the Study of Deviance

Deutschmann, Chapter 3: Pre-scientific Approaches to Deviance

Week 3: The demonic and supernatural Sep 18th and 21st

Film: *The Burning Times*

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

Week 4: Pre/Classical theories of deviance Sep 25th and Sep 28th

"Torture", continued.

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

Week 5: Biological theories of deviance Oct 2nd and 5th

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

Week 6: October Test Oct 12th

**Monday October 9th: Thanksgiving: No class

October Test: Oct 12th (30%)

Week 7: Medicalization Oct 16th and 19th

Conrad, Peter. 1992. "Medicalisation 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 8: Mental illness, and social control Oct 23rd and 26th

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.

Week 9: Deviance, Socially Constructed Oct 30^h and Nov. 2nd

Milgram, Stanley. <http://www.shimer.edu/live/files/338-obediencemilgrampdf>

Film Clip: *The Specialist*

Deutschmann, Chapter 10: Interaction Theories

Week 10: Morality and Deviance Nov 6th and 9th

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.

Week 11: Deviance and identity formation Nov 13th and 16th

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 Nov 20th and 23rd

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

Critical Analysis Paper Due November 23rd: 30%

Week 13: Body Norms Nov 27th and 30th

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

Final Exam : TBA (40%)
