

**St. Francis Xavier University,
Department of Sociology
Deviance and Social Control, Sociology 250
Course Outline 2011-12**

Dr. Riley Olstead
Office: Annex 110 C
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Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 12:30-2:00 & Thursday 11:00-12:30 (Fall) or by appointment.

Class Schedule

DE/ED Blocks – Monday 11:15-12:30 & Thursday 12:45-2:00
MP/PM Blocks – Tuesday 11:15-12:30 & Friday 12:15-1:30

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 crime, deviance and social control. To do this, the course will weave together three organizing themes.

The first theme examines theories and research on deviance ranging from classical sociological approaches to interpretive perspectives. Our second theme interrogates traditional conceptions to 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. Our final theme asks the question, ‘what is the relationship between deviance, control and social privilege?’

Email and Office Policy

I am pleased to communicate through email for matters requiring brief responses, although I never provide grades by email. However, 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 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 the first class, Week of February 6th

Approximate length: 4 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 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 5th

NO CLASS

Week 2: What is deviance? Week of September 12th

Introduction to course, review of goals and requirements

Deutschmann, Chapter 1

Week 3: The demonic and supernatural Week of September 19th

Deutschmann, Chapter 3

Film: *The Burning Times*

Week 4: Pre/Classical theories of deviance Week of September 26th

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

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

Week 5: Biological theories of deviance Week of October 3rd

Deutschmann, Chapters 5 & 6

Monday, October 10th No class (Thanksgiving)

Week 6: Medicalization Week of October 11th

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.

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

Week 7: October test Week of October 17th

Finish *Cuckoo's Nest*

October Test

Week 8: Modernity/ Obedience and authority Week of October 24th

Sumner, Colin. 1994. "Durkheim, Modernity and Doubt: The Birth", Pp. 3-24 In *The Sociology of Deviance: An Obituary* Buckingham: Open University Press.

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: *The Specialist*

Week 9: Deviance, Socially Constructed Week of October 31st

Deutschmann, Chapter 10.

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: Morality and Deviance Week of November 7th

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.

November 11th No classes (Remembrance Day)

Week 11: Deviance and identity formation Week of November 14th

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: Functions of deviance Week of November 21st

Gans, Herbert. 1972. "The Positive Functions of Poverty." *The American Journal of Sociology* 78, 2, 275-289.

Deutschmann, Chapter 8

Week 13: Stigma Week of November 28th

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

Lewis, Jacqueline. 1998. "Learning to Strip: The Socialization Experiences of Exotic Dancers", *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality* 7, 1, 51-66.

Week 14: December Exam TBA

Week 15: Body norms Week of January 2nd

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 16: Critical discourse and the docile body Week of January 9th

Deutschmann, Chapter 12.

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

Week 17 : Policing desire Week of January 16th

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.

Film: *Anatomy of Desire*

Week 18: Sex and liberation Week of January 23rd

Jackson, Stevi and Scott, Sue. 2004. "Sexual Antinomies in Late Modernity", *Sexualities*, 7. 2, 233-248.

Film: *Kinsey*

Week 19: Group rule breaking Week of January 30th

Deutschmann, Chapter 9.

Gregson Higginson, Joanna. 1999. "Defining, Excusing and Justifying Deviance: Teen Mothers' Accounts for Statutory Rape." *Symbolic Interaction* 22, 1, 25-44.

Week 20: Surveillance of space Week of February 6th

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

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

Critical Analysis Paper (20%) Due the first class of this week

Week 21: Risk and social governance Week of February 13th

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

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

Week of February 20th : Mid-term recess

Week 22: Race, power and risk Week of February 27th

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: Race and social control Week of March 5th

Wacquant, Loic 2003. "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the 'Race Question' in the United States." *New Left Review*, 2nd series, 13: 40-61.

Week 24: The politics of risk Week of March 12th

Kline, Stephen.2005. "Countering Children's Sedentary Lifestyles: An Evaluative Study of a Media-Risk Education Approach", *Childhood: A Global Journal of Child Research*, 12 (2),239-258.

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

Week 25: Elite deviance Week of March 19th

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 26: Pleasure of deviance Week of March 26th

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 27: Final Exam Prep Week of April 2nd

Final Exam Preparation: Students to bring questions to class