

**DEVIANCE IN SOCIETY**  
**(SOC 380)**  
**Fall 2012 Syllabus**  
Tuesday, Thursday 11-12:15 PM

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2 - 3 PM and by appointment

*This syllabus is a contract.* You are responsible for abiding by all policies contained within.

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

What is deviance? That is a good question, and one which this course is designed to answer. This course will examine how society produces deviance, how it tries to reduce deviance, and how it deals with those who act in unconventional ways – those we call deviants. We will read and discuss some of the best writings available on the subject of deviance, learn about specific deviant groups in society, and explore our own acts of deviance. Keep your minds open, and be ready for some interesting discussions, a lot of learning, and a little hard work!

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

*Upon completion of this course the student will:*

1. Understand how sociologists study deviance, the methods they use to observe deviance, and how they draw conclusions from their observations.
2. Be familiar with the major theories of deviance and be able to use them to explain why some people engage in deviant behavior while others do not.
3. Recognize your own deviant behavior (or lack thereof), as well as the deviant behavior of others.

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

1. *Constructions of Deviance*, edited by Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler (7th edition - 2012).
2. Additional reading materials will be available through the BLACKBOARD web site.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- **EXAMS:**  
There will be three essay exams. Exams will cover material from class readings **AND** lectures and will be open-note.
- **QUIZZES**  
There will be approximately 6 in-class quizzes covering material from class readings and lectures. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. No make-up quizzes will be given.
- **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT**  
There will be one paper worth 50 points due October 18. The written assignment will be described in detail on Blackboard under the “Assignments” button. Please note the special instructions regarding SafeAssign.
- **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**  
Attendance will be checked randomly throughout the semester to ensure that everyone is coming to class. You will not get an A if you do not come to class. In-class participation is always encouraged.

**GRADING:**

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Exams	300 points
Quizzes	100 points
Written Assignment	50 points
Attendance and Participation	50 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>500 points</b>

The grade scale is as follows:

A = 90-100%      B = 80-89%      C = 70-79%      D = 60-69%      F= below 60%

**COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE:**

The course Blackboard site will contain the updated syllabus, course handouts and readings, and lecture outlines. These items will be modified as needed - depending on the pace of the class - so I recommend that you check it at least weekly to make sure you stay current with the readings and topics.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

I encourage office visits to discuss course material, assignments, or anything else you would like to talk about. Please stop by during regular office hours or contact me by email to set up an appointment; I can usually be available within one day of you contacting me. Please be advised, I will not discuss assignment or exam material via email. Such matters must be discussed in person.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

This class *requires* preparation, attention and participation. **Preparation** means critically reading all assigned readings before class, checking Blackboard for any important announcements, and looking over the course schedule to know what we will be doing in class that day. **Attention** means engaging with the material, with me, and with your fellow students; it does not mean reading the newspaper, texting, sleeping or talking with friends. **Participation** means answering questions when asked of you, raising critical comments of the material (using the discussion questions I distribute as a guide), and asking your own questions when you do not understand something.

Attendance and participation are 10% of your grade. Take them seriously!

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Some professors do not care if you attend class. I do! This is an intensive class. I will record attendance randomly throughout the semester. *Anyone who arrives 15 or more minutes late will be recorded as absent.* If you know ahead of time that you have to be late or leave early, notify me the class period before. There are **no** excused absences. If you are not in class, and I take attendance, you will be marked as absent.

If a student will be absent from classes for a week or more because of an accident, illness, or other emergency, instructors will be notified of the absence only if students or their parents request it through the Division of Student Affairs. [Health Services](#) will not release information about students unless they provide a written request.

Leaves of absence will be granted for volunteer services related to disaster relief in accordance with applicable Illinois statutes or executive orders issued by the State of Illinois in response to emergency situations. To initiate a leave of absence, students should contact their College Dean's office, or the vice provost (or the vice provost's delegate) for any student who has no college affiliation. Following the period of volunteer service, Registration and Records will facilitate reenrollment of the student.

In the case of an absence due to required attendance at a university-sponsored event such as a department trip, performing arts activity, ROTC function, or athletic competition, reasonable attempts shall be made by faculty members to allow the student to make up missed work. Both the sponsoring unit and the student should inform the faculty member as soon as possible in the semester in order for arrangements to be made for completing missed assignments, examinations or other required course work. The student is required to provide each instructor with an official notification in advance of the absence (e.g., a letter from the chair of the sponsoring department, the head of the sponsoring unit, or the coach).

Please note that **you** are responsible for obtaining notes and/or completing the work assigned and/or due on the days you are absent.

**MAKE-UP AND LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:**

Exams, papers and assignments are due in class on the due date, **period**. I do not accept any assignments via email. Make-up exams may be granted only in the case of a *university-excused* absence (generally more than 5 days); please consult the Student Affairs website for further information: [http://www.niu.edu/stuaff/StudentResources/student\\_absences.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/stuaff/StudentResources/student_absences.shtml)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.

In short, any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated.

*If you attempt to take credit for someone else's work, without giving that person due credit, you are guilty of plagiarism and will face the consequences described above. If you have questions about how to properly cite someone else's work, simply **ask!***

A faculty member has original jurisdiction over any instances of academic misconduct that occur in a course which the faculty member is teaching. The student shall be given the opportunity to resolve the matter in meetings with the faculty member and the department chair. If the facts of the incident are not disputed by the student, the faculty member may elect to resolve the matter at that

level by levying a sanction no greater than an F for that course. The faculty member shall notify the student in writing whenever such action is taken, and the [Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct](#) shall receive a copy of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report indicating final disposition of the case, which will be placed in the student's judicial file. In all matters where the charge of academic misconduct is disputed by the student or if the faculty member feels a sanction greater than an F in the course is appropriate (such as repeated offenses or flagrant violations), the faculty member shall refer the matter to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct making use of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report. Additional sanctions greater than an F in a course can be levied only through the University Judicial System. With regards to finding the student either responsible or not responsible for his or her action, the ruling of the Judicial Hearing Board shall be binding. In cases where there is either a finding of responsibility or an admission of responsibility by the student, any recommendations by the hearing board regarding the course grade are non-binding on the instructor, who remains solely responsible for assigning a course grade, consistent with the policies set forth in the course syllabus.

#### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY:**

Electronic devices are distracting to me and your fellow students. Just as important, they are distracting to **you**; your brain cannot multi-task as well as you think it can. If you are texting or surfing, you are not listening to valuable course material.

Laptop computers and other electronic devices are not permitted in class unless you have prior approval from me or the Disabilities Resource Center.

Please **turn-off** your electronic devices such cell phones, iPhones, Blackberries or iPads before class starts. Accordingly, you should never engage in any of the following during class time: reading or writing text/email messages; surfing the web; placing or receiving a voice call.

If you are caught engaging in text messaging, any **subsequent** violations of this electronic device policy will result in a 1 percentage point reduction in your final grade; you will not necessarily be given advanced notice of that outcome. Repeated violations of this policy may also result in the student being asked to leave the classroom or being forwarded to the Office of Community Standards & Student Conduct.

#### **DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER:**

A student who believes that reasonable accommodations with respect to course work or other academic requirements may be appropriate in consideration of a disability must (1) provide the required verification of the disability to the Disabilities Resource Center, (2) meet with the Disabilities Resource Center to determine appropriate accommodations, and (3) inform the faculty in charge of the academic activity of the need for accommodation. Students are encouraged to inform the faculty of their requests for accommodations as early as possible in the semester, but must make the requests in a timely enough manner for accommodations to be appropriately considered and reviewed by the university. If contacted by the faculty member, the staff of the Disabilities Resource Center will provide advice about accommodations that may be indicated in the particular case. Students who make requests for reasonable accommodations are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the Disabilities Resource Center in this process, including but not limited to the Student Handbook.

A wide range of services can be obtained by students with disabilities, including housing, transportation, adaptation of printed materials, and advocacy with faculty and staff. Students with disabilities who need such services or want more information should contact the Disabilities Resource Center at 815-753-1303 or visit their website at <http://niu.edu/disability/>

#### **COURSE FEE**

There is a nominal course fee in this class. The fee is used to support material stored on SOCQRL computer systems. The Sociology lab (DuSable 222) is available for students in to download and print lecture notes, reserve readings, conduct research for projects, etc. In general, the size of the fee represents the amount of lab use anticipated.

**COURSE SCHEDULE: Lecture Plan and Assigned Readings** (subject to change)

Theme	Dates	Reading Assignment
<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION</b>	August 28	No reading
<b>Identifying Deviance</b>		
<b>DEFINING DEVIANCE</b>	August 30	Adler and Adler: General Introduction Defining Deviance A Typology of Deviance Applied to Ten Middle Class Norms
<b>THE FUNCTIONS OF DEVIANCE</b>	September 4	Adler and Adler: On the Sociology of Deviance Functionalism: The Normal and the Pathological
<b>FILM</b>	September 6	<i>Brother's Keeper</i>
<b>Theories of Deviance</b>		
<b>THEORIES OF DEVIANCE</b>	September 11	Adler and Adler: Theories of Deviance
<b>THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF DEVIANCE I</b>	September 13-18	Adler and Adler: Social Structure and Anomie, Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime
<b>THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF DEVIANCE II</b>	September 20-25	Adler and Adler: Differential Association Control Theory of Deviance Relativism: Labeling Theory The Constructionist Stance
<b>REVIEW</b>	September 27	
<b>EXAM I</b>	October 2	
<b>Constructing Deviance</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTING DEVIANCE: MORAL ENTREPRENEURS</b>	October 4	Adler and Adler: Constructing Deviance Failure to Launch: Why do Some Social Issues Fail to Detonate Moral Panics? Via BLACKBOARD: Moral Entrepreneurs by Howard Becker Via BLACKBOARD: The "Discovery" of Child Abuse by Stephen J. Pfohl
<b>CONSTRUCTING DEVIANCE: RACIAL AND GENDERED CONCEPTIONS</b>	October 9	Adler and Adler: The Saints and the Roughnecks Gender, Race and Urban Policing Homophobia and Women's Sport The Mark of a Criminal Record
<b>The Deviant Identity</b>		
<b>DEVIANT IDENTITY</b>	October 11	Adler and Adler: Deviant Identity The Adoption and Management of a "Fat" Identity Becoming Bisexual Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia
<b>STIGMA MANAGEMENT</b>	October 16	Adler and Adler: Negotiating White Power Activist Stigma Fitting in and Fighting Back: Homeless Kids' Stigma Management Strategies Collective Stigma Management and Shame: Avowal, Management, and Contestation
<b>FILM</b>	October 18	<i>Sound and Fury</i>
<b>DEVIANCE AS A CAREER</b>	October 23	Adler and Adler: Deviant Careers Deciding to Commit a Burglary Via BLACKBOARD: Careers in Deviance by Joel Best and David Luckenbill
<b>EXITING DEVIANCE</b>	October 25	Adler and Adler: Shifts and Oscillations in Deviant Careers: Upper-level Drug Dealers and Smugglers Obstacles to Exiting Emotional Disorder Identities Via BLACKBOARD: Exiting Child Molesting
<b>STIGMA REVISITED</b>	October 30 – November 1	In-class Exercise and Assignment
<b>EXAM 2</b>	November 6	
<b>Types of Deviance</b>		
<b>RESEARCHING DEVIANCE</b>	November 8	Adler and Adler: Studying Deviance Survey of Sexual Behavior of Americans Researching Dealers and Smugglers
<b>SEX</b>	November 13	Adler and Adler: Autoerotic Sexual Asphyxia Trading Sex for Crack: Gender and Power Sexual Assault on Campus
	November 15	Class canceled
<b>THE BODY</b>	November 20	Adler and Adler: Cyber-communities of Self-Injury Via BLACKBOARD: Non-mainstream Body Modification: Genital Piercing, Burning, and Cutting by James Myers

		Via BLACKBOARD: Marks of Mischief : Becoming and Being Tattooed by Clinton Sanders
<b>DRUGS AND ALCOHOL</b>	November 27-29	Adler and Adler: The Social Construction of Drug Scares Via BLACKBOARD: The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem by Craig Reinerman Via BLACKBOARD: Deviance as Situated Phenomenon: Variations in the Social Interpretation of Marijuana and Alcohol Use by James D. Orcutt
<b>WHITE COLLAR DEVIANCE</b>	December 4	Adler and Adler: War Profiteering: Iraq and Halliburton Fraud and the American Dream: The Ponzi Scheme Via BLACKBOARD: Is "White Collar Crime" Crime? By Edwin Sutherland
<b>FILM</b>	December 6	<i>The Corporation</i>
<b>EXAM 3</b>	TBA	