

Texas A&M University - Texarkana
Sociology Degree Program
CJ 320 (Deviance and Deviant Behavior)
3 Semester Credit Hours
Web Course Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2019

I. Locator Information:

Professor: Dr. Godpower O. Okereke
Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Office: 203 UC

Office Hours: 9:00–11:00 am Mondays & Wednesdays
9:00–10:30 am Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:00–2:30 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
Also available by appointment

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II. Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the general phenomena of social deviance with primary emphasis given to non-criminal deviance and victimless crimes, including mental disorders, drug use, prostitution, sexual deviance, and pornography. The course is cross listed with SOC 320.

III. Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are as follows:

1. Discuss the relativity of the concept of deviance and deviant behavior.
2. Discuss the leading theories (explanations) of deviance and deviant behavior.
3. Discuss various forms of deviance.
4. Discuss the consequences of a deviant label.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Outline the differences between deviance and crime.
2. Identify and summarize the leading philosophical explanations of deviance and deviant behavior.
3. Enumerate the consequences of a deviant label.
4. Identify the factors that contribute to deviance and crime in a society.

V. Required Textbook: Deviant Behavior Alex Thio, Jim Taylor, and Martin Schwartz. Deviant Behavior. (12th edition) 2019. Pearson. (ISBN: 9780134627090).

VI. Methods of Evaluation: Students will be evaluated using the following instruments:

a. EXAMINATIONS:

There will be two examinations (a mid-term and a final) in this course. The mid-term test will comprise of questions drawn from chapters one through seven which make the following presentations: Chapter 1. What is Deviant Behavior? Chapter 2. Positivist Theories of Deviance and Deviant Behavior; Chapter 3. Constructionist Theories of Deviance and Deviant Behavior; Chapter 4. Physical Violence; Chapter 5. Sexual Assault and Child Molestation; Chapter 6. Family Violence; and Chapter 7. Suicide and Self-Harm.

The second test will be made up of questions drawn from chapters eight through fifteen which deal with: Chapter 8. Mental Disorders; Chapter 9. Heterosexual Deviance; Chapter 10. Gays and Other Targets of Stigma; Chapter 11. Internet Deviance; Chapter 12. Drug Use and Abuse; Chapter 13. Drinking and Alcoholism; Chapter 14. Privileged Deviance; and Chapter 15. Under-privileged Deviance.

Each test will be time-sensitive. Once posted, students will have a specific time frame to access and complete the test. During this period, students

will have multiple access to the document. Students must ensure that they save their work after each attempt before logging off. **Once the allotted time expires, access to the document will be denied.**

An announcement will be posted on the course home page to alert students about each test and/or other course requirements. A message about each test will also be sent to students via the ace-e-mail. **There will be no make-up examinations and there will be no extension of the due dates.**

b. On-Line DISCUSSIONS:

There is no term paper required in this class. But, there will be 4 discussion questions drawn from the substantive areas of the course for a total of 100 points **(25 points each)**. Once posted, each student will post a detailed original response to the issues raised and then react to the postings of **at least two other students** via the discussion feature of blackboard. **That is, each student will have a minimum of three postings for each discussion question (an original response, and at least two reactionary postings to what other students posted).**

Note also that the original response and the two or more reactionary postings will have different due dates. That is, the original response will have one due date and the reactionary postings will have a different due date. **To be considered for full credit, students must post their original response within the time allowed.** Original postings made after such date will be counted as late and late submissions of original entries will have points deducted.

Further, note that students must post an original response before they can see what other students posted. Once the allotted time for the discussion expires, access will be denied. **Points are assigned relative to both the quantity and quality of information contained in each post. That is, the more substantive, detailed, and comprehensive each posting is, the more**

points the student will receive. Check “Sample Assignment/Discussion” on the course home page. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP DISCUSSIONS.**

c. ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will also be required to respond to **Four (4)** questions drawn from specific issues covered in the text and/or in the notes posted on blackboard. Once posted, students will have limited time to respond to the issue(s) via the assignment feature of blackboard. **Note that each assignment is worth 25 points.** If no response is posted within the allotted time, access to the assignment will be denied. I suggest that you write out your response in word, read through it to ensure that you have responded to ALL parts of the question(s), that you provided the required number of responses, and that you did so in enough details before uploading your response to blackboard. You will not be able to access your entry after it has been uploaded. Ask questions when in doubt. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS.**

VII. Course Outline:

Week 1: Chapter One: What is Deviant Behavior? (Positivist and Constructionist views).

Week 2: Chapter Two: Positivist Theories of Deviance and Deviant Behavior.

Week 3: Chapter Three: Constructionist Theories of Deviance and Deviant Behavior.

Week 4: Chapter Four: Interpersonal Violence-Physical Violence.

Week 5: Chapter Five: Interpersonal Violence-Sexual Assault and Child Molestation.

Week 6: Chapter Six: Interpersonal Violence-Family Violence.

Week 7: Chapter Seven: Self-Destructive Deviance-Suicide and Self-Harm.

Mid-term Examination

Week 8: Chapter Eight: Mental Disorder

Week 9: Chapter Nine: Heterosexual Deviance

Week 10: Chapter Ten: Gays and Other Targets of Stigma.

Chapter Eleven: Internet Deviance

Week 11: Chapter Twelve: Drug Abuse and Abuse.
Week 12: Chapter Thirteen: Drinking and Alcoholism.
Week 13: Chapter Fourteen: Privileged Deviance.
Week 14: Chapter Fifteen: Under-Privileged Deviance

Final Examination

VIII. Students with Federal Loans and/or Grants:

Students who have federal loans and grants must be aware that participation is monitored in on-line courses. In the event a student withdraws from a course the student will be required to refund all federal funds prorated from the last date of participation. A student's last access to Blackboard would not suffice as participation. The required weekly activity could include a comment to a blog, a discussion board posting, a journal entry, a quiz or exam, a submitted assignment, or other measurables and tracked activities.

IX. Class Participation:

Students are responsible for beginning their participation on the FIRST CLASS DAY by logging on and completing assignments according to the COURSE CALENDAR. Failure to submit online assignments between the first day of classes and the University census date (according to the University schedule) will result in an ADMINISTRATIVE DROP from the course.

X. Technology Requirements:

Students must have access to a late model computer with an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Students must have access to a reliable e-mail service and must be able to receive and send e-mails with attachments. The e-mail software and the internet browser must be compatible with Blackboard, Microsoft Word, and Adobe/Acrobat Reader/Writer for pdf files

The following are the minimum computer requirements for on-line learning:

A computer capable of handling streaming videos. A mid-range multi-core CPU should be adequate.

A sound card

A high speed internet connection preferably directly connected to the computer via a hard-wired Ethernet connection rather than wirelessly connected

Virus and adware protection software

Microsoft Word, minimum version 2007 or newer

Mozilla Firefox browser (available free)

The most recent versions of Java, Flash, QuickTime, Adobe Reader, and Shockwave. You can check this in the Firefox browser by visiting:

Firefox Plugin Check Tool

Please note: some instructors may require the use of a headset with microphone and/or a webcam. If so, the cost of these items is not included in your course fees and will need to be acquired at your own expense.

Blackboard Mobile for iOS and Android Devices

Android and iOS devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:



The Blackboard Mobile App provides limited access to courses, including the ability to read and contribute to discussions, check grades and announcements,

access content, read and comment on blogs, reflect in journals, link to your personal Dropbox, and receive push notifications when courses are updated. Limited course features may also be available via your mobile device's browser; however, your mobile device does not replace your personal computer and should not be used as a substitute for one. High stakes assignments, tests, etc. should be completed on your personal computer, and not on your mobile device.

XI. Student Technical Assistance:

Solutions to common problems and FAQ's for your web-enhanced and online courses are found on the [Online Student Training](#) page on our website.

If you cannot find your resolution there, you can submit a support request by contacting the IT HelpDesk:

Email: helpdesk@tamut.edu

Phone: 903-334-6603

Submit a [Support Request Ticket](#)

Additional student help for Blackboard can be found here:

[Blackboard Help for Students](#)

XII. Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903 223-3062

XIII. Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of all students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and copying or undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or other disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the University Catalog.

XIV. A&M-Texarkana Email Address:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

XV. Drop Policy:

To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete a *Drop/Withdrawal Request Form*, located on the University Registrar's webpage or obtained in the Registrar's Office. The student must submit the completed and signed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an "approval" to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar's office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mailed to 7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503, or faxed to (903)-223-3140).

Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

XVI. Other Course Expectations:

a. Course Ethics:

Course materials and website can only be used for course purposes by students who are formally enrolled in the course. The professor expects

that students enrolled in this course will conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the duration of the course.

b. Course Etiquette and Respect for Diversity:

Although vigorous arguments and discussions are encouraged, postings shall be polite and respectful of other people's views and opinions. It is okay to disagree with a specific point of view but, it is better to offer an alternative view point which critically evaluates both sides of the issue under discussion. Students are encouraged to argue the pros and cons of an issue and/or a specific point of view rather than question the morality or sanity of others.

c. Course Due Dates:

The due dates for all course requirements and activities will be posted on the course web-site. It is therefore, the student's responsibility to periodically check the course web-site to be sure that he or she is not missing any course requirements. It should also be noted that the professor retains the authority to modify/change any aspect of the course and/or due dates. Such modifications/changes will be posted on the announcement page of the course and/or communicated to all students via the ace e-mails.

XVII. Course Evaluation:

Mid-term Exam.	150 points
Final Exam.	150 points
Assignments	100 points
Discussion Questions	100 points
Total	500 points

XVIII. Grade Assignment:

500 to 450 points	A
449 to 400 points	B
399 to 350 points	C
349 to 300 points	D
Less than 300 points	F