

Sociology 1306 (Social Problems)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None

Course Description

Application of sociological principles and theoretical perspectives to major social problems in contemporary society such as inequality, crime and violence, substance abuse, environmental issues, 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.

Objectives

Course Objectives

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

1. Describe how the sociological imagination can be used to explain the emergence and implications of contemporary social problems.
2. Explain the nature of social problems from at least one sociological perspective, e.g., critical, functional, interpretive, etc.
3. Identify multidimensional aspects of social problems including the global, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of social problems.
4. Discuss how “solutions” to social problems are often contentious due to diverse values in society.
5. Describe how the proposed “solutions” to a social problem, including social policies, may bring rise to other social problems.

Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Outline

A. Syllabus

1. Introduction of faculty and students
2. Instructor Resume
3. Comments

B. Chapter 1 What is Deviant Behavior?

1. The Positive Perspective
2. The Constructionist Perspective
3. An Integrated View

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- C. Chapter 2 Positivist Theories
 - 1. Anomic Strain Theory
 - 2. Social Learning Theory
 - 3. Control Theory
- D. Chapter 3 Constructionist Theories
 - 1. Labeling Theory
 - 2. Conflict Theory
- E. Chapter 4 Physical Violence
 - 1. Assault and Aggravated Assault
 - 2. Patterns of Killing
 - 3. Characteristics of Homicide
 - 4. Mass Murder and Serial Murder
 - 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:

1. 3 Unit Tests	75%
2. Comprehensive Final Exam	15%

3. Course Project 10%

Course Requirements

1. Written report.
2. Attendance

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. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments will be accepted.
5. Tests. Students that miss a test are may be allowed to make up the test through the LIT Testing Center with acceptable excuse. Students that miss a test will make up the missed Exam within one week of returning to class.
6. Attendance Policy. Six absences are allowed. If a student is tardy to class or departs early three (3) times, it will be equal to one (1) absence.
7. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
8. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.
9. It is the student's responsibility to read and review the General and Class Syllabus and read and review the LIT College Catalog, pps. 6 – 54.

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
1	Course introduction and policies	
2	Chapter 1: What is Deviant Behavior?	pp. 1-15
3	Conflicting Definitions, Theories of Deviance	

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4	Chapter 2: Positive Theories, Social Learning and Control Theory	pp. 16-32
	Chapter 3 Labeling and Conflict Theories	pp.33-51
5	Chapter 4 Physical Violence	pp. 53 - 82
	Exam I on chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	
6	Chapter 5 Rape and Child Molestation	pp.83-94
	Patterns of Rape, Consequences of Rape	
7	Chapter 5 Continued - A Global Perspective on Wartime Rape, Why Men Rape	pp.99-111
8	Chapter 6 Family Violence	pp. 112 -115
9	Chapter 6 Continued, Martial Rape, Wife Beating, Child Abuse	pp. 116 -134
10	Chapter 7 Suicide, Groups with Higher Suicide Rates	pp. 135-166
	A Social Profile of Suicide Bombers	
11	Chapter 8 Mental Disorders	pp. 167 – 200
	Exam 2 on Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	
12	Chapter 9 Heterosexual Deviance	pp. 201 -233
13	Chapter 10 Gays and Other Victims of Stigma	pp. 234-265
14	Chapter 11 Substance Use and Abuse	pp. 267 – 299
15	Chapter 12 Drinking and Alcoholism	pp. 300- 329
	Exam 3 on Chapters 9,10, 11, 12	
16	Chapter 13 Privileged Deviance	pp. 331 – 356
17	Chapter 14 Underprivileged Deviance	pp. 363 - 384
	Chapter 15 Internet Deviance	pp. 385-396
18	Course Review Discussion	
	All Work Due	
Final Exam	<i>Given on the date and time specified by the official exam schedule.</i>	

Contact information varies by instructor.