

Sociology SOCI 1306 (Social Problems)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: There are no prerequisites for Sociology 1306. Good reading skills are required for success.

Course Description

Sociology 1306 is an examination of major social problems in our world today. Global focuses may include internet deviance, genocide and terrorism. Domestic focuses may include crime, drug abuse, mental disorders, suicide, rape and child molestation.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Deviant Behavior* by Alex Thio, Jim Taylor & Martin Schwartz, 11th edition, PEARSON Publishers.
 - a. ISBN number is 10: 0-205-20516X
 - b. Writing Materials for Class and Online assignments.
2. Knowledge of the use of the Internet and use of You Tube and Blackboard for submitting assignments, research project and taking all Course Exams.

Course Objectives (with applicable SCANS skills after each)

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

Acquire and use information in the social science area of social problems

(SCANS: C5, C6, C7, C14, F1, F2, F8, F9, F12, F17)

Thinks creative, makes decisions, and knows how to reason in reference to deviant behavior recognition and interpretation. (SCANS: F8, F9, F11, F12,)

3. Explain problems of crime. (SCANS: C5, C6, C7, C14, F1, F2, F9, F17)

Readings/Assignments/Homework due dates and Subject Topics are Subject to Change by Instructor at Any Time.

SCANS Skills and Competencies

Beginning in the late 1980's, the U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) conducted extensive research and interviews with business owners, union leaders, supervisors, and laborers in a wide variety of work settings to determine what knowledge workers needed in order to perform well on a job. In 1991 the Commission announced its findings in *What Work Requires in Schools*. In its research, the Commission determined that "workplace know-how" consists of two elements: foundation skills and workplace competencies. The three-part foundation skills and five-part workplace competencies are further defined in the SCANS attachment.

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
- C. Chapter 2 Positivist Theories
 - 1. Anomie 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
 - 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. Social Factor
 - 3. Becoming an Alcoholic
 - 4. Alcohol and Its Abuse
- 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 Exams and Final Exam	20%
2. Course Project	20%
3. Assignments	50%
4. Participation	5%
5. Attendance	5%

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation: completing and submitting all assignments online via Blackboard.

Course Policies

1. No late assignments will be accepted.
2. Students have an extended period online to complete each exam. No further extensions will be authorized.
3. Attendance Policy. Sign in a minimum of three times per week online Blackboard.
4. 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.
5. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.
6. It is the student's responsibility to read and review the General and Class Syllabus and read and review the LIT College Catalog.

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 - 3	Chapter 1: What is Deviant Behavior? Conflicting Definitions, Theories of Deviance	pp. 1-15
4	Chapter 2: Positive Theories, Social Learning and Control Theory Chapter 3 Labeling and Conflict Theories pp.34-53	pp. 16-33
5	Chapter 4 Physical Violence Exam I on chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	pp. 55 - 85
6	Chapter 5 Rape and Child Molestation Patterns of Rape, Consequences of Rape	pp.86-115
7	Chapter 5 Continued - A Global Perspective on Wartime Rape, Why Men Rape	pp.86-115
8	Chapter 6 Family Violence RESEARCH PROJECT DUE	pp. 116 -140
9	Chapter 6 Continued, Martial Rape, Wife Beating, Child Abuse	pp. 116 -140
10	Chapter 7 Suicide, Groups with Higher Suicide Rates, A Social Profile of Suicide Bombers	pp. 141-177

11	Chapter 8 Mental Disorders Exam 2 on Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8.	pp. 178 – 212
12	Chapter 9 Heterosexual Deviance	pp. 213 -245
13	Chapter 10 Gays and Other Victims of Stigma Chapter 11 Internet Deviance	pp. 246-277 pp. 278-296
14	Chapter 12 Substance Use and Abuse Chapter 13 Drinking and Alcoholism Exam 3 on Chapters 9,10, 11, 12.	pp. 297- 329 pp. 330 – 360
15	Chapter 14 Privileged Deviance Chapter 15 Underprivileged Deviance Final Exam Review	pp. 361 - 391 pp. 392- 414
16	Final Exam	

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: See Office Door Schedule