

SOC 224: SOCIAL DEVIANCE**PROFESSOR JACK DASH HARRIS**

Class Meetings: Coxe 7, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 9:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m. *and by appointment*

Trinity 302

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Blackboard Course Site: <http://www.blackboard.com/courses/SOC224>

Access Code: HWS224

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The social etiology of deviant behavior, the functions of deviance and societal reactions to deviance is explored. An interdisciplinary and cross-cultural approach is taken to the processes of norm making and breaking, and conformity and punishment, as they relate to social deviance. Various theoretical approaches are used to explain the existence of social deviance as a regular aspect of all societies and its relation to such processes as order, conflict and social change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Soc 224, Social Deviance will expose students to ideas about the nature of society by elaborating on the sociological perspective on social deviance. Students will:

- (1) Develop sophisticated theoretical perspectives as they engage in debate on fundamental ethical issues;
- (2) Learn how their social location and their assumptions influence the way that they view the world;
- (3) Learn how sociological principles are the basis for social reality;
- (4) Appreciate cultural and sub-cultural diversity and an interest in ways of life that are "different";
- (5) Become sensitive to issues of conformity and deviation, differentiation and the distribution of power and rewards;
- (6) Become aware of the transformative power of sociological consciousness and their role as citizens;
- (7) Come to understand that ethics and morality require a careful and deliberate analysis in heterogeneous, multi-cultural societies and cross-cultural relationships;
- (8) Become more sophisticated observers, reader, and writers.

EVALUATION: Evaluation includes 2 examinations (50%), an individual or group ethnographic research project based on field observation or WWW page creation (25%), homework, which includes active participation and positive contributions to class discussion about readings and field observations (15%), and a group reading presentation (10%). Full attendance and participation by all of us in the group exercises, including but not limited to E-Mail, homework, field trips, films and lectures, and Creative Deviance Day is expected. Absences deprive the group of the richness of your comments.

Each exam (posted on website) cover lecture material, assigned readings, films if used, and class discussion. The format of the exams is take-home essay. The research project (posted on website) is framed by course material and concepts, and will describe a particular institution, social group, or setting, observed and analyzed within a sociological framework. You will observe mannerisms, movement and expression, as well as taboos and acceptable behavior in the context of the setting, social group or particular institution. Take note of the norms, values, folkways, and mores in observed contexts, and what variations there are within gender, ethnic and social class. Homework will be posted on the website.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Homework due:	As Announced – expect weekly homework
Exam One due:	Friday, October 5
Ethnographic Projects due on:	Friday, November 16
Creative Deviance Day:	Friday, November 30
Exam Two due:	Wednesday, December 12

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Barth	<u>The End of the Road</u>
Camus	<u>The Stranger</u>
Ermann & Lundman	<u>Corporate and Governmental Deviance</u>
Goffman	<u>Stigma</u>
Myers	<u>Monster</u>
Rieff	<u>Triumph of the Therapeutic</u>
Reiman	<u>The Rich Get Richer, and the Poor Get Prison</u>
Stewart	<u>Degrees of Deviance: Student Accounts</u>
Traub & Little (eds.)	<u>Theories of Deviance</u>

All readings and exercises must be completed at the beginning of the week for which it is due. Come prepared to speak in class about the assigned reading.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE**1. The Normative Perspective**

Culture as a Moral Demand System

Kafka, "In the Penal Colony"; Durkheim, "Moral Education" (both via website)

Rieff, Triumph of the Therapeutic; Rieff, "Oscar Wilde as a Modern Prophet" (handouts)

Moral and Ethical Dilemmas

Barth, End of the Road

Stewart, Degrees of Deviance: Student Accounts

2. Functionalism

How Deviance Contributes to the Social Order

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

The Use of the Deviant Career

Camus, The Stranger

3. Social Disorganization -- Theories of Social Pathology

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

Anomie -- Attachment, Norms and Normative Compliance

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

*****EXAM ONE*****

4. The Interactionist Approach

Deviance as Labeling

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

Framing Deviance and Negotiation Strategies

Goffman, Stigma

The Social Psychology of Deviance

5. Politics, Gender and Social Class

Inequality, Power and Deviance

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

Erman & Lundman, Corporate and Governmental Deviance

Reiman, The Rich Get Richer, and the Poor Get Prison

6. Social Control -- Deviance and Conformity

Traub & Little Theories of Deviance (as assigned)

Myers, Monster

*****EXAM TWO*****