

Sociology of Deviance (Elective)

Welcome to the Sociology of Deviance, where we will take a deep look at the norms and expectations that make up our societies, as well as those individuals and groups who “deviate” from them. We plan to explore questions of what makes us normal, what makes us unique, how our choices align or diverge from the expectations of our broader culture, and the ways in which society chooses to punish those who are *too* different. By focusing on the topics of mental and physical health, substance use, and sexual behavior, student will gain a practical understanding of how constructions of deviance affect their own lives.

The class will use experiments, first-hand accounts, surveys, and a range of other evidence to explore these big questions, and students will finish the course with a project focusing on themselves that helps to give them a meaningful understanding of how they relate to others by bringing their behaviors into sharper focus.

The following texts will be used as references for the class in addition to audio-visual components such as podcasts and videos, and individual case studies:

- *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction* (4th ed.), Patricia A. Adler, Thomson Wadsworth.
- *The Sociology of Deviance: Differences, Tradition, and Stigma* (2nd ed.), Franzese, Robert J. Charles C. Thomas Publishers.
- *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*, Becker, Howard S. The Free Press.
- *Essentials of Sociology* (7th ed.), Giddens, Anthony et al. W. W. Norton.
- *Sociology* (6th ed.), Giddens, Anthony. Polity Press.

COURSE OVERVIEW & GRADING

The course will have an introduction followed by five separate but connected topics. Each topic will roughly follow the logic behind Montessori’s “three period” lesson, where information is presented, engaged with as a group, and finally produced by the student themselves.

As a result of the course’s condensed format, this elective will have a more rigorous workload than a standard course. To compensate, the elective period has an altered schedule, which provides a full 4.5 hours of uninterrupted work time for the student each week. Students in **9th or 10th grade** will follow the **Introductory Track**, while **11th and 12th grade** students will follow the **Upper Level Track**. The difference between these tracks is in the amount of work expected for completion of the course, but the general topics covered will be similar. The breakdown of grading is provided below:

All information, readings, and resources will be shared, along with clearly given deadlines and expectations for completion. The following is a breakdown of the subjects covered within each topic:

Topic	Subjects
1. The Discipline of Sociology and Deviance	A. What is sociology, and what does it try to achieve? B. Theories and Perspectives
2. Norms and Sanctions within Social Groups	A. Social Groups and Networks B. Norms vs Mores C. Sanctions
3. Crime and Punishment	A. Trends and Definitions of Criminal Behavior B. Systems of Enforcement and Punishment
4. Mental and Physical Health	A. Stigmatization B. Institutionalization and Punishment
5. Substance Use and Abuse	A. Drugs and Alcohol B. Intersection of Substance Use with Identity
6. Sexual Behavior	A. Sexual Acts and Power B. Constructions of Gender in Sexual Interaction

Introductory Track:

1. Classroom Preparation and Seminar Contribution (5)	15 pts/each (75 total)
2. Extensions (3 of 6)	20 pts/each (60 total)
3. Knowledge Checks (6)	10 pts/wk (60 total)
4. Final Project	55 points (55 total)

	<u>250 points total</u>

Upper Level Track:

1. Classroom Preparation and Seminar Contribution (5)	15 pts/each (75 total)
2. Extensions (5 of 6)	20 pts/each (100 total)
3. Knowledge Checks (6)	10 pts/wk (60 total)
4. Final Project	65 points (65 total)

	<u>300 points total</u>

Grading Scale:

A: 90 - 100% *B: 80 - 89%* *C: 70 - 79%* *D: 60 - 69%* *F: 0 - 59%*

LATE POLICY

Unless permission has been granted because of special circumstances, productions and projects handed in late will receive the following credit:

- 1 day late:** 80% of total
- 2 days late:** 60% of total
- 3 days late:** 40% of total
- 4 days late:** 20% of total
- 5 or more days late:** 0%

Note: An assignment is considered late if not submitted **both** before the requested time and in the requested format

MAKE-UP POLICY

If a student is absent and the absence is excused, they may hand in their work late by as many days as they were absent (to a maximum of five) without penalty. After this grace period, normal late policy applies. In the case of unexcused absences, students will be held accountable for all work due during absences and any readings/assignments for the day(s) following their absence.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Plagiarizing is taking and using ideas from a source without citing that source. By not citing your sources, you claim that what you have written down or made is of your own creation.

If you plagiarise without making an effort to cite the source of the information, you will receive no credit for that piece of work. If your plagiarism is unintentional and resulting from poor citation form, the production or project will be returned to you and not accepted until the errors are corrected. Additionally, cheating of any kind, copying classmates' work, or exhibiting dishonesty in a production, project, or exam will result in receiving no credit for that work.

Note: This policy will **only** apply to assignments indicated by the instructor

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Being present is super important! This class would not be possible without you, and its success depends on your participation.

Any assignments, productions, projects, or exams are the responsibility of the student to complete and hand in on time. If a student misses class for an excused absence, all work due during that period must be made up per the Make-up Policy detailed above. If a student leaves for ANY excused absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact me

and receive all work due during that period of absence PRIOR to leaving. If the student does not adhere to this expectation, any work submitted will be subject to the Late Policy detailed above. In order for me to appropriately prepare you for any prolonged excused absence, please give me at least one full week notice to gather your materials and explain the expectations. If a student is at school but will miss class for an excused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to hand in any assignments before leaving school.

Finally, if a student misses class and they are not excused, they will not only be held responsible for readings, sources, and productions for the following day, but their work will also be subject to the Late Policy detailed above.