

SOC 232 Deviance  
Fall 2020 On-line Course Syllabus  
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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Durkheim explained that deviance occurs in all societies, even a society composed entirely of saints. A sociological approach recognizes that deviance is not inherent within the act itself; the definition of deviance depends upon the response to a person's actions by the other members of the society and serves to let the members of the society know which actions are considered outside of the boundaries of acceptable behavior. Reactions by those in power in the society help to emphasize these boundaries, and these reactions help to define the culture of the society.

This course will survey many of the sociological theories and research projects that have been developed and conducted about the issues of deviance and deviant behavior. Students will learn how deviance is socially constructed, how the members of the society respond to deviant behavior, and how people from deviant groups respond to these definitions as well.

This course should also help students to develop their academic and professional skills, their understanding of how sociologists define and research deviance, their sociological imagination, their understanding of how the social world operates, and their voice (an important concept for feminist scholars). In order to be successful, I need for students to share how the ideas we consider in the class material relate to their own beliefs and experiences in their lives, so that I can provide feedback to your specific interests. I use this approach to help students to consider different ways of thinking about their own lives.

This course meets the "S" Social Sciences Learning Outcome Requirement

### **TEXT:**

Patricia Adler and Peter Adler. Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction. (Seventh Edition). Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishers. ISBN 978-1-111-18637-1.

### **COURSE GOALS:**

1. Students will enhance their writing skills.
2. Students will learn about the sociological definitions of deviance.
3. Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of the major sociological perspectives and theories about deviance: the functionalist perspective, the conflict perspective, social learning theory, anomie theory, social control theory, the labeling perspective, and differential association.
4. Students will learn about the various research methods that sociologists employ to study deviance.
5. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the social construction deviance including stigma, labeling, the differential power of groups and individuals to construct deviance, and the differential power of groups and individuals to resist becoming discredited.

6. Students will develop an understanding of how the deviance of elites (white collar crime) is more costly to the society than the more commonly considered “street crimes.”
7. Students will develop an understanding of how people build deviant careers and identities through peers, gangs, and organizations.
8. Students will learn to see their lives within the context of the social construction of deviance and conformity.

### **COURSE OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will integrate the terms and perspectives of the sociological theories and research methods about deviance by engaging in class discussions.
2. Students will analyze the terms and perspectives of the sociological theories, how the key concepts about deviance interrelate with one another, and the research methods that sociologists utilize through writing essay exam answers.
3. Students will identify how their lives are affected by the structures of society and the social construction of deviance by writing a reflective essay about how the socializing agents in their lives have affected their beliefs and worldview about the larger society.
4. Students will learn how to sociologically interpret aspects of news articles, short stories, and/or documentaries that they encounter by writing essays that incorporate the ideas from the course to a short story, news article, and/or documentary that they read and/or watch.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE:**

The class is structured into 4 Parts. Creating threads and responding to your classmates’ threads in 4 different substantive discussion boards in Canvas—one thread for each part of the course (not including the introductory discussion board post)--will be required throughout the semester (with the same deadlines as listed for the assignments for the 4 Parts of the course listed below). Files that contain the details about the discussion board posts, the assignments, and the midterm and final exams are posted in the assignments tab in the Canvas shell. I highly suggest that you read the directions and questions for all of the assignments and midterm and final exams prior to doing any reading for the course. Understanding the requirements for all of your essays will help you to focus on the applicable aspects of the readings.

Part One of the course will include readings that are posted on Canvas as well as the readings from Parts One and Two from the textbook. There are two short assignments other than the Canvas discussion board posts during this part of the course. Assignment One is a short essay about your world view and some of the important socializing agents in your life. Assignment Two is a discussion of the sociological perspective that is presented in the C. Wright Mills and Peter Berger readings. The C. Wright Mills and Peter Berger readings are in the “Course Modules” section of the “Modules” tab of Canvas. The detailed instructions for all of the assignments and exams for the course are in the “Assignments” section within the “Modules” tab in Canvas.

Part Two of the class focuses on the research methods of sociology and includes readings from Part Three of the text book and readings posted in the Canvas modules tab. After reading these articles, students will complete Assignment Three and the midterm exam answers. Assignment Three will include a short essay about the main ideas from one of the readings from the Part Three readings (student’s choice). The midterm exam is due after Assignment Three.

Part Three of the class includes readings from Part Four of the text. There is one assignment for this section of the course. Assignment Four is a short essay in response to the short story, “The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe” reading that is posted in the Modules tab in Canvas. This assignment requires students to apply the ideas from the first three parts of the course to the ideas presented within the short story.

Part Four of the class will include selected readings (of your choice) from Parts Five, Six, Seven, and Eight of the text. (Please read the Final Exam prior to choosing the readings.) There will be one assignment in this section of the course. Assignment Five requires students to relate the ideas from the readings from earlier in the semester to the ideas from one of the selected readings (student’s choice) from the final five parts of the text book. The final exam is due after you complete the readings and Assignment Five.

**COURSE DEADLINES:**

<i><u>First Discussion Board Post due:</u></i>	<b>August 31st</b>
<i><u>Assignment One due:</u></i>	<b>September 2nd</b>
<i><u>Assignment Two from Part One due:</u></i>	<b>September 12th</b>
<i><u>Assignment Three from Part Two due:</u></i>	<b>October 2nd</b>
<i><u>Midterm Exam due:</u></i>	<b>October 16th</b>
<i><u>Assignment Four from Part Three due:</u></i>	<b>October 30th</b>
<i><u>Assignment Five from Part Four due:</u></i>	<b>November 12th</b>
<i><u>FINAL EXAM due:</u></i>	<b>December 4th</b>

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- One midterm exam and one comprehensive final exam.
- Canvas discussion board posts
- graded assignments (posted in the Canvas shell)

**COURSE GRADING:**

Students’ grades are based on a midterm exam, discussion board posts, assignments, and a final exam. The weighting for each of these grading elements is listed below:

Midterm Exam:	30%
Discussion board posts:	15%
Assignments :	25%
Final Exam	30%

## **Grades**

A 93-100  
A- 90-92  
B+ 87-89  
B 83-86  
B- 80-82  
C+ 77-79  
C 73-76  
C- 70-72  
D+ 67-69  
D 63-66  
D- 60-62  
F 0-59

## **ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES:**

Any student with documented accessibility needs who feels they may need academic accommodations while taking this course, should first contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost ([cusher@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cusher@marybaldwin.edu), 540-887-7064) or [Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:Accessibility@marybaldwin.edu).

The Academic Resource Center: The ARC is your one-stop-shop for writing, math, and all other subject and studentship tutoring. Residential students can meet with tutors virtually or face-to-face in the Center for Student Success, on the first floor of Grafton Library. Online and remote students can work virtually with tutors on papers, assignments, and test-taking strategies. Appointments are scheduled through TutorTrac ([tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu](http://tutortrac.marybaldwin.edu)). For more information, contact Dr. Carey Usher, Associate Provost ([cusher@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:cusher@marybaldwin.edu), 540-887-7064) or [ARC@marybaldwin.edu](mailto:ARC@marybaldwin.edu).

## **HONOR CODE POLICY:**

**The MBU Honor Code Policy concerning cheating and plagiarism will be strictly followed.**

**Mary Baldwin students pledge to uphold the Honor Code. They pledge to refrain from cheating on assignments, papers and tests, to refrain from plagiarism, and always to be honest in their dealings with faculty, staff and other students. To maintain the integrity of the system, students, faculty and staff who witness Honor Code infractions are expected to report them.**

**Should I become aware of an Honor Code offense in this course, I will encourage the student(s) to self-report by e-mailing the Honor Council chairwoman or by filing an incident report at <https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?MaryBaldwinCollege>. If the student(s) does not self-report within 24 hours, I will submit the report myself.**

***If the Honor Code offense is related to a course assignment, the assignment will not receive an official grade until the Honor Council investigation (and, if necessary, hearing) is complete. I will not assess a grade penalty for an Honor Code infraction unless a student is found responsible by (or admits responsibility to) the Honor Council. Any assignment will receive an automatic "0" (zero) and an "F" will be recorded for the course grade should a student be found plagiarizing. This type of offense demonstrates a disregard for the very foundations of academic thought and the learning process itself***

**POLICY ON “EXTENSIONS” (ET’s):**

Should you find that you cannot complete all of the work for the course, you may take an **ET** (extended time) for the course ***ONLY IF you have a documented illness and/or have completed at least half of the work in the class. This policy means that you must complete the work for the first two parts of the course (including the midterm exam) by the ADP deadline for all semester coursework to be eligible for an ET.***