

SOCIOLOGY 212H: CRIME AND DEVIANCE
FALL 2012
[3:00-5:00 pm Wednesday]

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Course Description

This course is designed to give you an overview of the study of crime and deviance. We will examine how scholars have gone about studying crime and deviance: the methods and statistics they use to study these phenomena and the primary sociological explanations for crime and deviance. We will also consider the empirical evidence as it relates to the validity of these explanations and some of the policy implications of different theoretical approaches.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the range of theories sociologists use to explain crime and deviance.
2. To critically evaluate the different quantitative and qualitative methods used to assess crime and deviance.

Course Policies

Prerequisites: The Prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y or SOC102H or SOC103H. Students without one of these prerequisites will be removed at any time they are discovered.

Attendance

Attendance is required and students are responsible for ALL material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining from their classmates notes on all material covered, as well as information regarding any announcements made in class.

Course Web Site

The course website prepared on the Blackboard system will contain the syllabus, course announcements and outlines of the lectures. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials and for checking their official utoronto.ca email address regularly.

Grading and Evaluation

There are three in-class tests. The first is worth 25% of your grade; the second is worth 50% of your grade and covers a substantial proportion of the readings for the course. The third test is held on the last day of class and covers 25% of your grade. All of the tests will cover the

assigned readings and all class materials (lectures, in-class discussions *and films*) up to the date of the test. None of the tests are cumulative. The tests are comprised of multiple choice questions. The in-class test dates are highlighted on the syllabus.

Make-up Tests and Medical Excuses

Students who miss a test due to medical illness must provide a written medical excuse within one or two days after the missed test. The only form accepted will be the University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate. The medical form can be obtained from the U of T website: <http://www.utoronto.ca/health/medcert.htm>, or from Health Services in the Koffler Student Centre.

Doctor's notes are not acceptable substitutes. Dates for make-up tests will be announced in class with the exception of the last test. The date for the make-up for the last test will be posted on Blackboard.

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

If you have documentation that you're a special needs student, please see me as soon as possible to discuss how best to assist you in the course.

Required Reading: available at the University of Toronto Bookstore

Downes, David, Paul Rock and Chris McCormick (2009) *Understanding Deviance* (Canadian edition). Oxford University Press. (**referred to as DRM in assigned readings**)

Weekly Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READING
12 September	Course Introduction & Who Defines Deviance	DRM: Chpt. 1
19 September	Frontline: "A Hidden Life" Different Methods for Studying Deviance	DRM: Chpt. 2 pp. 22-36
26 September	Conventional Approaches to Measuring Crime and Deviance	DRM: chpt. 2 pp: 36-50
3 October	Review of Classical Theories of Deviance Test 1 [25%]	no reading
10 October	The Chicago School & Social Disorganization	DRM: chpt. 3
17 October	Functionalism and Strain Theory	DRM:chpt.4-5
24 October	Subculture and Learning Frontline: "The Interrupters"	DRM: chpt. 6

31 October	Interactionist Theory	DRM: chpt. 7
DATE	TOPIC	READING
7 November	Test 2 [50%]	no reading
14 November	Control Theories	DRM: chpt. 9
21 November	Conflict and Radical Theories	DRM: chpt. 10
28 November	Frontline: "Burden of Innocence" Test 3 [25%]	no reading