

# A Global Perspective on Deviant Behavior

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Deviant behavior is dependent on the cultural context. In this course, our focus is mostly on the U.S. context. In this paper, you are asked to examine the nature and dynamics of a deviant behavior inside and outside of the U.S. context. The behavior may be considered deviant in the U.S., but is not considered deviant elsewhere. The behavior may be considered deviant outside the U.S., but is not considered deviant here. The behavior may be considered deviant both inside and outside the U.S. Memos #3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 are all related to your paper and are outlined below. We will not hold class on November 5-7. You will be required to meet with me for a short meeting in individual appointments during our normally scheduled class time to discuss your 3-page draft (Memo #7, due October 31) and general progress on the research paper.

## **LEARNING GOALS:**

- Locate and evaluate information about a topic in deviant behavior.
- Write about the literature on your selected topic.
- Compare the nature and dynamics of a deviant behavior in the U.S. and another nation.

## **PROJECT COMPONENTS:**

**MEMO #3:** Your research topic and plan should be 5-7 sentences in which you explain what you plan to study. What research question do you hope to answer?? You need to identify the deviant behavior and country for comparison. Examples of possible topics include: home birth, tattoos, premarital sex, alcohol use before age 21, obesity, or marijuana use. As part of your research plan, you need to identify five key words that might be useful search terms for your topic. For example, if my topic were home birth, my key search terms might include: midwifery, hospital birth, home birth, medicalization

of pregnancy, and birthing centers. You will turn in your topic and plan (Memo #3) for my approval on September 17.

**MEMO #4:** You will complete a brief reference page with at least three sources you plan to use for your research paper. A minimum of three of your references need to come from ProQuest database, which can be accessed through Lake Land Library's website.

At least one of your references must come from one of the following journals:

- *American Sociological Review*
- *The International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*
- *Qualitative Sociology*
- *Social Psychology Quarterly*
- *Sociological Theory*

These journals can all be accessed through ProQuest. Your reference page needs to be in APA format<sup>1</sup>:

Author, A. A., Author, B. B., & Author, C. C. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, volume number(issue number), pages. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/xx.xxx/yyyy>

As part of this memo requirement, you are also required to get a library card at the Lake Land College library. You must provide verification that you did this on the day you submit Memo #4. (You can photocopy your library card or scan it and attach it to your assignment.) Memo #4 is due September 24.

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<sup>1</sup> Purdue Online Writing Lab. 2013. "Reference List: Articles in Periodicals." Retrieved August 13, 2013 (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/>).

**MEMO #5:** You will write a one-page double spaced research memo about one of the peer-reviewed articles you are using for your research paper. You will turn in a copy of the article with this memo. In groups of 3-4, you will present your memo to your classmates. You should use the following guidelines to structure this memo:<sup>2</sup>

- In the first paragraph, identify the issue, state the purpose of the memo, and give the main message.
- Then, provide background information. You might provide data trends showing why the issue is important and succinctly describe previous efforts to address the issue. Don't go overboard here.
- Summarize the Study Methods, Limitations, and Results: Summarize the study using understandable and engaging language. (Be sure to provide the full citation for the article here or elsewhere in the memo.) Use active voice whenever possible; it's more engaging than passive voice. Include a discussion of study limitations, and be sure to state whether/how those limitations affect the interpretation and implications of the findings. Present relevant study results clearly and concisely; they should be easy to understand and remember. Present findings without copying them directly from the article. Identify the implications of the findings you have presented.
- Conclude the memo with a one or two sentence summary of the main points.

Memo #5 is due October 3.

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<sup>2</sup> Johns Hopkins University. 2012. "Structuring a memo to summarize research findings." Retrieved August 4, 2013. ([http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/womens-and-childrens-health-policy-center/de/policy\\_brief/DE%20Module%20Research%20Memo%20Example.pdf](http://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/womens-and-childrens-health-policy-center/de/policy_brief/DE%20Module%20Research%20Memo%20Example.pdf)).

**MEMO #7:** You will turn in a well-developed, three-page draft of your research paper in-progress. I will review your draft and we will use it as the basis of our Individual Meetings on your research paper. I will not focus on correcting spelling or grammar, but will offer constructive feedback on the content of your paper. Memo #7 is due October 31.

**MEMO #9:** You will bring **three** copies of your five-page research paper for your classmates to critique to class on November 21. You will have an opportunity to ask each other questions and give feedback to one another. You will complete a “Peer Editing Worksheet” for each paper. The “Peer Editing Worksheets” are due November 26. On this date, you will break into groups with the people who reviewed your writing to go over each other’s feedback.

**RESEARCH ROUNDTABLES & PAPER:** On December 10, you will be split up into groups of 4-5 to discuss your research papers. You are expected to spend 4-6 minutes presenting your research paper to your peers. You will then have 2-4 minutes, where your peers may ask you questions or make comments on the content of your presentation. After all students have presented, the group should discuss the presentations overall for about 10 minutes and create a brief summary of the presentations. One person from each group will present the summary to the rest of the class. The last 10 minutes of the class meeting will be used for you to evaluate your group’s roundtable discussion using the provided rubric. Your complete research paper is due December 10.

## **MECHANICS:**

Length: Your paper should be 7-10 pages in length. A title, abstract, or reference page do not count towards the length requirement.

References: You should use 4-8 references. At least 3 references should conform to the guidelines in Memo #4. The rest of your references should be from peer-reviewed journals or academic books. Any other sources (e.g., websites or newspapers), must be in addition to these requirements.

### Other matter:

- All written work must be typed, include page numbers, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1 or 1.5 inch margins.
- Please spell-check and read over your work before turning it in. No more than two spelling or grammatical errors per page.
- Written work should conform to APA format.
- Keep a back-up copy of your work so you do not lose it.
- No late work will be accepted or accepted elsewhere.
- Each submission will be submitted onto Instructure Canvas by the start of class in which it is due and will not be accepted elsewhere. For those assignments with additional requirements, you may turn the additional requirements (e.g., a photocopy of your library card) in at the start of class.
- Double-check to make sure your work uploads correctly.
- All items identified as a Memo, will go towards the Memo component of your grade (40%). All remaining items will go towards your Research Paper grade (30%).