

SOC 284-1457
Deviant Behavior
Fall 2013
NE 113
TR 9:30-10:45

Dr. Stephanie Medley-Rath
Office: NE 14
Office Hours: 8:30-9:30; 2:15-4:30 T & R; 10:30-11 W
Office Phone: 217-234-5438
smedleyrath@lakeland.cc.il.us (checked M-F)



Welcome to the Sociology of Deviant Behavior. "Calling something 'deviant' sounds like it is the sociologist who is making judgments about right and wrong. In fact, sociologists study the negative reactions of others, whether or not they personally agree with those judgments. Researchers also study the social control that groups and institutions exert over others. That control is by nature selective, so sociologists pay a lot of attention to the ways that stigma and labeling weigh more heavily on people with less power. Most of the research focuses on things like mental illness, violent crime, gangs, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide. We will certainly examine some of those topics in this class, but we also will study the deviance of corporations, professionals, and government officials. In examining those and other types of elite deviance, we will explore how social control weighs less heavily 'at the top' where people have more power. We will constantly pay attention to the question, 'By whose rules, and by what standards, is something said to be deviant?' And, 'Who benefits from the labeling of some things as deviant and not others?' "¹

¹ Davis, Phillip W. 2010. "DEVIANT BEHAVIOR." Syllabus published in *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Originally published 2000 in *Criminology*, edited by T. Brezina. Washington DC: American Sociological Association. (<http://trails.asanet.org>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Nature and dynamics of deviant behavior. The course includes theories of deviance, social control and forms of deviant behavior. Forms may include drug use, sexual behavior (prostitution and pornography), personal violence, crime and delinquency and mental disorders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of the course, the student will

- Use sociological perspectives to analyze the nature and dynamics of deviant behavior.
- Evaluate how sociological research is used to understand deviant behavior.
- Appraise the ethics of research on deviant behavior.
- Compare deviance cross-culturally through writing.
- Discuss course topics in diverse groups and report discussion content to the class.

RESUME ITEMS

Upon successful completion of this course and all course requirements, you should be able to include the following items on a resume:²

1. Use computer resources to develop a reference list
2. Identify ethical issues in research
3. Teamwork skills in diverse groups
4. Critical thinking and analytic reasoning
5. Written and oral communication

I suggest opening a word document with the above items noted and begin keeping a record of the ways in which you practice these skills during this course (and others). At the end of the semester, you will be the best judge as to whether you can demonstrate these skills and talk about them in a job interview. You might also specify your degree of skill: beginner, intermediate, advanced, expert, and so on.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Adler, P. A. & P. Adler. (2012). *Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction*. 7th ed. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- Venkatesh, S. (2008). *Gang Leader for a Day*. Penguin.
- Readings on Instructure Canvas

ONLINE RESOURCES

1. [Facebook](#) (Learn Sociology) & [Twitter](#): (@learnsociology): I manage a [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) account for all of my sociology courses and sociological work. I encourage you to follow one or both accounts. You are not required to follow either account, but I will post announcements, reminders, and interesting articles that relate to our course on both sites. I will tag my tweets for this class with #soc284 and I ask that you do the same. This enables you to search for tweets for this course, which you could use to review for your exams.
2. I use Instructure Canvas as a repository for our course materials. You will find this syllabus and handouts stored there. I will post announcements to Instructure Canvas.

² American Sociological Association. 2009. *21st Century Careers with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology*. Washington DC.

GRADING POLICY

1. **Participation (7% of final grade)**

Participation will be self-reported and account for 7% of your grade. At the end of each non-exam class meeting, you will complete a participation form.

2. **Attendance (3% of final grade)**

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class meeting. It is expected that you will stay for the duration of class. Attendance will account for 3% of your final grade. You may miss two classes without penalty.

3. **Memos (40% of final grade)**

You will complete ten memos over the course the semester. Memos will range from 1-5 pages. Several of the memos will help form the basis of your research paper. Complete guidelines will be in a separate handout.

4. **Research Paper (30% of final grade)**

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. Complete guidelines will be in a separate handout.

5. **Exams (20% of final grade)**

The midterm exam is October 8 and covers all course topics up to that point. The final exam is December 17 (8:00-10:00 am) and covers all course topics from the Midterm up to the Final. Both exams will be multiple choice.

6. **Extra Credit Assessment Survey** due Friday, December 13 at midnight. You will access the survey through Instructure Canvas. It is extremely important that you do not complete this survey until you have completed all of your work up until this point. If I suspect that you took this early in the semester and did not take the assessment seriously, you will not earn extra credit. You will earn a 1% increase in your final grade for completing this survey, regardless of how many answers you get correct. You will need your course section number (SOC 284-1457) to complete the survey.

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	0-59.9%

GENERAL POLICIES

Email: You need to use your Lake Land email account to communicate with me. Your Lake Land email address uses the same prefix as your IRIS and Instructure Canvas login. Make sure that you include your course name and section number in the subject of your email. This way, I know the email is from a student and I will respond to you first. I will not discuss grades

via email. I will discuss your grade in Instructure Canvas or in-person only. I will respond to your email between 24-48 hours M-F.

Attendance: Attendance accounts for 3% of your grade. If you are absent, you are responsible for any information covered in class. It is your responsibility to complete all the requirements listed in the course schedule by their due date. You also will earn a participation grade. You can't participate unless you attend. Finally, several of your Memos involve working with your classmates in class. If attendance is going to be a struggle, please meet with me as soon as possible to determine if this is the best course for you.

Late Work and Exams: All assignments are due by the start of class in which it is due. Late work is not accepted. All exams will be taken during the scheduled time unless other arrangements have been made ahead of time.

Policy on Academic Honesty: Response to student cheating on coursework shall be per school policy with the following instructor options:

- No credit given for the plagiarized work
- Reduced credit in the form of a lower grade for plagiarized work
- Instructor notifies the Division's Chair of the incident
- Cheating incidents of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course, which could result in failure in the course

If in doubt, ask. If quoting material, any repetition of three or more words should be included in quotations and citations should be used.

Lake Land College's Student Handbook Conduct Code with more details can be found at <http://www.lakeland.cc.il.us/studenthandbook/detail.cfm?id=30>.

Withdrawals: A student may drop a course through Dec. 5, 2013. A grade of "W" will be recorded for the dropped course.

Disabilities: Students with some special reason for modified testing procedures or note-taking procedures should contact me as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements can be made. See Jordan Hicks in Student Services Building #24 if you think you have learning, physical, or emotional issues.

Religious Holidays: If after reading the syllabus, you discover that I have assigned a test or assignment due date for a holy day of your faith, please let me know by the end of Week 2. Furthermore, if you will be missing any class because of holy days this semester, please inform me in writing by the end of Week 2.

Student Athletes: If your coach anticipates that you will need to miss class this semester due to athletic participation, you need to provide me with written documentation from your coach by the end of Week 2.

GROUND RULES:

1. Do not interrupt your fellow students or myself.
2. No personal conversations during lecture (this includes texting).
3. We will not accept any discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of fellow students.

4. Remember, just because something does not apply to you, does not make it any less true. Keep an open mind.
5. Electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, e-readers, laptops, tablets) are conditionally allowed in this classroom. It is assumed that your use of these devices is for educational or emergency situations. Any other uses are prohibited. This technology should be set to silent. I reserve the right to disallow the use of electronic devices at any time for any reason.
6. I do not allow this class to be recorded (audio or visual) unless you have documentation requiring it to be recorded that you have cleared with me beforehand.
7. Consequences: you may be asked to leave class that day.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

You are expected to have read the assigned reading prior to the class meeting we are scheduled to discuss it.

CD: *Constructions of Deviance*

GL: *Gang Leader for a Day*

Online: Instructure Canvas

Date	Topic/Plan	Anything Due?	Readings
August 22	Syllabus		
August 27	General Introduction & Defining Deviance (In-Class): How to Read a Research Article #1		CD #1, #2
August 29	Three Perspectives	Memo #1 Due	CD #3, #4, #5
September 3	Theories of Deviance		CD #6, #7, #8
September 5	Theories of Deviance	Memo #2 Due	CD #9, #10, #11
September 10	Studying Deviance		CD #12, #14, GL Ch. 1
September 12	Research Assignment Topic Brainstorming		
September 17	Moral Panics Chapter 2 & 10	Memo #3 Due	Online
September 19	Meet in the Library		
September 24	Moral Entrepreneurs	Memo #4 Due	CD #15, #17
September 26	Differential Social Power: Labeling (In-Class): How to Read a Research Article #2		CD #18, #19, #20

October 1	No Class		
October 3	Differential Social Power: Resisting Labeling	Memo #5 Due	CD #21
October 8	Midterm Exam		
October 10	Identity Development		CD #23, #25
October 15	<i>The Central Park Five</i>		
October 17	<i>The Central Park Five</i>		
October 22	Accounts	Memo #6 Due	CD #26, #27
October 24	Stigma Management (In-Class): How to Read a Research Article #3		CD #28, #29, #30, #31
October 29	The Social Organization of Deviance		CD #32, #33, #34
October 31	The Social Organization of Deviance	Memo #7 Due	CD #36, #37
November 5	No Class: Individual Meetings [You are required to meet with me in individual appointments during our normally scheduled class time to discuss your research paper.]		
November 7			
November 12	Deviant Careers		CD # 43, #44, #45
November 14	Book Review Discussions	Memo #8 Due	
November 19	Deviant Careers		CD #46, #47
November 21	Careers in Deviance Work (Police, Social Work): Withholding Judgment		Reading TBA
November 26	Peer Reviews	Memo #9 Due	
November 28	No Class Thanksgiving Break		
December 3	Gang Leader for a Day		GL Chapters 2-5
December 5	Gang Leader for a Day	Memo #10 Due	GL Chapters 6-8, CD #35
December 10	Research Paper Roundtables	Research Paper Due	
December 17 (8:00-10:00 am)	Final Exam		

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.