

## **Deviance: Sociology 377A**

Fall 2007

Dr. Don Hinrichs, Instructor

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Office hours: 1/2 hour before class near the classroom (exact location to be announced) **and** after class **and** by appointment.

Teaching Assistant:

Email:

Office:

Office hours:

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To provide an introduction to and a sociological perspective on the concept and phenomenon of deviance.
2. To explore the various sociological theories that can be used to analyze specific social deviations and that explain why individuals and groups deviate.
3. To provide the tools necessary to understand and analyze deviance as a part of social life and to effectively modify behavior, attitudes, and social structure as required.
4. To analyze specific behaviors in the context of the sociological perspective.
5. To analyze classic works of literature to illustrate concepts and theories of deviance.
6. To provide opportunities to become immersed in deviance by participating in a variety of out-of-class activities.

**Assignments Dates:** (see end of syllabus for details). Important due dates follow:

Paper 1: Friday, October 5 (movie analysis)

Paper 2: Monday, November 19 (observation research)

**Examinations:** There will be four (4) examinations, one after each section of the course. While they will focus on material from that section, exams after exam 1 will be cumulative. The exams will be held during the regular class time. There will be **no formal final examination.**

Exam 1: Friday, September 26  
Exam 2: Monday, October 22  
Exam 3: Monday, November 12  
Exam 4: Monday, December 3

**Required Reading:** Please buy personal copies of all of these items. **None** will be on reserve at the library.

Course pack with all course handouts: **Essential; must have.** (on sale at the University Bookstore)  
*A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen  
*Antigone*, Sophocles  
*Galileo*, Bertolt Brecht  
*Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka

### **Daily Class Schedule:**

#### **September:**

5 introduction/overview  
7 concept of deviance  
10 concept continued  
12 social construction of deviance: "It Ain't Nobody's Business if You Do" (course pack)  
14 social control: "on Liberty" (course pack)  
17 *Metamorphosis*  
19 perspectives  
21 perspectives continued  
24 perspectives continued  
26 **Exam 1**  
28 researching deviance

## **October:**

- 1 researching deviance continued
- 3 explaining deviance: “Wayward Puritans” (course pack)
- 5 explaining deviance continued: “The Saints and the Roughnecks”  
(course pack)

### **Paper 1 due**

- 8 **Thanksgiving recess**
- 9 (**Tuesday**) explaining deviance continued
- 10 formal deviance
- 12 violence
- 15 terrorism
- 17 *Antigone*
- 19 elite deviance
- 22 **Exam 2**
- 24 medical deviance
- 26 mental disorders
- 29 sexuality
- 31 sexuality continued

## **November**

- 2 *A Doll's House*
- 5 prostitution
- 7 pornography
- 9 pornography continued
- 12 **Exam 3**
- 14 homosexuality
- 16 homosexuality continued
- 19 homelessness
- Paper 2 due**
- 21 informal deviance
- 23 **no class**
- 26 science
- 28 religion
- 30 *Galileo*

## **December:**

- 3 **Exam 4**

## Course Outline with reading assignments

### Administrative

I. Toward a conceptualization of deviance; social construction of reality; social control

Read: *Metamorphosis*

“It Ain’t Nobody’s Business if You Do”

“On Liberty”

II. Sociological perspectives for viewing deviance: social systems perspective, “deviance as work”, functionalist perspective, conflict perspective, interactionist perspective, biographical approach

III. Researching deviance

IV. Explaining Deviance

Read: “Wayward Puritans”

“The Saints and the Roughnecks”

V. Formal deviance: crimes and civil wrongs

Focus: violence

Focus: terrorism

Read: *Antigone*

Focus: elite deviance

VI. Medical deviance

Focus: mental disorders

VII. Sexual deviance

Focus: sexuality

Read: *A Doll’s House*

Focus: prostitution

Focus: pornography

Focus: homosexuality

VIII. Misc. deviance

Focus: homelessness

Focus: informal deviance

Focus: Science and Religion

Read: *Galileo*

IX. Denouement

## **Notes and Expectations:**

1. Please follow **directions** carefully in preparing assignments and taking examinations. There is a grade point penalty for failure to do so.
2. **Written assignments** are an important learning experience and important dimension of the course. Good writing takes time and work. Composition is as important as content because a paper is a total communications package. Paper grades will reflect the quality of both. **Some specifics:** staple or paperclip your paper together; a cover page is recommended; **NO** hard or plastic covers; prescribed page length is not negotiable but excludes cover page and attachments; minimum font size is 12; minimum spacing is 1 1/2.
3. Papers and exams may be submitted in **French** but I may NOT read them; they will probably be graded by the TA or read to me.
4. **Written assignments** will be accepted **late**, but will be penalized 3 points for each day late, including Saturdays and Sundays. If you are not in class the day a written assignment is due, it is your responsibility to get it to me in a timely fashion. If you turn your paper in at the sociology department office, be sure to have the secretary sign and date it. There is a paper drop box outside of the department office, Leacock 712. A secretary collects the papers once a day and puts a date on them. This date is the date I will use to determine actual submission. **Do Not** drop your paper at the TA's office or any office other than the main sociology department office. If I do not have a paper from you, I will assume you did not turn it in and late days will begin to accrue unless conditions in #5 below apply.
5. **Excuses:** First, there are **very few** valid excuses for late **papers**. Sufficient notice has been given for these papers and proper planning will ensure you get the paper in on time even if you are sick. **Exams:** missed exams should be for medical reasons only and require written verification. Some family emergencies may qualify but written certification is also necessary. If you are absent from class for an extended period of time, I recommend that you notify me by email. If I am not informed, I can't help you.

**6. Classroom etiquette:** please turn off cell phones, pagers, alarm watches and ipods or any other electronic device that makes noise or distracts you or others. Once you are in the classroom, do not leave to go to the bathroom or get food. If you do need to leave, don't come back. You may use a **computer** to take notes – ONLY!

**7. Information responsibility:** You are responsible for getting all notes, handouts, assignments, and miscellaneous information that is given in writing or orally in class.

**8. Course reading:** It is your responsibility to do assigned reading before the class. Please bring the readings to class the day they are discussed.

**9. Exams:** While the focus of exams will be the material covered since the previous exam, exams are, none-the-less, cumulative. You just can't forget or disregard course material. In studying for exams, do not forget the handouts. The format of exams will be matching, short answers, definitions, and short essays. All course material, including readings and material in the course pack, are eligible for testing. If I do not have an exam from you, I will assume that you did not take it and you will get a "0" unless conditions in #5 above apply.

**10. Course pack.** All course handouts and several readings are in the course pack. It is essential that you purchase a course pack. This is the only way you will have the handouts. Please bring the course pack to every class.

**11. WebVista** is or soon will be up and running for the course. Important class announcements will be posted from time to time. Also, students may use the site to ask each other questions or request information. Students can post class notes on the site if they want to.

**12.** No course work will be accepted after the last class ends without written permission from the appropriate university office. Also, I will not discuss the grades on any papers or exams that have been returned prior to the last class.

13. I reserve the right to alter reading assignments, the dates a topic is presented, or the exact content of the course. I further reserve the right, under unusual circumstances, to change dates of exams and due dates of papers. These dates would never be moved up, only delayed slightly, again, for unusual circumstances and for reasons that I would consider beneficial for you. Such a decision would be made in a timely and fair fashion.

## **Academic Integrity:**

### **Plagiarism**

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

## **Grading System:**

Exam 1:	10%
Exam 2:	10%
Exam 3:	20%
Exam 4:	20%
Paper 1:	10%
Paper 2:	30%

## Assignments

### Paper 1: movie analysis

Watch **one** of the following movies:

*A Clockwork Orange*

*Hairspray*

*The Boys of St. Vincent*

*Gouttes d'eau sur pierres brulantes (Water Drops on Burning Rocks)*

*Hochelaga*

*Les Invasions Barbares (The Barbarian Invasion)*

*Mambo Italiano*

*The Queen*

*Rocky Horror Picture Show*

*Transamerica*

Write a **maximum 2-page paper** in which you do the following:

1. Who/what is deviant in the film? Discuss this from each of 3 of the following defining agents: filmmaker, yourself, a specific societal institution (pick one), one of the characters in the play (pick one). Discuss how each defining agent constructs the deviance.
2. Illustrate either functionalism, labeling theory, or conflict theory (Lemert's version) using a specific example from the film. Be sure to use appropriate concepts.
3. What issues are raised about "deviance" in this film? That is, what insights into the concept, reality, and study of deviance does this film provide? Again, what did you learn about deviance?

**Due: Friday, October 5**

## **Paper 2: observation research**

**Choose one form of deviant behavior that involves at least two deviants at the place of observation** that you can **safely** observe. Observe it for a minimum of 3 hours. These 3 hours may be at one time or may be spread over several days or weeks. However, if spread out, each observation should be a minimum of one hour. If the observations are spread out, you may change the location of the observation, although it would be best if you don't, but the form must stay the same.

In your observing, you will be watching the behavior of the deviants and the interaction between themselves and interaction between the deviants and those whom you define as the non-deviants.

We will discuss observation research in class, but the most important thing, in addition to your safety, is that you do not affect the behavior of those being observed. Therefore, observe discretely from a reasonable distance and do not take notes during the observation; write things as soon as you leave the area.

It is possible for you to observe in a setting in which you are a participant. Please talk to me about such an observation. In this case, however, you will be observing in the context, and it will be important for you to remain detached and objective, which will be difficult. It may also be difficult to define the non-deviants in such a setting.

We would be glad to discuss your plans with you before you carry out your observation.

After the observations are complete, **interview someone**, either one of the deviants or one of the non-deviants, about the deviance and the setting. Do not put yourself in any jeopardy. In other words, do not interview a deviant if there is any danger what so ever. Prepare for the interview in advance by developing a modest set of important/interesting/relevant questions. Attach your list of questions to the back of the paper.

**Write a maximum 5-page** paper in which you do the following:

**\*\*At the beginning of the paper give the date, time, and exact location of each observation.**

- a. Discuss why you consider the observed behavior to be deviant. What specific normative orders are violated?
- b. Describe the deviants: age, sex, dress, demeanor, etc.
- c. Describe the behavior you observed. What was consistent over the observations; what varied?
- d. What norms seem to govern the behavior you observed? What roles are played by the participants in the behavior; that is, is there a division of labor and what is it? .
- e. How does the setting in which the behavior occurs affect the behavior being observed?
- f. How do non-deviants interact with the deviants or react to them?
- g. Illustrate labeling theory concepts with a specific example from the observation.
- h. Present your findings from the interview.

**Due: Monday, November 19**