

SOC 224 (B2) — Sociology of Deviance and Conformity
Winter 2018
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta

Instructor: Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik
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Office: Tory 4-23 (4th floor)
Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am
Lecture Time: Tuesday, Thursday, 2:00-3:20pm
Lecture Room: TL12

Teaching Assistant: Damson Ayoyo (ayoyo@ualberta.ca)
Office: Tory 15-13 (15th floor—take elevator to 14th floor and then take the stairs)
Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:00-1:00pm

Course Description: Have you ever looked at someone and thought they were weird, odd, or ‘deviant’? In this class, we tease out the complexities surrounding ‘deviance’ and conformity, and unpack the notion that “Deviance is not marginal, it is central to what we do” (Adler and Adler, 2006:132). We will explore the process by which ‘deviance’ is bestowed unto others, how individuals understand or justify their own ‘deviance,’ the factors that affect conformity, and the role that media and popular culture plays in branding things or people as usual or unusual. Throughout the course, we will critically analyze explanations of deviance, look at different forms of ‘deviance,’ challenge taken-for-granted assumptions about deviance, and problematize common stigmas associated with ‘abnormality.’

Course Objectives:

- Increase your knowledge about the labelling of, responses to, and representations of deviant behaviour
- Understand the major explanations of deviance and their respective shortcomings.
- Be able to explain the causes and consequences of being labelled as deviant
- Understand the nature of a variety of deviant acts, and how social context impacts decision-making, behaviour, and social and legal responses to deviance
- Become a critical consumer of the media and political discourse about deviance and conformity

Required Text: Bereska, T.M. (2014). *Deviance, Conformity and Society Control in Canada*, 5th edition. Pearson: Toronto.

Additional Required Readings will be posted on E-Class.

Supplementary Text: Periodically, additional reading/media materials will be posted on E-Class.

Teaching Approach: The course will consist of lectures, required readings, class discussions, guest speakers and videos. Everything that is covered in the classroom and in the readings should be considered “fair game” for tests. In other words: the content of guest lectures and videos may be covered on tests and on the final exam. You are also responsible for all assigned readings, whether or not such readings are specifically covered in class.

Classroom Atmosphere: The classroom will be a dynamic and lively place of learning, discussion, and debate. As such, I expect that you all do the readings before class and come to class prepared to engage with the material and ready to participate in class discussions. We will be learning *with* and *from* each other, so it is important that we all come to class with an open mind, ready to share ideas and – potentially – have them challenged by someone else (you should also feel free to question me!). When we discuss different points of view, it is imperative that we always do so respectfully and professionally, so please respect whoever is speaking and refrain from chatting and distracting other students. This can be a “fun” course if you attend it with the right attitude ☺

Grade Evaluation:

<u>Exams</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>
Test 1	33%	February 6, 2018
Test 2	33%	March 20, 2018
Final Exam	34%	TBA

Both tests and the final exam will be multiple choice, scantron examinations. The final exam is non-cumulative. Students must show their UAlberta ID or a piece of government issued photo ID prior to submitting their midterms or exam. Final marks will neither be scaled nor put on a bell curve. Final grades will be converted to the 4- point scale according to the following schedule:

Excellent	A+	95-100	4.0
	A	90-94	4.0
	A-	85-89	3.7
Good	B+	80-84	3.3
	B	76-79	3.0
	B-	72-75	2.7
Satisfactory	C+	68-71	2.3
	C	64-67	2.0
	C-	60-63	1.7
Poor Minimal Pass	D+	55-59	1.3
	D	50-54	1.0
Fail	F	0-49	0

I will post sample questions on E-Class for the tests and exam one week prior to the test date ☺

Attendance: Students who attend class will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the course. Attendance at lectures is extremely important because some topics presented in class are not covered in the readings. If you do need to miss class because of illness or other commitments, please arrange to get notes from another student. My lecture notes will not be available online.

Missed Mid-term Tests: If you miss one of the tests, you must contact me within two days after the test date to request an opportunity to write a make-up test, with regard to circumstance. A make-up test will only be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds. Deferred tests are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor or inconsequential ailments will not be approved. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documents as follows:

- For incapacitating medical illness, students can present one of the following:
 - o “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents).
 - o “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (for Faculty of Arts students).
 - o Statutory Declaration” (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from home Faculty or the Office of the Registrar).

- For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation to the situation. This could include the following:
 - o For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
 - o For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
 - o For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
 - o For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department as appropriate

Email: Email works well for communicating simple information (Oftentimes answers can be found right on this syllabus!), but extended conversations are better conducted in person. Please send all emails to **the Teaching Assistant AND myself (CC works best)**. Please make the subject of the email SOC 224 so that we can prioritize your email and get back to you as quickly as possible. We will generally reply to email inquiries from students within 72 hours. If you do not receive a reply within this period, we may have missed your email so please resubmit your question(s).

Department Set Deferred Final Exam Date: The Department of Sociology arranges a set deferred exam date for all students who are granted a deferred final exam in a Sociology course in the winter term. Any students granted a deferred final exam in a Sociology course are expected to write the exam at that scheduled time. For the Winter 2018 term, the deferred exam date is Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 9:00am in BUS 1-10. To apply for a deferred exam where the cause is incapacitating mental and/or physical illness and most other cases including severe domestic affliction, a student must present supporting documentation pertaining to the absence to **their Faculty office within two working days following the scheduled date of the exam missed, or as soon as the student is able**, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence.

- Consistent with University guidelines, “*a deferred final examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.*”
- You will have to apply to your home faculty for a deferred final exam.

Course policies: Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar

Recording: Consistent with University guidelines, “Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).”

Student Accessibility Services: If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Academic Integrity: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

For further information about Academic Integrity and to access the Academic Integrity Handbook for students, visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website at <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx>.

Course Schedule

Jan 9: Course Introduction	No Readings
Jan 11: What is Deviance?	Chapter 1
Jan 16 & 18: Explaining the Deviant Act	Chapter 2
Jan 23 & 25: Deviance: Perceptions, Reactions and Power	Chapter 3

Jan 30 & Feb 1: Looking Deviant? Chapter 7

Feb 6: Test #1

Feb 8, 13, 15: The Role of The Media Chapter 4

[No class on February 20th or 22nd: Reading week ☺]

Feb 27, March 1 & 6: Deviant Sexuality/Sexualities? Chapter 5

Trautner, Mary Nell. "Doing gender, doing class: The performance of sexuality in exotic dance clubs." *Gender & Society* 19.6 (2005): 771-788.

March 8, 13, 15: Youth and Deviance Chapter 6

Pattillo, Mary E. "Sweet mothers and gangbangers: Managing crime in a black middle-class neighborhood." *Social Forces* 76.3 (1998): 747-774.

March 20: Test # 2

March 22 & 27: Religion, Science, and Deviance Chapter 9

March 21, 23 & 29: Mental Health and Illness Chapter 8

April 3 and 5: Deviance in Sport

Hughes, Robert, and Jay Coakley. "Positive deviance among athletes: The implications of over conformity to the sport ethic." *Sociology of sport journal* 18.4 (1991): 307-325.

Helms, Wesley S., and Karen DW Patterson. "Eliciting acceptance for "illicit" organizations: The positive implications of stigma for MMA organizations." *Academy of Management Journal* 57.5 (2014): 1453-1484.

April 10 & 12: Special Topic: TBA

Topic and readings will be determined based on class interests

- This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted as we move through the material-