SOC 224 (B2) — Sociology of Deviance and Conformity  
Winter 2019  
Department of Sociology  
University of Alberta

Instructor: Dr. Marta-Marika Urbanik  
Email: urbanik@ualberta.ca  
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: Nicole Hill  
Office: Tory 15-13 (take elevator to 14th floor, then take stairs one level up)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30pm

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


Additional Required Readings 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 really “fun” course if you approach it with the right attitude 😊

**Grade Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>January 29(^{th})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>March 14(^{th})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Test 2 and Final exam are noncumulative 😃]

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

Both tests and the final exam will be multiple choice, scantron examinations. 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:

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

**Grade-Rounding, Test Re-Writes/ Make-Up Assignments, Etc.:** In the interests of fairness for all students, requests for grades to be “rounded up” will be denied, and students will be directed to this section in the syllabus. So, if you receive a final grade of 79.99, your grade will remain as a 79%. Any requests to re-write a test or exam because a student is dissatisfied with their grade
will be denied. This means, if you “require a certain GPA to remain within your program or the university or be granted a scholarship or be accepted into the Star Wars Academy of Excellence for graduate school”—it is up to you to work towards achieving that grade (but I will be happy to help you work towards succeeding!). If you are dealing with a situation or serious concern that will affect your performance on a test or on the final exam—you must be proactive and communicate this concern with me immediately and before you write the test/exam. In the interests of fairness, students will be graded according to the syllabus and requests for “extra” or “make-up” assignments will be denied.

**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. I suggest to you make a “study buddy” early on in the term because I do test from lectures so it is important to have those notes accessible when it comes time for studying. 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. Since the course is non-cumulative, students will not be allowed to shift test weights to the final exam. 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:
  - “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor (this cannot be required, but must be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents).
  - “Request for Excused Absence or Deferral of Term Work”
  - 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:
  - For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
  - For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
  - For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
  - For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department about 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 2019 term, the deferred exam date is Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 9:00am. Location: BUS 110.

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).”

**Accessibility Resources:** 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 Accessibility Resources, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students/student-accessibility-services/).

**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.

All students should consult the Academic Integrity website. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.
Course Schedule

Jan 8: Course Introduction                                      No Readings
Jan 10: What is Deviance?                                      Chapter 1
Jan 15 & 17: Explaining the Deviant Act                        Chapter 2
Jan 22 & 24: Deviance: Perceptions, Reactions and Power        Chapter 3
Jan 29: Test One                                               
Jan 31, Feb 5 & 7: The Role of the Media                       Chapter 4
Feb 12 & 14: Looking Deviant?                                 Chapter 7

[No class February 19th or 21st: Winter Reading week 😊 ]

Feb 26, 28, March 5: Deviant Sexuality/Sexualities?            Chapter 5

March 7 & 12: Religion, Science, and Deviance                 Chapter 9
March 14: Test Two                                            
March 19 & 21: Mental Health and Illness                      Chapter 8
March 26 & 28: Youth and Deviance                             Chapter 6

April 2 & 4: Managing Deviance                                 


April 9: Special Topic                                        Reading will be assigned accordingly.

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