

# SOCIOLOGY 224 (B1) – SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE AND CONFORMITY

Winter, 2017

M W F 12:00 – 12:50

TL 12

**Instructor: Dr. Alison Dunwoody**

**Office: T 6-12**

**Office Hours: M and W 8:30 – 9:30, or by appointment**

**Phone: 492-3545**

**E-mail: dunwoody@ualberta.ca**

**NOTE:** Generally, students can expect a response to email within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays. However, emails sent from accounts other than the U of A will not be opened or responded to. Please indicate SOC 224 in the subject line of all emails.

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

## **Course Description:**

In this course, we will examine the phenomena of deviance, conformity and social control including how and why certain forms of behaviour come to be defined as deviant. We will explore the nature of both formal and informal responses to deviance as well as the role of different institutions of social control. Through our review of the current literature on selected forms of deviance (e.g., sexual deviance, mental illness, and youth crime), we will gain an understanding of both the personal and social structural dimensions of deviant behaviour including implications for social policy.

**NOTE:** This course explores topics and issues that students may find unpalatable and/or that make them uncomfortable. Furthermore, students will likely encounter ideas and perspectives that challenge or conflict with their own. Please take this into consideration when deciding whether to continue in this class.

## **Course Objectives:**

- To understand the socially constructed nature of deviance, conformity, and social control
- To understand the core concepts and theories used in the study of deviance
- To analyze specific behaviors, beliefs, and conditions from a sociological perspective
- To provide a foundation from which to critically reflect on the nature of and response to various forms of deviance

## **Classroom Policies:**

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to remain until the end of the lecture.
- While students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to class discussion, they are not permitted to engage in casual conversations with their fellow students during the lecture.
- While laptops are permitted in class, they are to be used solely for the purpose of taking notes. The use of other electronic devices (e.g., cell phones) is not permitted.
- **The Instructor will not provide lecture notes or videos to students who miss class. Neither will links to videos be provided. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining the notes from another student and for accessing any missed videos.**

**NOTE:** 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).

**Course Text:**

Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2014) by Tami M. Bereska (published by Pearson).

**NOTE:** Students are required to have this most recent edition of the text as significant changes have been made since previous publications.

**Course Requirements:**

Mid-Term 1 – 30% - scheduled for February 6 (covers Chs 1-3)

Mid-Term 2 – 30% - scheduled for March 13 (covers Chs 4-6)

Final Exam – 40% - **tentatively** scheduled for April 27 at 2:00 pm (covers Chs 7-10)

**Grading Policy:**

Grades will not be assigned on the basis of a particular distribution (e.g., bell curve) but will be assigned based on the individual merits of students. Grades are not negotiable. While guidelines for grading are provided by the University, they are to be thought of as just that, guidelines. Consequently, while the distribution of grades for this course will likely approximate these guidelines, it will not necessarily correspond with them exactly.

**Mid-Terms and Final Exam:**

The mid-terms and the final exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions. Students are responsible for all lecture notes, class discussions, videos and assigned readings from the text. Sample exam questions will be posted on eClass at the conclusion of our coverage of each chapter.

Neither absence from class nor travel plans will be accepted as legitimate reasons for failure to attend an exam. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for that exam. Should a student miss a mid-term, he or she must contact the Instructor via e-mail within two working days of the originally scheduled exam, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence. Please note that depending upon the circumstances, appropriate documentation may be required (e.g., “Medical Declaration Form for Students,” “Statutory Declaration,” police report, death notice, court documents). Students with an excused absence must write the missed exam rather than shift the weight of that exam to other course requirements. Students who have missed the first midterm, and who have an excused absence, will write an alternate midterm on Friday February 10 at 8:00 am. Students who have missed the second midterm, and who have an excused absence, will write an alternate midterm on Friday March 17 at 8:00 am. If a student fails to write the final exam, he or she must formally apply to his or her Faculty within two working days following the missed exam, or as soon as the student is able, having regard to the circumstances underlying the absence, in order to be considered for a deferral. The decision to grant a deferred final exam is not the Instructor’s. Deferred examinations 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. Please also note that as stated in Attendance of the University Calendar, “a deferred 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.” There is only one date for deferred final exams. Students granted a deferred final exam will write the exam on Saturday May 6, 2017 at 9:00 am in BUS 1-10.

**NOTE:** Students are required to have their University of Alberta Student ID card for ALL exams. Students may not enter the exam area after the first 30 minutes has elapsed. Students may not leave the exam area until the first 30 minutes has elapsed.

**Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:**

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 9-16	Determining Deviance	Ch 1
Jan 18-23	Explaining Deviance: The Act	Ch 2
Jan 25-Feb 3	Explaining Deviance: The Perception, Reaction, and Power	Ch 3
Feb 6	Mid-Term 1 (Chs 1-3)	

Feb 8-13	Deviance 2.0: The Role of the Media	Ch 4
Feb 15-Mar 1	“Deviant” and “Normal” Sexuality	Ch 5
Mar 3-10	The Troubling and Troubled World of Youth	Ch 6
Mar 13	Mid-Term 2 (Chs 4-6)	
Mar 15-22	Looking Deviant: Physical Appearance	Ch 7
Mar 24-31	Mental Disorders	Ch 8
Apr 3-10	What Do You Believe? Religion, Science, and Deviance	Ch 9
Apr 12	The “Deviance Dance” Continues	Ch 10

Class attendance is NOT optional. Periodically, videos will be shown in class, details from which are considered testable material. It is students’ responsibility to ensure that they have all necessary materials in preparation for exams as neither lecture notes nor videos will be made available outside of class. Lecture outlines will be posted on eClass. However, outlines should not be taken as a substitute for attending class as important information may not be covered in the outlines.

**Grading:**

Description	Percentage	Grade	Value
Excellent	95 – 100	A+	4.0
	90 – 94.9	A	4.0
	85 – 89.9	A-	3.7
Good	80 – 84.9	B+	3.3
	75 – 79.9	B	3.0
	70 – 74.9	B-	2.7
Satisfactory	66 – 69.9	C+	2.3
	62 – 65.9	C	2.0
	58 – 61.9	C-	1.7
Poor	54 – 57.9	D+	1.3
Minimal Pass	50 – 53.9	D	1.0
Fail	0 – 49.9	F	0.0

**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](http://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>.