

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 224 (X01) Winter 2017
SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE AND CONFORMITY
Tuesday 6:00 – 9:00pm
T BW 1

Instructor: Dr. Stephen A. Kent
Office: 6-16 Tory
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:00 Thursday 3:30-5:00pm or by appointment
Telephone: 492-2204 (my office and messages)
Email: steve.kent@ualberta.ca
Website:

PLEASE NOTE: If a situation arises that will affect your performance in the course, then I expect to be informed immediately. Either speak with me directly, send an email, or leave a phone message with instructions as to how I can contact you. I will allow only approved absences from exams, according to a strict interpretation of University rules.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED TEXT:

Bereska, Tami M. 2014. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. 4th Edition. Toronto: Pearson. (Note: This edition differs from earlier ones, so I advise you to use this edition only.)

COURSE OVERVIEW:

I have designed the lectures and readings to provide an overview of the prominent theoretical issues in the sociology of deviance and conformity, supplemented by historical and contemporary examples from a variety of cultural contexts. I emphasize Canadian issues whenever possible.

EVALUATION:

Your grade for this course will be based on:

Mid-term exam I	33.3%	January 31, 2017
Mid-term Exam II	33.3%	March 7, 2017
Final Exam	33.3%	April 11, 2017

(Date, time and location to be confirmed by students in Bear Tracks)

Please Note: Bring a pencil and your ONEcard to each exam. The exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The exams will cover only the assigned chapters and accompanying lectures—they are NOT cumulative. I try to ask at least one question per lecture and ten questions (more or less) per chapter. See sample exam questions on the last page of this syllabus.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on the raw score for each component, which is converted into a percentage score based on

respective weights. The cumulative percentage score will be converted into a final grade based on the table below. The professor reserves the right to lower the cut-off points but not to raise them.

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage
Excellent	A+	4.0	95 - 100
	A	4.0	90 - 94.9
	A-	3.7	85 - 89.9
Good	B+	3.3	80 - 84.9
	B	3.0	76 - 79.9
	B-	2.7	72 - 75.9
Satisfactory	C+	2.3	68 - 71.9
	C	2.0	64 - 67.9
	C-	1.7	60 - 63.9
Poor	D+	1.3	54 - 59.9
Minimal Pass	D	1.0	50 - 53.9
Failure	F	0.0	0 - 49.9

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

(Please note the assigned readings and lecture topics are subject to change)

January 10 to January 31:

Readings: Bereska, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 8
 Lectures : Non-sociological perspectives; Deviance theories, Mental disorders

January 31: Mid-term I

January 31 to March 7:

Readings: Bereska, Chapters 4, 5, and 6
 Lectures: Media, Prostitution; Sexuality; Drugs and Alcohol; Youth

March 7: Mid-term II

March 7-April 11:

Readings: Bereska, Chapters 7, 9, and 10
 Lectures: Body; Science; Religion; Government, Police, Corporations, Internet

April 11: Third (final) exam

MISSED EXAMS:

Strict university rules require that I follow a rigid procedure for students seeking approval for missed exams. Here is information about the policy:

Absence from Exams (See [Attendance](#) in University Calendar)

*Excused absence for a missed exam is not automatic and is granted at the discretion of the instructor (in the case of term exams) or the student’s Faculty (in the case of final exams). Instructors and Faculties are not required to grant excused absences for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements. **When a student is absent from a term or final exam without acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed***

using a raw score of zero for the exam missed. Any student who applies for or obtains an excused absence by making false statements will be liable under the Code of Student Behaviour.

To apply for an excused absence from MID-TERM EXAMS, a student first must notify me by e-mail **within two working days** of the missed exam. Second, a student must provide me with supporting documentation pertaining to the absence. ALL STUDENTS WILL WRITE ALL THREE EXAMS, and no procedures exist for replacing an exam with another kind of work. Make-up exams for the first two tests occur during the classes immediately after the scheduled exam dates. Please come to the next class with your excuses, and a teaching assistant will take you to another room to write the make-up.

For **medical illnesses**, students can present one of the following:

- **"University of Alberta Medical Statement"** signed by a doctor (*this cannot be required, but will be accepted if provided in lieu of other documents*)
- **"Medical Declaration Form for Students"** (*for Faculty of Arts students*)
- **"Statutory Declaration"** (*for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from home Faculty or the Office of the Registrar*)

For **other acceptable absences**, 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 (on letterhead) from a priest, rabbi, imam, pastor, or other recognized religious congregational leader
- For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
- For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department about appropriate documents

If you are unable to write the FINAL EXAM, you must formally apply to your Faculty office within two working days following the missed final exam in order to be considered for a deferred final examination (or as soon as you are able in regard to the circumstance underlying the absence). The decision to grant a deferred final exam is not the instructor's. *Only the student's home Faculty can grant a deferred final exam.* 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.

<p style="text-align: center;">Any student who is granted a <u>deferred final exam</u> will write the make-up at Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 9:00am. Location TBA.</p>
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Please review the amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour, especially Section 30.3.2(2). In a phrase, if I catch you cheating, then I'm coming down on you like a ton of bricks (and I have done it before). You likely will wind up in a hearing before a Dean. Believe me, it isn't worth it.

"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." Visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website to learn more about academic integrity at <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>.

A few further notes:

1. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students who require accommodation in this course due to a disability are advised to discuss their needs with Student Accessibility Services and see the U of A's policy for students with disabilities: <http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca/PoliciesandGuidelines/PolicyforStudentswithDisabilit.aspx>:

E-mail: ssdsrec@ualberta.ca

Telephone: 780 492 3381

2.

“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).”

3. Policy about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) of the University Calendar.

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS:

Below please find examples of a multiple choice exam that I gave several years ago, the format and style of which is what you can expect with the three tests. Here are some sample questions, *based upon a different text*:

MODEL MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM QUESTIONS FROM ANOTHER COURSE

Questions from Stebbins, chapter 11

11. Tolerance actually falls roughly between what two attitudes?
 - a. embracement or adoption of an activity or belief and indifference to it
 - b. indifference to an activity or belief and scorn or disdain of it
 - c. embracement or adoption of an activity or belief and scorn or disdain of it
 - d. support or adoption of an activity or belief and disapproval of it
 - e. indifference to an activity or belief and support of it

12. Habitual tolerance is _____.?
 - a. the ability to understand the roles of others while refraining, by means of personal detachment, from adopting their standpoints
 - b. tolerating (but not embracing) the stance of others because the tolerator recognizes the contributions made by disparate standpoints in understanding a complex area of interest where many issues remain unsettled.
 - c. considering the activities and beliefs to be reasonable when viewed in light of the shared perspectives of others