**Wayne State University**

**Department of Sociology**

**SOC 2204 – Outsiders and Deviants (19038)**

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Randall Wyatt, Ph.D. Candidate (randall.wyatt@wayne.edu)

Office: 2252 Faculty Administration Building

Classroom: State Hall 0114

Class time: 11:30am – 12:45 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Office hours: 1:00 pm – 2:45 pm Tuesdays

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of the sociology of deviance, including various sociological perspectives on deviance, how deviance has been and is socially constructed, and contemporary empirical research on the subject.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to do the following upon completion of this course:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic sociological concepts that pertain to the sociology of deviance.
2. Demonstrate an ability to distinguish between the various sociological perspectives for viewing deviance that will be discussed during the class.
3. Demonstrate an ability to apply concepts covered in the class to real-world scenarios.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Inderbitzin, Michelle, Bates, Kristin A., and Randy R. Gainey. *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective 2nd ed.* Sage Publications Inc.

ISBN: 978 – 1506327914

Rios, Victor. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. NYU Press: New York, New York.

ISBN: 978-0814776384

Grant, Melissa Gira. 2014. *Playing the Whore: The Work of Sex Work.* Verso: Brooklyn, New York.

Various additional readings will be provided via Canvas by the instructor in PDF form.

COURSE FORMAT

The textbook used for this course provides general information on the concepts that will be expounded upon during classroom lectures. The two proceeding books and the articles that I will provide, however, are more specific (tailored to address a topic of interest). Both are meant to generate healthy discussion and serious thinking regarding issues related to the sociology of deviance. It is imperative that students get through their weekly readings and take well crafted, organized notes in order to be successful in this course.

This class embraces a style of participatory pedagogy. This means that the exchange of knowledge is fluid in the classroom and derives from various sources. Moreover, in this format, at times the instructor and students switch places. To provide such a format, we utilize a loose but engaged lecture structure and typically provide a class meeting to discuss the ideas we cover in lecture more in-depth. Tuesdays will typically be reserved for lecture while Thursdays are usually reserved for more discussion.

I encourage students to be active participants during class meetings to get the most out of this experience. This means responding to questions proposed by the instructor with well-thought out, not vague yes or no answers, responses and inquiries that add value to the class discussion. Each week’s readings should be read prior to the class period that they are scheduled to be covered. Below are some tips for good note-taking while reading

* Organize notes: This act will keep you from mixing up ideas from the textbook with those of the articles and other books.
* Try to articulate the main point: What is the central idea that the text is attempting to convey?
* Try to draw links between texts: How does this reading relate to previous readings or lecture concepts that we have encountered?
* Keep a dictionary handy while reading: You cannot truly understand a reading if you do not know what all the words mean. This may lead to erroneous interpretations.
* Critically engage the literature: What do you think the author(s) missed in their analyses? Are there alternative perspectives available for engaging this phenomenon and how might the analyses be different if those perspectives were considered?

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Final grades in this course will be determined through assessment of your attendance and in-class participation, 4 pop-quizzes, one short paper on a film, one short paper in the form of a field report, and one midterm exam and final exam. More detailed information on these assignments follow.

**Attendance and in-class participation:** Attendance and participation will be assessed via in-class assignments and classroom engagement. Classroom engagement means providing thoughtful feedback during class lectures and discussions. Classroom engagement is not simply responding to inquiries during lecture with vague yes or no answers (see student outcomes 1 thru 3). Attendance and participation will be worth a total of 100 points. You **must** be in class to receive these points.

**Mean Girls Paper:** This assignment is a one-page paper using labelling theory to analyze the groups in a popular movie. This assignment takes a break from the monotony of assessing performance via typical exams and pop quizzes by allowing students to use the concepts covered in class to analyze a once well-received film and learn something of value at the same time. This assignment fulfills all three learning objectives. The paper is worth a total of 50 points. More information on the paper will be provided over the course of the semester.

**Pop Quizzes:** There will be a total of four short pop quizzes this semester. Quizzes will cover chapters in the textbook and will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and short answer questions. As alluded to by the word pop in the phrase ‘pop quiz’, the scheduling of these quizzes is spontaneous. Thus, it is imperative that you stay caught up on your readings to do well on these assignments (see student learning outcome 1 and 2). Each quiz is worth 25 points for a total of 100 points.

**Field Report:** This assignment will require students to go out into the field and report on the public’s response to them engaging in a harmless deviant act (e.g. dressing in a manner which society may deem odd). Students will be charged with reporting on the public’s reaction in a nuanced manner by using a sociological perspective covered in class to interpret those reactions (see student learning outcome 3). This assignment is worth a total of 50 points.

**Exams:** This semester will feature two exams to measure students’ understanding of basic sociological concepts and perspectives regarding the sociology of deviance (see student learning outcomes 1 and 2). The first will be administered mid-term, while the second will be administered during the final week of the semester. Similar to the pop quiz assignments, these exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and short answer questions, but the breadth of the exams will be much greater than the quizzes. Each exam will be 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

**Grade Chart:**

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Attendance and Participation 100

PQ 1 25

PQ 2 25

PQ 3 25

PQ 4 25

Mean Girls Paper 50

Field Report 50

Exam 1 100

Exam 2 100

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**Grades: A** (93% - 100%) **A-** (90 – 92.9%) **B+** (86 – 89.9%) **B** (83 – 85.9%) **B-** (80 – 82.9%) **C+** (76 – 79.9%) **C** (73 – 75.9%) **C-** (70 – 72.9%) **D+** (66 – 69%) **D** (63 – 65.9%) **D-** (60 – 62.9%) **F** (<60%)

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. It will be exceptionally difficult to succeed in this course without attending. Attendance and participation grades will be assessed through in class activities and/or short quizzes administered at random. Students who miss class meetings where in-class assignments are completed **cannot** make-up these assignments. Students who consistently arrive late to class (more than 15 minutes) or are otherwise unengaged will not be eligible for full participation points. There is a total of 21 classes (not including study preparation classes for midterm and finals and not including days of those tests). Each class period is worth a total of 4.76 points. Three or more unexcused absences will automatically result in a drop of one letter grade from your final grade.

**Homework Assignments.** There are only two homework assignments for this course, but students are required to complete them by the due date. Students who have difficulty with these particular assignments, or other material covered during the course of the semester, are expected to contact the instructor to discuss these problems prior to the assignment due date**.** **Assignments not completed by the due date for any reason will not be eligible for full credit and will be evaluated at the instructor’s discretion.**

**Quality is key.** If you are not already of the persuasion that you would not want to put your name on half-baked & last-minute “efforts,” may you come around soon to that way of thinking. Take pride in your work; do it well enough to claim it as your own. Any assigned written assignments should be completed in ASA format (we are sociologists). More information on ASA format can be found at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/02/>.

**Reading.** Students are required to read all course materials by the time class begins and notify the instructor if they have difficulty completing required reading. Please ask questions if you are confused by the course text.

**Office Hours.** Office hours are designed for me to answer specific questions or assist with specific aspects of an assignment. Please come to office hours with questions ready. If you think you will need more that 20 minutes of time, please schedule an appointment. Remember that office hours are purely for support or assistance with grasping concepts for which the student is having difficulty. They are meant to supplement classrooms lectures, not to replace or restate entire lectures.

**Final Grades.** Final grades submitted by the instructor are **final.** If you believe that there has been a clerical error or other mistake you may inquire for an accounting of your grade. However, grades are based solely on your scores on course assignments and **will not be arbitrarily adjusted** at the end of the term. Students who aspire for a specific grade should ask me early in the semester about whether they are on track and work proactively to achieve their desired goals.

**Academic Honesty.** Students are expected to display academic integrity in all of their work for this course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Any student suspected of dishonesty in their work will receive a zero for the assignment in question and referred to the department chair for further disciplinary action. If you have any questions about academic honesty, please contact me.

**Honor Code:** Students are bound by the Wayne State University honor code that states: “Students should exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their activities. Students should build and enhance their communities. Students should show positive regard for others, for property and for the community. Students should be given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community.”

**Registration:** Students may drop this class through September 11, 2019.  Classes that are dropped do not appear on the transcript and students receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement. Beginning the fifth week of class students are no longer allowed to drop but may withdraw from classes. It is the student’s responsibility to request the withdrawal through the registrar’s office. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F. Students must be passing at the time of the request to get a ‘WP.’ After November 10, you cannot withdraw from the course and you will receive a letter grade. Incomplete ‘I’ grades are given in very limited circumstances to students who are passing the course and cannot complete final assignments due to **extraordinary** circumstances.

**Disability:** If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. SDS’s office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department, room 103A. Their telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY only). Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. SDS’s mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

**Technology:** You can use a laptop but please be professional and aware of whether you are distracting anyone around you (or across from you!). You will be asked to leave if you are surfing the web, sending email, watching Netflix, etc. It should go without saying that you are not allowed to use your cell-phone while class is in session and will be asked to leave class for the rest of the night if you do. Besides, a break from your phone is healthy!

**Class Recordings:** Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student’s personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider public audience, such as postings to the Internet or sharing with others. Students registered with SDS who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor, who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information.

**Final note:** As a final aside, this course will cover sensitive material that may be unsettling to some. This material may pertain to race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, and a multitude of other topics that may make individuals uncomfortable. That said, there are bound to be disagreements. Some contentions that you have long held may be challenged. Disagreements do not have to equate to disrespect. I ask that everyone respect the opinions and perspectives of each other and the instructor. Refrain from relying on personal anecdotes during class discussions and try to **stay wedded to the text**. These acts may help to prevent sensitive discussions from becoming personal and emotional. We all must check our privilege at the door!

**COURSE SCHEDULE- subject to change**

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**Week 1**

Thursday 08/29: No reading! Greet and meet, cover syllabus, brief introduction to the sociology of deviance.

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**Week 2**

Tuesday 09/03: The Diversity of Deviance

Thursday 09/05: The Diversity of Deviance continued

Readings: Chapter 1 and 2 (textbook), Cooley “Looking Glass Self”

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**Week 3**

Tuesday 09/10: Anomie/ Strain Theory

Thursday 09/12: Anomie/ Strain Theory continued

Readings: Chapter 4 (textbook)

**Week 4**

Tuesday 09/17: Social Disorganization Theory

Thursday 09/19: Social Disorganization continued

Readings: Chapter 5 (textbook), Bourgois; Wacquant

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**Week 5**

Tuesday 09/24: Differential Association and Social Learning Theories

Thursday 09/26: Differential Association and Social Learning continued

Readings: Chapter 6 (textbook), Andersen

**Week 6**

Tuesday 10/01: Labeling Theory

Thursday 10/03: Viewing of Mean Girls (mean girls paper assigned)

Readings: Chapter 8 (textbook), Becker “Defining Deviance”

Film: Mean Girls

**Week 7**

Tuesday 10/08: Midterm Study Guide

Thursday 10/10: Midterm Study Guide

**Mean Girls Paper Due at 11:59 pm**

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**Week 8**

Tuesday 10/15: Midterm exam

Thursday 10/17: Critical Theories of Deviance

Readings: Chapter 10 (textbook), Du Bois

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**Week 9**

Tuesday 10/22: Field Research (no class)

Thursday 10/24: Social Control of Deviance

Readings: Chapter 11 (textbook), Alexander “The New Jim Crow”

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**Week 10**

Tuesday 10/29: Policing Black and Brown Boys

Thursday 10/31: Policing Black and Brown Boys

**Field Report Due at 11:59 pm**

Readings: Chapters 1 – 4 (Punished)

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**Week 11**

Tuesday 11/05: Policing Black and Brown Boys

Thursday 11/07: Policing Black and Brown Boys

Readings: Chapters 5 – 8 (Punished)

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**Week 12**

Tuesday 11/12: Sex Work as Work

Thursday 11/14: Sex Work as Work

Readings: Chapters 1 – 5 (Playing the Whore)

**Week 13**

Tuesday 11/19: Sex Work as Work

Thursday 11/21: Sex Work as Work

Readings: Chapters 6 – 10 (Playing the Whore)

**Week 14**

Tuesday 11/26: Making sexuality deviant

Readings: “Pathologizing homosexuality”, Seidman article

Thursday 11/28: No class

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**Week 15**

Tuesday 12/03: Final Exam Preparation

Thursday 12/05: Final Exam Preparation

**Week 16**

Tuesday 12/10: University Study day (no class)

Thursday 12/12: Final Exam