

**MCMASTER UNIVERSITY****Department of Sociology****SOCIOLOGY 2BB3**

Fall 2019  
 Wednesdays and Thursdays 4:30 – 5:20 pm  
 Class Location: ITB 137

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 Hours: Thursdays 2:30-3:30  
 OR BY APPOINTMENT

**SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE**

What is deviance? Who is deviant? Is deviance a matter of definition? Why do some people choose to conform, while others break the rules? What role does society play in generating deviance? How is deviance socially controlled? What are the consequences of being seen as a deviant? This course introduces you to how sociologists think about these and related questions. Drawing on classic and current research, the course will cover sociological perspectives on deviance and deviant behaviour.

**Text**

David Downes, P. Rock and C. McCormick. 2013. Understanding Deviance: A Guide to the Sociology of Deviance and Rule-Breaking. 2nd Canadian Edition. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

The textbook is available for purchase in the Bookstore. Links to other required readings will be posted on **Avenue to Learn** (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>) under Required Readings.

**Evaluation**1. **Mid-term Examination** (30%)

The mid-term examination will cover lectures, required readings and films. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions. The exam will take place on **Thursday, October 24.**

2. **Assignment** (30%)

Briefly, this assignment will involve an exercise that allows you to apply the theories and concepts we discuss in the course. A handout will be provided on Avenue to Learn. The assignment is due in class on **Wednesday, November 6.**

3. **Final Examination** (30%)

The final examination will follow the same format as the mid-term exam. It will consist of multiple-choice questions. The exam will include questions on only the material (lectures, required readings, films) covered in the course since the mid-term. The exam will be scheduled during the final examination period **December 6–December 19.**

4. **Tutorial Attendance** (10%)

The final component of your grade will be based on your tutorial attendance and participation. Your teaching assistant (TA) will provide you with further details. Regular attendance and participation in making the tutorial a valuable learning experience for all will deepen your understanding of the material and assist you in meeting the course requirements. Tutorials will begin the week of **September 18-19** and end the week of **November 27-28.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ASSIGNMENT AND BOTH EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

### **Course Learning Objectives**

This course addresses five of the University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see: <http://c1l.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html> ).

By the end of the course, you will:

- Understand the basic assumptions, concepts, research approaches and methods of major sociological perspectives in the study of deviance. This will expand your depth and breadth of knowledge.
- Appreciate the strengths and limitations of these perspectives as well as the connections between them.
- Be able to apply basic concepts learned to current situations and events in the community and around the world.
- Enhance your critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments.
- Enhance your oral communication skills by discussing and debating class material in tutorials.

### **Submitting Assignments**

Please submit your assignment (hard copy only) in class on the day that it is due. Your assignment should be typed and double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font. Pages must be numbered and your TA's name indicated clearly on the title page. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be reflected in the mark for the assignment.

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 5% per day for all late assignments.

Assignments will be returned to you in tutorials.

### **Review of Marks**

All assignments for the course will be marked carefully. On occasion, students disagree with the mark they receive. If this occurs, we would be happy to review the mark, provided the request is serious and the following procedure is followed. Please keep in mind that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.

1. Write a one page statement describing in detail why you think a marking error was made.
2. Submit the statement (hard copy), along with your marked assignment to your TA.
3. The request for a re-mark can be submitted no sooner than one week and no later than one month after the assignment was returned to you.
4. The TA will review your mark and get back to you with written feedback.
5. If, after this review, you continue to dispute the mark, you may submit an appeal directly to me. Include a one page statement explaining why you feel your assignment deserves a higher mark. Submit it along with the original assignment and all written feedback provided by your TA.

### **DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Faxed assignments will NOT be accepted. Do not bring assignments to the main Sociology office. The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf>) is a self-reporting tool for undergraduate students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note that this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you must visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should also check the Sociology Department web site, white board and Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorials class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and University reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-Mail Communication Policy**

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

### **Additional Information**

Your final mark will be converted to a letter grade according to the scale used by the Registrar and available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

If you would like to explore strategies for successful learning and learn more about time management, note-taking, keeping up with readings, and taking multiple choice tests, you will find useful information at

the web site for Student Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>).

### **Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the *Academic Integrity Policy*, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE**

The following schedule is meant to provide a sense of order and direction. We may modify it slightly as we move through the material. Announcements about any such change will be made in class and on the course website.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic and Readings</b>
September 4-5	<b>Introduction</b>
September 11-12	<b>Defining and Studying Deviance</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1: Confusion and Diversity</li> <li>• Chapter 2 Sources of Knowledge about Deviance</li> </ul>
September 18-19	<b>Social Disorganization and Differential Association Theory</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 3: The University of Chicago School</li> <li>• Chapter 6: The Neutralization Theory of Matza. Pp. 133-134.</li> <li>• Veronyka James and Jennifer Gossett. Of Monsters and Men: Examining Serial Murderers' Discourses of Neutralization</li> </ul>
September 25-26	<b>Functions of Deviance and Anomie Theory</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4: Functionalism, Deviance and Control</li> <li>• Chapter 5: Anomie</li> <li>• Chapter 6: Deviance, Culture and Subculture. Pp. 130-133</li> </ul>
October 2-3	<b>Control Theories</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9: Control Theories</li> </ul>
October 9-10	<b>Conflict Theories of Deviance</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6: Culture Conflict Theory and Class Conflict Theory. Pp. 139-154.</li> <li>• Chapter 10: Radical Theories of Deviance</li> <li>• Chapter 11: Feminist Approaches to Deviance</li> </ul>
October 16-17	<b>MID-TERM RECESS</b>
October 23	<b>Review</b>
October 24	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>

October 30-31	<p><b>Symbolic Interactionism and Labeling Theory</b></p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Chapter 7: Symbolic Interactionism</p>
November 6-7	<p><b>Informal and Formal Labeling</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Lynch. Accommodation Practices: Vernacular Treatments of Madness</li> <li>• Lisa Frohmann. Discrediting Victims' Allegations of Sexual Assault: Prosecutorial Accounts of Case Rejections</li> </ul>
November 13-14	<p><b>Stigma and Stigma Management</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anne Roschelle and Peter Kaufman. Fitting In and Fighting Back: Stigma Management Strategies Among Homeless Children</li> <li>• Savio Gianmarco. Organization and Stigma Management: A Comparative Study of Dumpster Divers in New York</li> </ul>
November 20-21	<p><b>Social Constructionism and Medicalization</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8: Phenomenology</li> <li>• Joel Best. The Constructionist Stance</li> <li>• Peter Conrad and Deborah Potter. From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults: Observations on the Expansion of Medical Categories.</li> </ul>
November 27-28	<p><b>Demedicalization</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Weinberg, Colin Williams and Bo Laurent. Medicalizing and Demedicalizing Hermaphroditism</li> </ul>
December 4	<p><b>Wrap Up and Review</b></p>