SOCIOLOGY 170: DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

In this course students will be exposed to the varied behaviors considered deviant in contemporary and historical Western societies, the ambiguous and socially-constructed nature of deviance, and the development of public policies for the control of deviant acts. Specific themes include the definition and measurement of deviance, theories of deviant behavior, the structure of deviant careers, and the development of social control strategies in contemporary society.

Course organization and requirements: Class will meet twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday 11-12:15 a.m. All readings listed below are required. Students will complete a take-home midterm (five pages, typed) and an in-class multiple choice final exam. No exemptions from the scheduled due-dates and final examination time will be permitted without a valid medical excuse. The midterm and final will each count for half of your course grade. Students who receive less than an A- on the midterm are required to revise it under the guidance of the TA and to resubmit it at the end of the course. Your final grade will be based on the higher of the two midterm grades.

The following required books are available at the UCen bookstore, and are on reserve at RBR:


Other readings are available for download on EReserves: [http://eres.library.ucsb.edu/eres/](http://eres.library.ucsb.edu/eres/). The ERes password for this course is *corndog.* The midterm exam, lecture slides, and a study guide for the final exam will be posted on the Soc 170 GauchoSpace page [https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/](https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/courses/). Please check it regularly.

I do not take roll in this course, but it will be impossible for you to understand the material and to do a good job on the assignments if you do not attend lectures regularly, pay attention, and participate. The lecture slides are not a substitute for the lectures themselves—they provide only an outline, and contain very little information.

Schedule and Readings

I. INTRODUCTION: PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION AND MEASUREMENT

A. Sick, bad, stupid, and ugly: Defining deviance and social control (Sept. 27)

Becker, ch. 1
Erikson, ch. 1
Fish, “Norms and Deviations: Who’s to Say?”
(http://fish.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/01/norms-and-deviations-whos-to-say/)

B. Conceptualizing and studying deviance (Oct. 2)

Goffman, “Stigma and Social Identity”
II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: THE PRODUCTION OF DEVIANCE

A. Deviance as a cultural process: boundary-maintenance and ritual (Oct. 4-9)
   Durkheim, "The Normal and the Pathological"
   Foucault, “The Body of the Condemned”
   Alexander, "Culture and Political Crisis: 'Watergate' and Durkheimian Sociology"

B. Deviance as a political process: the state, social movements, and professions (Oct. 11-16)
   Erikson, ch. 2-4 (required); ch. 5 (recommended)
   Becker, ch. 7-8
   Beisel, “Constructing a Shifting Moral Boundary: Literature and Obscenity in Nineteenth Century America”

C. Deviance as an interactional process: labeling and societal reaction (Oct. 18-23)
   Lemert, "The Concept of Secondary Deviation"
   Lemert, "Paranoia and the Dynamics of Exclusion"
   Becker, ch. 2, 9, 10

*** October 23: midterm examination posted ***

III. DEVIANT SOCIALIZATION AND DEVIANT CAREERS

A. Case example: the social construction of freaks (Oct. 25-30—film and discussion; no readings)

*** October 30: Midterms due ***

B. The acquisition and management of deviant identities (Nov. 1-6)
   Becker, ch. 3, 5-6
   Lemert, "Role Enactment, Self, and Identity in the Systematic Check-Forger"
   Murphy, Waldorf, and Reinarman, "Drifting Into Dealing: Becoming a Cocaine Seller"

C. Social control as classification (Nov. 8-13)
   Scheff, "The Societal Reaction to Deviance"
   McBarnet, "Whiter than White Collar Crime: Tax, Fraud Insurance and the Management of Stigma"
   Jeffery, “Normal Rubbish”

IV. EXPLORATIONS

A. Violence (Nov. 15-20)
   Scully and Marolla, "Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive"
   Ferraro and Johnson, "How Women Experience Battering"
Katz, “Righteous Slaughter”

B. Alcohol and drug abuse (Nov. 27-29)

Becker, ch. 4
Reinarman, "The Social Construction of an Alcohol Problem"
Nadelmann, "Drug Prohibition in the United States: Costs, Consequences, and Alternatives"
Massing, "What Ever Happened to the 'War on Drugs'?

*** Revised midterms due November 29 ***

C. Mental illness (Dec. 4-6)

Lemert, "Paranoia" (review)
Goffman, "The Moral Career of the Mental Patient"
Scull, "The Asylum as Community or the Community as Asylum: Paradoxes and Contradictions of Mental Health Care"

*** Final exam study guide posted December 6 ***

*** Final examination: Wednesday December 12, 12-3 p.m. ***
# Sociology 170

## Tentative Schedule

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<th>Meeting</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>I.A. Introduction: sick, bad, stupid, and ugly</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>I.B. Conceptualizing and studying deviance</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>II.A. Deviance as a cultural process</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>II.B. Deviance as a political process</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>II.C. Deviance as an interactional process</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 23</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>III.A. Freaks</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>III.B. Acquisition and management of deviant identities</td>
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<td>Nov 22</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>IV.B. Alcohol and drug abuse</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Revised midterms due</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Dec 4</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Final exam study guide posted</td>
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Dec 12      Final exam: 12-3 p.m.