

SOCIOLOGY 2BB3 **Sociology of Deviance**

Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Rhona Shaw

Email: shawrm@mcmaster.ca

Echo 360 Lectures: **Posted every Monday & Wednesday by 3:00PM**

Office Hours: Virtual via Zoom

Course Description

This course focuses on important foundational sociological theories of deviant behaviour. We begin with a discussion of biological approaches to studying deviance in order to understand how they differ from a sociological approach and understanding. We then move on to an analysis of early sociological theories – The Chicago School and Structural Functionalism, followed by more contemporary approaches that are Neo-Marxist, Symbolic Interactionist, Feminist and Foucauldian. Finally, we will discuss a number of key and important topics in the sociology of deviance such as moral panics, white collar crime, British and American youth subcultures and gangs, and mental illness as deviant behaviour.

Course Learning Objectives

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, <http://cill.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>). First, theories of deviance are multiple and diverse in their conceptualizations and truth claims. Acquiring knowledge of these diverse theories will expand students' depth and breadth of knowledge of this field of inquiry. Second, there is no single theory (including sociological theories) that has been accepted as the final or best approach to explaining the complexities of deviant behaviour. As such, this course requires that students consider and critically evaluate all competing theoretical approaches. In so doing, students will gain an awareness of the complexities and limits of knowledge regarding human deviant behaviour. Finally, this course will encourage students to discuss theoretical and practical issues in class. Grading for this course is outlined below. In each case, the student's communication skills will be challenged as well as enhanced.

Important Note: Introductory Sociology (1A06, 1C03 or 1Z03) is a prerequisite for this class, or with my permission.

Required Readings

All required readings and course materials (documentaries) are available via *eReserves* on Avenue to Learn (AVE) in the Content section.

Course Policies

Evaluation

1. Written Assignment #1 (10%)

Answer questions related to the documentary *Grass*. **Assignment is due WEDNESDAY MAY 17TH 2023 by 11:59pm. Submit on AVE, in Assessments folder.** The documentary can be accessed through eReserves.

2. Midterm Exam (30%)

The exam will cover lecture and tutorial material, required readings, and content from films, etc., and will consist of multiple-choice, true & false and short answer questions. ***The midterm exam will be online during class time, WEDNESDAY MAY 24TH 2023 from 1:00 – 3:00PM.***

3. Written Assignment (30%)

Analyzing 2 news reports using 2 different theoretical perspectives. Details posted on AVE in the Content section. ***Assignment is due WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH 2023. Upload your report to AVE in the Assignments folder by 11:59pm.***

4. Final Examination (30%)

The format for the final exam will be the same as the mid-term. You will be responsible only for the material covered after the mid-term exam. ***The final exam will be online during class time WEDNESDAY JUNE 14TH 2023 from 1:00 – 3:00PM.***

Additional Information on Assignments

Assignments must be uploaded to AVE by the assigned deadline on the course schedule. All pages must be numbered and have 1" margins on all sides. All text should be either single or double-spaced (depending on the assignment) in an easy-to-read 12-point font. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will be reflected in the mark for the assignment. More details to follow in lecture and in the assignment instructions.

Late Assignments and Absences

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 5 days. This form allows students to request accommodation for any missed academic work. This tool cannot be used during any 3 final examination period. You may submit a maximum of one 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 5 classes, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a non-medical reason, you must visit the office of the Associate Dean of your Faculty. You may be required to provide supporting documentation. Any disruption this causes to turning in assignments on time, completing exams, and so forth, must be addressed directly with me as soon as possible. ***For late assignments without approved excuses, you must make arrangements directly with me to submit the assignment.*** Assignments will be marked down 5 percentage points for each day it is late, including weekend days and holidays. ***I will NOT accept late assignments that are 3 or more days late. You will be awarded a mark of 0 for assignments submitted after the 3rd day.***

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Avenue to Learn (AVE)

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names,

usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

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](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

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

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](#) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, 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.

Course Modification

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.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, AVE and/or McMaster email.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-89	A

MARK	GRADE
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Review of Marks

We will be diligent in marking all assignments fairly and accurately. Nonetheless, occasionally students disagree with the marks they receive. When this occurs, we will be happy to review the mark of any assignment or exam. *Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.*

Email – use shawrm@mcmaster.ca only

Please consider email equivalent to any other form of written communication. Students who write to their professors and teaching assistants are expected to follow rules of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition, please include a proper greeting, such as "**Dear Dr. Shaw,**" and a closing that includes your full name and *the course you are taking*. Emails failing to meet these standards may be returned unanswered. *Email containing questions that can be answered by referring to this syllabus or to Avenue to Learn may not be answered. All email communication must come from your mcmaster.ca email account. Please maintain a continuous email thread if discussing an ongoing topic or concern.*

Term 1 Week No.	TOPICS & READINGS
Week 1 Mon May 1 st Watch documentary Grass – in eReserves Wed May 3 rd	Introduction & Overview of course Positivist and Constructionist Approaches to deviance Readings: (i) Thio et al. Chapter 1: What is Deviant Behaviour. Theories of Deviance - Biological and Physiological Theories Readings: (i) Deutschmann, L. Chapter 5. Biological and physiological explanations of deviance: The body did it.
Week 2 Mon May 8 th Wed May 10 th	Structural Functionalism – Anomie & Social Control Readings: (i) Hilbert, R. Durkheim and Merton on Anomie: An Unexplored contrast and its derivatives. (ii) Ziyanak, S. and J. Williams. Functionalist perspectives on deviance. The Chicago School – Social Disorganization & Differential Association Readings: (i) Downes et al., Chapter 3 – The University of Chicago School. Pg. 51 – 76.
Week 3 Mon May 15 th Wed May 17th	Conflict Theories I - the Neo-Marxists Readings: (i) Deutschmann, L. Chapter 7 Conflict Theories I – Contemporary Marxism, Left Realism, Peacemaking, and Postmodernism. Conflict Theories II - Neo-Liberal & Feminist Theories Readings: (i) Downes et al., Chapter 11 – Feminist Criminology History of Weed Assignment due on AVE, upload to Assignments folder by 11:59PM
Week 4 Mon May 22 nd Wed May 24 th	<p style="text-align: center;">VICTORIA DAY – NO CLASS</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">MIDTERM EXAM 1:00 – 3:00PM ONLINE</p>
Week 5 Mon May 29 th Wed May 31 st	Labeling Theory and Social Constructionism – Social Problems Readings: (i) Plummer, K. Labeling Theory. (ii) Best J. The Constructionist Stance. Moral Panics Readings: (i) Rinarman, C. The social construction of drug scares.

<p>Week 6 Mon June 5th</p> <p>Wed June 7th Newspaper Assignment due</p>	<p>Discipline and Punishment - Foucault Readings: (i) Foucault, M. 1. The body of the condemned, pgs. 3 – 31.</p> <p>White Collar Crime Readings: (i) Sutherland, E. White collar criminality.</p>
<p>Week 7 Mon June 12th</p>	<p>Deviant Subcultures & Gangs Readings: (i) The skinheads. An English working class culture.</p>
<p>Wed June 14th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAM 1:00 – 3:00PM ONLINE</p>