Deviance  
CJS 102  
Spring 2018  
Westminster College

Professor: Jamie Chapman, PhD  
Office: Patterson Hall 307  
Office hours: Mon 2-3p, Tues 9:30a-11:30a, and by appointment  
Email: chapmajj@westminster.edu

Class Location: Patterson Hall 205  
Meeting times: MWF 12:50-1:50p  
Phone: (724) 946-6302

Course Description:
Welcome to CJS 102 Deviance. This course adopts a sociological approach to understanding social deviance. During the semester we will ask and answer several questions about deviance. First, why are some behaviors considered deviant? We will examine the ways in which social power and social location influence who and what is considered deviant. Second, how has deviance changed over time? We will discuss the history of deviance, stretching back to the Salem witch trials and up through the War on Drugs in the contemporary era. Third, how are deviance and crime related? To this end, we will consider the role of the state in codifying some behaviors as deviant with special attention paid to the purpose of law. The biggest question will be: Why do some people behave in deviant (and non-deviant) ways? We will examine sociological and criminological explanations of deviant behavior to answer this.

Course Objectives:
1. Illustrate ability to discern between absolutist and relativist definitions of deviance. (exams, quizzes)  
2. Differentiate between crime and deviance, and examine the role of the state in regulating behavior. (exams, quizzes)  
3. Demonstrate understanding of the processes involved in creating norms and the social meaning attached to breaking those norms (social deviance). (exams, quizzes)  
4. Use empirical data to supports claims regarding patterns in crime and deviance. (final paper and final presentation)  
5. Develop a working knowledge of sociological/criminological theories of deviance. (exams, quizzes, final paper and final presentation)  
6. Examine how social location influences what and who is defined as normative and, conversely, deviant. (final paper and final presentation)  
7. Apply theoretical ideas to selected case studies. (exams, quizzes)  
8. Examine and evaluate how we, as a society, respond to deviance. (final paper and final presentation)  
9. Discover and evaluate one’s own ideas and positions concerning deviance. (final paper and final presentation)

Required Readings

*additional required readings will be made available to students through D2L

Course Format:
This course will consist of lecture, classroom discussions, media presentations, in-class activities and a final presentation. Students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in textual analysis and theoretical application.
Student Requirements: How to succeed in this class:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Due to the sheer volume and complexity of the material in this class, regular attendance is essential for success in this course. I reserve the right to lower final grades in the case of excess absences (more than three excused) or excessive tardiness. You are responsible for signing an attendance sheet that will be distributed.

2. Complete assigned reading and be prepared to engage in discussion/ in-class activities. Completing the assigned reading not only prepares you for discussion, but also enables you to seek clarification on topics that are not clear. While I encourage the academic expression of informed opinions during discussion and in-class activities, I will not condone intentionally offensive or aggressive behavior towards others. Please be respectful of yourself, as well as those around you.

3. **Technology Policy:** This class adopts a free learning environment policy, meaning that everyone is free to learn without disruptions. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices that could be distracting to others before class or simply set them to silent if you are waiting for a crucial call or text. If you need to answer the call or respond to the text message, please exit the classroom to do so and return when you are finished. Socially constructing a free learning environment demonstrates your commitment to your individual academic success, your respect for the professor and your respect for your academic colleagues.

4. Take notes of the main topics covered during lectures, discussion and media presentations. Taking notes provides you with a study tool for quizzes and exams.

5. Complete exams, quizzes and other assignments on time.

6. **Judicious use of email:** please be advised that I will only read and respond to my email during regular work hours on weekdays. I ask that you communicate with me via email only for urgent matters that cannot be addressed in person before or after the class period, or during my office hours. In addition, please identify yourself and this class in any email correspondence with me.

### Course Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Activities</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
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Grading Scale:

- **A** “Outstanding”  94-100 %
- **A-**  90-93 %
- **B+** “Superior”  88-89%
- **B**  84-87%
- **B-**  80-83%
- **C+** “Satisfactory”  78-79%
- **C**  74-77%
- **C-**  70-73%
- **D+** “Passing, but inferior”  68-69%
- **D**  60-67%
- **F** “Failure”  Below 60%

**Bonus and extra credit:** The opportunity to earn bonus points or extra credit may arise throughout the course. In such a case, they will be explained by the Professor. Any extra credit opportunity will be made available to the entire class and will not be offered on an individual basis.

**Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is part of good character and is central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community. Thus, all members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College. All members of the Westminster community are expected to be familiar with and to abide by the College policy and procedures described in the Undergraduate Catalogue. For more details please go to the following website: [http://www.westminster.edu/admissions/graduate/graduateethics.cfm](http://www.westminster.edu/admissions/graduate/graduateethics.cfm).

Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of this code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misconduct, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty breaks the sense of trust that is central to a vital educational community like Westminster. Dishonesty in any of these forms will not be tolerated. Students who engage in academic dishonesty face the penalties outlined in the College policy. In addition, all violations will be reported to the office of Academic Affairs. **Work that you submit in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism prevention service that also provides educational information on how to practice honesty in the conduct of research and writing of papers.**

If you are unsure about what does and does not constitute plagiarism, please ask me. You may also find it helpful to check out Paul Hasselbee’s “A Primer on Plagiarism”: [http://www.suu.edu/faculty/husselbee/Plagiarism%20Primer.pdf](http://www.suu.edu/faculty/husselbee/Plagiarism%20Primer.pdf).

For the purpose of this course, I expect you to **do your own work** unless collaboration with others is required, allowed, or encouraged for a particular assignment. I also expect you to do **original work** for this course. This means that you may not submit work used for another course for the purpose of fulfilling requirements in this course, unless specific arrangements are made with me and you also have the permission of the other instructor. Behaving with academic integrity also means that you put forth your **fair share of effort into group discussions and group work** undertaken in this course. See me if you are unclear about the meaning of any elements of this code.
Inclusion Policy: Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Ms. Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, in 209 Thompson Clark Hall, at (724) 946-7192 or at craigfa@westminster.edu.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be accepted. For every day that an assignment is late (including weekend days) five points will be deducted. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by the beginning of class time on the day that they are due.

Recording devices: Due to the potential confidentiality issues associated with discussion material in this course, no recording devices are permitted without prior written approval/consent of Dr. Chapman.

Inclement weather and class cancellation: We experience severe winter weather in Northwest Pennsylvania. The procedure for cancelling class will be as follows: Dr. Chapman will notify students via email about the class cancellation and the substitute assignment (if applicable).

Tentative Outline (Subject to Change at the discretion of the Professor)

Week 1: Introduction

Wednesday 1/7 – Introduction and Review of the Syllabus
   General Introduction, pp. 1-9
   “Defining Deviance”, pp. 11-15

Friday 1/9 – In-class activity: Deviance Theory Exercise
   *Outside Textbook Chapter – “Deviance vs. Crime”, pp. 228-240

Readings available on D2L will be indicated with an “*”

Week 2: Theories of Deviance

Monday 1/22 – * “Deviant Behavior and Social Reaction”, pp. 542-577

Wednesday 1/24 – “Theories of Deviance”, pp. 57-72
   “Relativism: Labeling Theory”, pp. 41-45 (Becker)

Friday 1/26 – “Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime”, pp. 51-56 (Quinney)
   “Social Structure and Anomie”, pp. 78-84 (Merton)

Week 3: Theories of Deviance and the Social Construction of Deviance

Monday 1/29 – “Functionalism: The Normal and the Pathological”, pp. 73-77 (Durkheim)
   “Differential Association”, pp. 85-88 (Sutherland and Cressey)

Wednesday 1/31 – Control Theory”, pp. 89-97 (Hirschi)

Friday 2/2 – Lecture: Breaching experiments
   “Constructing Deviance”, pp. 149-157
Week 4: Researching Deviance

Wednesday 2/7 – “Researching Dealers and Smugglers”, pp. 132-147

Friday 2/9 – “The Mark of a Criminal Record”, pp. 211-222
“The Saints and the Roughnecks”, pp. 223-236

Week 5

Monday 2/12 – Catch-up

Wednesday 2/14– Review for exam 1

Friday 2/16 – Exam #1

Week 6:
Monday 2/19– Lecture: Deviance and the Salem Witchcraft trials

Wednesday 2/21 – “Feminist Theory”, pp. 98-104
“Gender, Race, and Urban Policing”, pp. 189-199

Friday 2/23– *Outside book – Intro from Can’t Catch a Break pp. 1-19

Week 7 Deviant Identity and Stigma
Monday 2/26 - “Deviant Identity”, pp. 247-256


Friday 3/2 – “Drug Use and Disordered Eating Among College Women”, pp. 389-400
“Obstacles to Exiting Emotional Disorder Identities”, pp. 575-585

Week 8:
Spring Break 3/5-3/9

Week 9: Neutralization techniques
Monday 3/12 – “The Devil Made Me Do It: Use of Neutralizations by Shoplifters”, pp. 308-316
“Convicted Rapists’ Vocabulary of Motive”, pp. 291-307

Wednesday 3/14 - *Outside Reading – “Becoming a Hitman”

Friday 3/16 – Continue to discuss Neutralization techniques

Week 10: The Organization of Deviance
Monday 3/19–“The Social Organization of Deviance”, pp. 381-388
Wednesday 3/21 – “Cooks are like Gods: Hierarchies in Methamphetamine-Producing Groups”, pp. 409-418

Friday 3/23 – “Cyber Communities of Self-Injury”, pp. 401-409

Week 11:

Monday 3/26 – Catch up and review for Exam #2

Wednesday 3/28 – Exam #2

Friday 3/30 – Easter Break

Week 12: Sexual Deviance, Stigma and Sex Work

Monday 4/2 – Easter Break

Tuesday 4/3 – Follow Monday’s schedule
   Show Me the Money: Cybershrews and On-line Money Masochists”, pp. 485-493

Wednesday 4/4 – “Trading Sex for Crack: Gender and Power”, pp. 475-484

Friday 4/6 – In-class exercise

Week 13: Medical Deviance

Monday 4/9 – Lecture: Elective Medical Procedures

Wednesday 4/11 – *Outside Book Chapter 13: Physical Disabilities – from The Sociology of Deviance

Friday 4/13 – Continue discussing Physical Disabilities

Week 14: Medical Deviance Continued

Monday 4/16 – *“The Social Construction of Mental Illness as a Criminal Justice Problem” (required)
   *Outside Book Chapter 14: Mental Disorders – from The Sociology of Deviance
   (Supplementary)

Wednesday 4/18 – No class – Attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium

Friday 4/20 – Quiz 3

****Papers are due 4/20 in class – both a hard copy and a digital copy turned in to D2L

Week 15: Medical Deviance Continued

Monday 4/23 – Catch-up

Wednesday 4/25 – Review for exam #3

Friday 4/27 – Exam #3

Week 16: Final Week

Final Exam Period: Student Presentations