Deviance
CJS 102
Spring 2018
Westminster College

Professor: Jessica Spradley, M.A.             Class Location: Patterson Hall 105
Office: Patterson Hall 307               Meeting times: M,W- Online; F 12:50-1:50p
Office hours: Friday 11-12:50 and by appointment
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Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.
~John Dewey

Course Description:
Welcome to CJS 102 Deviance. This course adopts a sociological approach to understanding social deviance. We will review a basic understanding of Sociological concepts to create a foundation of understanding. 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 and finish 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, journals and discussion posts)
2. Differentiate between crime and deviance and examine the role of the state in regulating behavior. (exams, journals and discussion posts)
3. Demonstrate understanding of the processes involved in creating norms and the social meaning attached to breaking those norms (social deviance). (exams, journals and discussion posts)
4. Use empirical data to supports claims regarding patterns in crime and deviance. (final presentation)
5. Develop a working knowledge of sociological/criminological theories of deviance. (exams, discussion posts and final presentation)
6. Examine how social location influences what and who is defined as normative and, conversely, deviant. (final presentation)
7. Apply theoretical ideas to selected case studies. (exams, journals and discussion posts)
8. Examine and evaluate how we, as a society, respond to deviance. (final presentation)
9. Discover and evaluate one’s own ideas and positions concerning deviance. (final presentation)

Required Readings

*additional required readings will be made available to students through D2L if assigned
**Course Format:**
This is a hybrid course. It will consist of lecture, in-class and online discussions, media presentations, in-class and online activities, online journals, discussion boards 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 and that we are only meeting in-class once per week, 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 the attendance sheet that will be distributed.

2. Complete assigned reading and be prepared to engage in discussion posts and 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 do 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 the class period or during my office hours. In addition, please identify yourself and this class in any email correspondence with me.

7. **Discussion Boards:** The discussion weeks in this course will run each week from Sunday through Saturday at 11:59 p.m. You should understand up front that this class may require more discussion participation than other online classes you may have taken. The subject of Sociology is not like basic math where assignments are due and answers are either right or wrong. The discussion requirements in this class are not negotiable. It is your responsibility to meet the requirements as they are. Your grade will reflect your ability to meet these requirements.

**HOW DOES DISCUSSION WORK IN THIS COURSE?**
Discussion questions for the semester are posted in separate forums for each week in the weekly folder on D2L (ex. First discussion board will be located in week 1 folder). Weekly discussion will begin no earlier than Sunday of each week. Your Weekly Discussion grade is based on your response to these questions and to your classmates throughout each week. You may choose to work ahead and save your work; however DO NOT post anything in the weekly forum until the week begins on Sunday; otherwise we will all be overwhelmed by multiple discussions. Whereas in a classroom you would listen to what your classmates have to say, in an online class, you have to read what they have to say. Therefore, you are responsible for reading every message
posted on D2L, whether you think it pertains to you or not. Doing this not only helps you to understand the material better, but many times I will answer questions or bring up important material in a response to another student and it may not come up elsewhere. After the first couple of weeks, you should be spending more time on the messages that are most important to you and be able to skim the other messages for important information.

**WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?**

Every week, you are expected to:

- Submit at least one substantive original post per discussion week. Substantive means that you must take time in formulating your response, organizing your own thoughts and incorporating the reading materials, (you should be citing parts of the book and/or other reading materials in your posts). You must demonstrate evidence of critical thinking and prompt further discussion of the topics among your classmates.

- Submit at least two additional posts directly to your classmates. These posts may be shorter than your two substantive responses, but must be more significant than one-word responses. This is your opportunity to discuss the information further with your classmates or to discuss whether you agree or disagree and state why or why not. Remember to stay on or at least close to the topic of sociology. (For example: “I love shopping at Walmart” is not an appropriate response in a discussion about economic impact of large corporations in small communities). Try to focus on meaningful discussion vs. your number of posts, otherwise it becomes clear that you are posting just to try to meet the requirements.

**WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO I POST?**

In addition to quality, also included in your grade is the frequency with which you are “in class,” in other words the amount of times you log onto D2L and participate throughout each week. I keep a close eye on this. Although some students choose to log on every day, that is NOT a requirement for this class! Once you are in a routine, the requirements should be very reasonable. In order to earn full points, you are required to participate at least once between each Sunday and Wednesday and once between each Thursday and Saturday of every discussion week (your additional posts can fall anywhere during the week). Here are some guidelines to help you with your participation each week.

- Log on by each Sunday afternoon and read the activities/assignments for the week.
- Post your first substantive response between Sunday and Wednesday.
- Post some replies to your classmates between Thursday and Saturday, finishing up the discussion by Saturday at 11:59 p.m.
- Do not fall into the cycle of waiting until the last minute to participate! Students who only participate on the last couple of days of our discussion week consistently earn minimum points. It is also disrespectful to your classmates who have taken the time to participate all week!

**DISCUSSION POSTS CAN’T BE MADE UP…ever!**

Our discussion weeks end on Saturdays at 11:59 p.m. Any posts made to the weekly discussion after this time will not count toward your weekly point total. And, unless you absolutely have to make another statement, please refrain from posting anything after the deadline. It is inconsiderate to your fellow students who are ready to move on to the next week and have to go back to read late posts. Weekly discussion is the opportunity for the class to discuss the topics each week. Therefore, there are no opportunities for you to make up a week of discussion if you miss one.

**8. Journals:** These posts will be submitted and will be viewed only by the instructor. Other students in the course will not be responding to this post. The guidelines follow the same outline as the discussion post description below. The point value for your journal submission is 25 points per week.

**9. Exams:** There will be 3 exams in this course. They will be available from 12-10pm every Friday during the date assigned. Each exam will encompass material that has been covered since the last exam. We will have an extensive review process to make sure you are prepared for each exam and the material has been covered more than one time.
Course Evaluation:

% of Final Grade

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<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Journal Responses</td>
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<td>Final Presentation</td>
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<td>In Class Activities</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.

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 dishonest 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 Prof. Spradley.**

**Inclement weather and class cancellation:** We experience severe winter weather in Northwest Pennsylvania. The procedure for cancelling class will be as follows: Prof. Spradley 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**

**Monday 8/27 –**
Online Introduction Post
Reading:
“General Introduction”, pp. 1-9

**Wednesday 8/29 –**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Defining Deviance”, pp. 11-15

**Friday 8/31 –**
Introduction and Review of the Syllabus
Crash Course in Sociology Video

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**Week 2: Theories of Deviance**

**Monday 9/3 –**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Theories of Deviance”, pp. 57-72

**Wednesday 9/5 –**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Relativism: Labeling Theory”, pp. 41-45 (Becker)

**Friday 9/7 –**
Review, Lecture, Activity
Reading:
“Social Power: Conflict Theory of Crime”, pp. 51-56 (Quinney)
“Social Structure and Anomie”, pp. 78-84 (Merton)

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

**Monday 9/10 –**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Functionalism: The Normal and the Pathological”, pp. 73-77 (Durkheim)
“Differential Association”, pp. 85-88 (Sutherland and Cressey)

**Wednesday 9/12 –**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Control Theory”, pp. 89-97 (Hirschi)

Friday 9/14 –
Review, Lecture, Activity
Reading:
“Constructing Deviance”, pp. 149-157

**Week 4: Researching Deviance**

**Monday 9/17 –**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“The Social Construction of Drug Scares”, pp. 159-170

**Wednesday 9/19 –**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Researching Dealers and Smugglers”, pp. 132-147

**Friday 9/21 –**
Review, Lecture, Activity
Reading:
“The Mark of a Criminal Record”, pp. 211-222
“The Saints and the Roughnecks”, pp. 223-236

**Week 5**

**Monday 9/24 –**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Catch-up

**Wednesday 9/26 –**
Original Post Due
Review for exam 1

**Friday 9/28 –**
Review, Lecture, Activity
Exam #1 -Online

**Week 6: Differential Social Power**

**Monday 10/1 –**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Feminist Theory”, pp. 98-104

**Wednesday 10/3 –**
Original Post Due
Reading:
Friday 10/5 –
Review, Lecture, Activity

**Week 7 Deviant Identity and Stigma**

Monday 10/8 –
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Deviant Identity”, pp. 247-256

Wednesday 10/10 –
Original Post Due
Reading:
“The Adoption and Management of a “Fat” Identity”, pp. 257-267

Friday 10/12 –
Review, Lecture, Activity
Reading:
“Drug Use and Disordered Eating Among College Women”, pp. 389-400
“Obstacles to Exiting Emotional Disorder Identities”, pp. 575-585

**Week 8: Narrations of Deviance**

Monday 10/15 –
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Is Chris Brown’s rehabilitation now complete?”

Wednesday 10/17 –
Original Post Due
Reading Activity:
Find and submit the narrative of a current deviant act.

Friday 10/19 –
In-class discussion of deviant narratives

**Week 9: Neutralization techniques**

Monday 10/22 –
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
"The Devil Made Me Do It: Use of Neutralizations by Shoplifters", pp. 308-316

**Wednesday 10/24**
Original Post Due
Reading:
*Outside Reading – “Becoming a Marihuana User”

**Friday 10/26**
Review, Lecture, Activity

**Week 10: The Organization of Deviance**

**Monday 10/29** – FALL BREAK

**Wednesday 10/31**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“The Social Organization of Deviance”, pp. 381-388

**Friday 11/2**
Review, Lecture, Activity
Reading:
“Cyber Communities of Self-Injury”, pp. 401-409
“Cooks are like Gods: Hierarchies in Methamphetamine-Producing Groups”, pp. 409-418

**Week 11: Review Week**

**Monday 11/5**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Catch up and review for Exam #2

**Wednesday 11/7**
Review

**Friday 11/9**
Review, Lecture, Activity
Exam #2 -Online

**Week 12: Sexual Deviance, Stigma and Sex Work**

**Monday 11/12**
Journal and Post Responses Due
Reading:
“Show Me the Money: Cybershrews and On-line Money Masochists”, pp. 485-493

**Wednesday 11/14**
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Trading Sex for Crack: Gender and Power”, pp. 475–484

Friday 11/16 –
Review, Lecture, Activity

**Week 13**

Monday 11/19 –
Journal and Post Responses Due
Catch Up

Wednesday 11/21 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Friday 11/23 - THANKSGIVING BREAK

**Week 14: Exiting Deviance**

Monday 11/26 –
Reading:
“Shifts and Oscillations in Upper-Level Drug ‘Traffickers’ Careers 562-574

Wednesday 11/28 –
Original Post Due
Reading:
“Obstacles to Exiting Emotional Disorder Identities: 575-585

Friday 11/30 –
Review, Lecture, Activity
*Review of Presentation Guidelines*

**Week 15: Review Week**

Monday 12/3 -
Journal and Post Responses Due
Review

Wednesday 12/5 –
Review

Friday 12/7 –
Review
Exam 3 - Online

**Week 16: Final Week**
Final Exam - Monday 12/10 at 8a-10:30a
Final Exam Period: Student Presentations