



SOC*2070 Social Deviance

Summer 2024

Section: DE01

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Credit Weight: 0.50

Course Details

Calendar Description

An introduction to some of the basic theories of deviance and social control and their application to selected social problems.

Pre-Requisite(s): SOC*1100 or SOC*1500

Co-Requisite(s): None

Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs or specializations. Please see the departmental website.

Method of Delivery: Distance Education (asynchronous online)

Online Final Exam

Date: Tuesday, August 06, 2024

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm ET

Note: Please read the important information about exam timing in the **Assessment Description** section under **Final Exam** in this Outline.

Location: Online via the **Quizzes** tool in CourseLink using Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor

Instructional Support

Norman Dubeski

Email: ndubeski@uoguelph.ca

I have been teaching this course since 2002 and look forward to learning something new each time—often from my students! I enjoy the collaborative learning environment that DE provides and I often learn some very interesting things from chatting with you all.

Office Hours & Instructor Communication: There are no fixed office hours and nor do I, the instructor, expect to be often on campus during the semester. However, instructors usually reply to questions posted online and to emails within twenty-four hours. If I fail to respond within a day, please try again—there once was a problem with one student’s messages going to the junk mail folder but usually it is pretty straightforward. The telephone is not a reliable way to get a hold of a distance ed. instructor, but I will be make myself available for Zoom, especially for students registered with the SAS with special needs. There will be posted Zoom virtual office hours before the midterms and final exam in case anyone has any questions. Further details will be posted in the **Announcements** as necessary. See also **Communicating with Your Instructor**.

Teaching Assistant(s)

Name: Alyssa Khan akhan82@uoguelph.ca

Email: Abigail Mitchell amitch11@uoguelph.ca

Learning Resources

Required Textbook

Title: Deviant Behavior

Author(s): Erich Goode

Edition / Year: 13th Edition / 2023

Publisher: Routledge

ISBN (print): 9781032258539

ISBN (eBook): 9781000580198

You may purchase the textbook at the [Guelph Campus Co-op Bookstore](#) or the [University of Guelph Bookstore](#). Please note that DE textbooks are located in the Distance Education section of the University of Guelph Bookstore.

<https://bookstore.coop/>

<http://www.bookstore.uoguelph.ca/>

You may also purchase an e-version of the text online and we encourage students to do so if they like that format. Erich Goode has written on matters of social deviance for decades, so he is very knowledgeable. The textbook does have an American focus, and so we try to incorporate additional materials to cover some related events in Canada. Sometimes we may comment on current events but I hope that does not come across as promoting any ideological agenda. I want students of all value positions to feel comfortable and included as they do the readings.

Supplementary Materials

This course also includes supplementary materials. These materials are meant to supplement the required readings and course content. Required readings and videos are examinable, supplemental readings and videos are not. You can explore the materials at your own pace. To access these materials, select **Content** on the navbar to locate **Supplementary Materials** in the table of contents panel.

Course Website

[CourseLink](https://courselink.uoguelph.ca) (powered by D2L's Brightspace) is the course website and will act as your classroom. It is recommended that you log in to your course website every day to check for announcements, access course materials, and review the weekly schedule and assignment requirements.

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

Ares

For this course, you may be required to access course reserve materials through the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. To access these items, select **Ares** on the navbar in CourseLink. Note that you will need your Central Login ID and password in order to access items on reserve. UofG has also moved to two factor authentication, so you may need to use a phone or a Fido key to access all of the online services.

For further instructions on accessing reserve resources, visit [How to Get Course Reserve Materials](#).

If at any point during the course you have difficulty accessing reserve materials, please contact the Course Material and Reserve Services staff at:

Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 53621

Email: libres2@uoguelph.ca

Location: McLaughlin Library, First Floor, University of Guelph

<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/find/course-reserves-ares>

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

In this course, we explore how people are condemned and labeled as “bad” and somehow immoral (deviant) for their actions, beliefs, and characteristics that are considered reprehensible by the broader society. We study both the social phenomena that are considered deviant (such as illegal drug use, crime and unusual sexual practices) and the effects of labeling people for engaging in this deviance.

Some students new to the study of deviance plunge right in without first understanding what it is. It may be helpful to reiterate what the study of deviance is *not*: It is not saying that some people are bad and irredeemable, it is not the justification of why we condemn some people as bad, and it is not limited to looking at the titillating details of those who lead unconventional lives. Rather, the study of deviance examines how notions of both what is acceptable and unacceptable are socially constructed and people are affected by that construction. People who are labeled as deviant are those people who rightly or wrongly are seen as having “spoiled identities” or being “bad people” because of something that is so unacceptable in its context that it affects how the public would see those people. In a sense, the social processes that make some things socially acceptable are the same that make something else unacceptable.

In other words, in studying social deviance as socially constructed, we are not automatically passing judgement on the people and practices therein, nor denying that the deviance with which we are concerned cannot be often harmful. We are looking at what people are condemned for and the effects of this condemnation, without necessarily passing a moral judgement that make students believe that these things are all either completely unacceptable or alternately all harmless victims of negative labeling.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain and define deviance;
2. Feel a greater sympathy for other people’s points of view;
3. Differentiate between what we think is right and wrong with what is socially acceptable, accepting that both will change over time;
4. Develop an appreciation of the ongoing processes of social control;
5. Analyze how social deviance is created by society and how deviance is socially constructed; and
6. Analyze the consequences of labeling people and the attribution of stigma.