

**MCMASTER UNIVERSITY**

**Department of Sociology**

**SOCIOLOGY 2C06**

2016-2017  
Tuesdays – Thursday 8:30-9:20  
Class Location: JHE-264

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Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am -12:00  
OR BY APPOINTMENT

**DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR**

The main objective of this course is to introduce you to the sociological study of deviance. The course is divided into three parts. Part 1 deals with the theoretical perspectives sociologists have used to explain deviant behaviour. Part 2 focuses on a particular approach known as labeling theory or the interactionist perspective. The interactionist perspective is concerned with how individuals are defined as deviant, as opposed to what causes deviant behaviours. In Part 3 of the course we will look at the social construction of deviance and at how behaviors come to be regarded as deviant in the first place. This part of the course will also deal with medicalization and demedicalization of deviance.

Learning Outcomes: This course addresses four of the University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see:

<http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>

By the end of the course, you will:

- Understand the basic assumptions, concepts, and research approaches of major sociological perspectives in the study of deviance, especially labeling theory and the social constructionist approach. This will expand your depth and breadth of knowledge.
- Appreciate the strengths and limitations of these perspectives as well as the connections between them.
- Be able to apply basic concepts learned to current situations and events in the community and around the world.
- Enhance your critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments.
- Enhance your oral communication skills by discussing and debating class material in tutorials.

**Texts:**

1. Coursepack for Sociology 2C06 (Deviant Behaviour) 2016
2. Earl Rubington and Martin S. Weinberg (Eds.) 2008. Deviance: The Interactionist Perspective. Tenth Edition. Allyn and Bacon.

**Evaluation:**

1. Mid-term Assignment (20%)

Briefly, this 5-page assignment will involve collecting news reports that illustrate the concepts we discuss in class and cover in our readings. A handout will be provided on Avenue to Learn. The

assignment is due in class on **Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**.

2. Mid-term Examination (20%)

The mid-term examination will cover lectures, required readings, films and guest speakers. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and will be scheduled during the examination period **December 9-22nd**.

3. Final Assignment (20%)

A handout describing the requirements for this assignment will be provided on Avenue to Learn. The assignment is due on **Tuesday, March 14th**.

4. Final Examination (30%)

The format for the final exam will be the same as that for the mid-term. The exam is not cumulative; you will be responsible only for the material covered since the mid-term exam. The final exam will be scheduled during the formal examination period **April 12-29**.

5. Tutorial Work (10%)

The final component of your grade will be based on your attendance at, and performance in, weekly tutorials. Your teaching assistants (TAs) will be providing further details.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

**Submitting Assignments**

Please submit your assignments (hard copies only) in class on the day that they are due. Your assignments should be typed and double-spaced in either 10 or 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font.

Faxed assignments will NOT be accepted. Do not bring assignments to the main Sociology office. The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

Assignments will be returned to you in tutorials.

**Late Assignments**

The due dates for assignments are fixed and non-negotiable. There will be a deduction of 5% per day for all late assignments, unless you submit a McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf>).

The MSF is a self-reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences for medical or other reasons that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work worth less than 25% of your overall. In these cases students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work". Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

The form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. This means that for this course, MSFs must be submitted to later than the Friday in the week the assignments are due. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up on that day or sooner with the instructor regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days or exceed 1 request per term, you **MUST** visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

### **Review of Marks**

All assignments for the course will be marked carefully. On occasion, students disagree with the mark they receive. If this occurs, we would be happy to review the mark, provided the request is serious and the following procedure is followed. Please keep in mind that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.

1. Write a one page statement describing in detail why you think a marking error was made.
2. Submit the statement (hard copy), along with your marked assignment to your TA.
3. The request for a re-mark can be submitted no sooner than one week and no later than one month after the assignment was returned to you.
4. The TA will review your mark and get back to you with written feedback.
5. If, after this review, you continue to dispute the mark, you may submit an appeal directly to me. Include a one page statement explaining why you feel your assignment deserves a higher mark. Submit it along with the original assignment and all written feedback provided by your TA.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

McMaster University is an institution that takes academic integrity seriously and believes that any form of academic dishonesty is destructive to the values of the University. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at [http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac\\_integrity.htm](http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm). The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism - the submission of work that is not one's own or for which permission has not been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **Additional Information**

Your final mark will be converted to a letter grade according to the scale used by the Registrar and available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

If you would like to explore strategies for successful learning and learn more about time management, note-taking, keeping up with readings, and taking multiple choice tests, you will find useful information at the web site for Student Accessibility Services (<http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>).

### **Communication**

This course will use Avenue to Learn (<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>). Please check the website frequently for class announcements and other important information.

Students should also check the Sociology Department web site, white board and Undergraduate Bulletin

board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorials class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-Mail Communication Policy**

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.

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

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.

### TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE

The following schedule is meant to provide a sense of order and direction. We may modify it slightly as we move through the material. Announcements about any such change will be made in class.

<b>TERM 1</b>  <b>Week</b>	<b><u>PART 1: THEORIES OF DEVIANCE</u></b>  All of the readings for this section of the course can be found in Part 1 of the Coursepack. <b>Follow the page numbers at the bottom corners of the page.</b>
September 6-8	<b>Introduction – What is Deviance?</b>
September 13-15	<b>Theories of Deviance: An Overview</b> Subjectivism/Objectivism Biological/Psychological/Social  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determining Deviance (pp. 3-32)</li> </ul>
September 20-22	<b>Functionalism</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functionalist and Strain Perspectives (pp. 117-128 )</li> </ul>
September 27-29	<b>Anomie/Strain Theory</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Functionalist and Strain Perspectives (pp. 128-137)</li> </ul>
October 4-6	<b>Social Control Theory</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Control Theory (pp. 39-51)</li> </ul>
October 11-13	<b>MIDTERM BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>
October 18-20	<b>The Chicago School</b> <b>Social Disorganization and Differential Association</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University of Chicago School (pp. 87-112)</li> </ul>
October 25-27	<b>Conflict Theories</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict Theories I (pp. 53-68 )</li> <li>Conflict Theories II (pp. 71-83)</li> </ul>
November 1-3	<b>Symbolic Interactionism and the Labeling Perspective</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Labeling Perspective (pp. 145-150)</li> </ul>

November 8-10	<b>Theories of Deviance – Recapping</b>  <b>No Readings</b>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PART 2: THE INTERACTIONIST PERSPECTIVE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>All of the readings for this section of the course can be found in Rubington and Weinberg</b></p>
November 15-17	<b>The Informal Labeling of Deviance</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: The Social Deviant (pp. 1-6)</li> <li>• Lynch. Accommodations to Madness (pp. 86-96)</li> </ul>
November 22-24	<b>The Formal Labeling of Deviance</b> The Criminal Justice System  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 2: The Formal Regulation of Deviance (pp. 135-137)</li> <li>• Frohmann: Sexual Assault (pp. 192-204)</li> </ul>
Nov 29-Dec 1	<b>The Formal Labeling of Deviance</b> The Helping Professions  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loseke and Cahill: Experts on Battered Women (pp. 165-179)</li> </ul>
December 6	<b>Term Wrap Up and Review</b>

<b>TERM 2</b>	
<b>Week</b>	
January 5	<b>Introduction to Term 2: Where Were We?</b>
January 10-12	<b>Relations Among Deviants</b> Loners  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 3: Relations Among Deviants (pp. 251-254)</li> <li>• Adler and Adler. Self-Injurers as Loners (pp. 268-273)</li> </ul>
January 17-19	Deviant Subcultures  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weinberg. Becoming a Nudist (pp. 282- 294)</li> <li>• Weinberg. The Nudist Management of Respectability (pp. 326-335)</li> </ul>
January 24-26	<b>Deviant Identities</b> Acquiring a Deviant Identity  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 4: Deviant Identity (pp. 379-384)</li> <li>• Weinberg et al. Becoming Bisexual (pp. 385-393)</li> </ul>
Jan 31 – Feb 2	<b>Deviant Identities</b> Managing Deviant Identities – Stigma Management  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gauthier. Veterinarians’ Deviance and Neutralization Techniques (pp. 436-46)</li> </ul>
February 7-9	<b>Deviant Identities</b> Managing Deviant Identities – Stigma Management  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twining et al. Pit Bull Owners and Stigma (pp. 422-436)</li> </ul>
February 14-16	<b>Deviant Identities</b> Transforming Deviant Identities  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Granfield and Cloud: Natural Recovery (pp. 447-459)</li> </ul>
February 21-23	<b>MIDTERM BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>
	<p align="center"><b><u>PART 3: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF DEVIANCE AND MEDICALIZATION</u></b></p> <p><b>With the exception of the final reading, all of the readings for this section of the course can be found in Part 2 of the Coursepack.</b></p>
Feb 28 – March 2	<b>The Social Constructionist Approach</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best: Deviance: The Constructionist Stance (pp. 181-183)</li> <li>• Davis: The Changing Meanings of Spanking (pp. 153-156)</li> </ul>

March 7-9	<b>Constructing Deviance</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jenness: COYOTE and the Reorganization of Prostitution as a Social Problem (pp. 187-199)</li> </ul>
March 14-16	<b>Deviance Designations and Medicalization</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conrad and Schneider: Medicine as an Institution of Social Control: Consequences for Society (pp. 159-178)</li> <li>Conrad and Angell (pp. 227-234)</li> </ul>
March 21-23	<b>Case Studies in Medicalization</b>  <b>Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pawluch: Medicalizing Childhood (pp. 217-220)</li> <li>Heitzeg: Medical Deviance and DICA (pp. 203-214)</li> </ul>
March 28-30	<b>Demedicalization</b>  <b>Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sobal: The Size Acceptance Movement (pp. 221-224)</li> </ul>
April 4	<b>Demedicalization</b>  <b>Reading: (In Rubington and Weinberg)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weinberg and Laurent: Medicalizing and Demedicalizing Hermaphroditism (pp. 471-85)</li> </ul>
April 6	<b>Term Wrap-Up and Review</b>