**SOCIOLOGY 2BB3**

**Sociology of Deviance**

**Spring 2020**  **Instructor: Dr. Rhona Shaw**

Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00am Ext: 23617

Lecture Hall Location: ONLINE Office: KTH 632

Office Hours: by email or phone Email: [shawrm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:shawrm@mcmaster.ca)

**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 also discuss a number of important topics in the sociology of deviance such as moral panics, white collar crime, youth subcultures and gangs, and mental illness as deviant behaviour.

**Course Learning Objectives**

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, http://cll.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 will be based on tutorial attendance and participation, two assignments (one in the first term, the second in the winter term) and two examinations (mid-term and final). In each case, the student’s communication skills will be challenged as well as enhanced.

**Important Note:** Introductory Sociology (1A06 or 1Z03) is a prerequisite for this class.

**Required Readings**

All required readings will be made available on Avenue to Learn.

**Evaluation**

(i) Written Assignment **- A**nalyzing 2news reports using 2 different theoretical perspectives **(30%) - Due Wednesday June 10th midnight. Submit on AVE, in Assessments folder.**

(ii) Midterm Exam **(25%). Monday May 25th 1 – 3pm online.**

(iii) Four (4) summaries from any of the posted or required readings*,* **(5% each) 20%.**

**You may submit the summaries throughout the term, but all 4 must be submitted by Monday June 15th midnight in order to receive the full 20%.**

(iv)Final Examination **(25%) – Wednesday June 17th 1 – 3pm online.**

**Additional Information on Assignments**

Assignments must be turned in by the end of class by the deadline on the course schedule. All pages must be numbered and have 1" margins on all sides. All text should be double-spaced 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.

**Academic Dishonesty**

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 www.mcmaster.ca/ policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf.

**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. In assignments, complete citations are required for all quotes and paraphrases. Consult the required writing style guide for information on how to properly cite the work of others.

2. Improper collaboration in group work. In this course, I encourage students to work together to understand concepts, discuss ideas, study for exams, etc. Improper collaboration would be defined as using the work of others to get out of doing your own work, claiming the work of others as your own, etc.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**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, if the procedure outlined below is followed. ***Please note that when a mark is reviewed, the new mark may be lower than the original.***

**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, and you will be given a mark of 0 for the assignment.**

**Accommodations**

We are committed to making appropriate accommodations for students' observance of religious holidays. Please contact your instructor as early in the term as possible to make individual arrangements.

We are also committed to working with students with disabilities to make individualized accommodations according to your specific needs. All such arrangements must be made through the Student Accessibility Services department. Please drop by the instructor's office hours at the beginning of the term to make individual arrangements and to complete the necessary paperwork. All such arrangements will be kept confidential.

**Email – use** [**shawrm@mcmaster.ca**](mailto: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, ***the course you are taking***, such as **"Sincerely, Anita Koctail."** Email 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. I do check the separate Avenue to Learn email, but only intermittently, so please do not try to contact me that way. ***All email communication must come from your mcmaster.ca email account.***

**Sociology Department Policies**

***The Sociology staff will not date-stamp assignments or monitor the submission or return of papers.*** Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

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 certain or 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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term in order to note any changes.***

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| **Term 1**  **Week No.** | **TOPICS &**  **READINGS** |
| **Week 1**  May 4th  May 6th | **Theories of Deviance -** Biological and Physiological Theories  **Readings:**  (i) Deutschmann, L. Biological and physiological explanations of deviance.  **Structural Functionalism – Anomie & Social Control**  **Readings:**  (i) Downes et al., Chapter 4 – Functionalism, Deviance and Control.  (ii) Downes et al., Chapter 5 - Anomie. |
| **Week 2**  May 11th  May 13th | **The Chicago School – Social Disorganization & Differential Association**  **Readings:**  (i) Downes et al., Chapter 3 – The University of Chicago School.  **Conflict Theories – Marx and Neo-Marxist**  **Readings:**  (i) Deutschmann, L. Chapter 7 Conflict Theories I – Contemporary Marxism, Left Realism, Peacemaking, and Postmodernism. |
| **Week 3**  **May 18th**  May 20th | **VICTORIA DAY – NO CLASS** |
| **Feminist Theories**  **Readings:**  (i) Downes et al., Chapter 11 – Feminist Approaches to Deviance |
| **Week 4**  **May 25th**  May 27th | **MIDTERM EXAM – 1 – 3pm Online** |
| **Labeling and Social Constructionism – Social Problems**  **Readings:**  (i) Downes et al., Chapter 7 – Symbolic Interactionism.  (ii) Plummer, K. Labeling Theory.  (iii) Best J. The Constructionist Stance. |
| **Week 5**  June 1st  June 3rd | **Foucault – Discipline and Punishment**  **Readings:**  (i) Foucault, M. 1. The body of the condemned, pgs. 3 – 31.  **Moral Panics - Documentary: Grass- The History of Marihuana**  [**http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2isr0h**](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2isr0h)  **Readings:**  (i) Rinarman, C. The social construction of drug scares. |
| **Week 6**  June 8th  June 10th | **White Collar Crime**  **Readings:**  (i) Rothe, D. War Profiteering: Iraq and Haliburton.  **Deviant Subcultures & Gangs**  **Readings:**  (i) Downes et al., Chapter 6 – Deviance, Culture and Subculture. |
| **Week 7**  June 15th  **June 17th** | **Deviance & Mental Illness**  Documentary: Mental Illness in US Prisons – Fault Lines  **Readings:**  (i) Rosenhan. D.L. On being sane in insane places. Posted on AVE.  **4 Article Reviews due by midnight** |
| **FINAL EXAM 1 – 3pm Online** |