

Syllabus
SOCI 3302 – Social Deviance – Fall 2024
Texas A&M University San Antonio
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Sociology and Communication
Online Course

Instructor Information:

Timothy W. Schmidt M.S.

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Office Hours: Online by appointment only

A. Required Readings

Inderbitzin, Michelle, Kristin A. Bates, and Randy R. Gainey. 2021. *Deviance and Social Control*, 3rd edition. Los Angeles: Sage. (Available in print and eBook format)

Additional readings, multimedia and PowerPoint materials on Blackboard.

B. Recommended Readings

American Sociological Association. 2019. *ASA Style Guide*, 6th edition. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

Sociology Writing Group. 2013. *A Guide to Writing Sociology Papers*, 7th edition. Boston, MA: Worth.

Recommended readings are writing guides to help in writing the Annotated Bibliography and Final Paper. All the information in recommended readings can be found online, but these books are helpful and have all the information in one place. Recommended readings are available in the University Library, but they are reference books and thus cannot be checked out.

C. Attendance Policy and Class Conduct

Since this is an online class there is no daily attendance policy, but students are expected to participate and complete all assignments in lieu of attending class.

During online communications students are expected to treat other students and the instructor with respect. The material in this class will require students to discuss and examine societal issues and differences that, in some cases, may conflict with your personal views, beliefs, and experiences and/or are highly politicized.

While there may be misunderstandings that may offend other people on accident, truly disrespectful or discriminatory comments will not be tolerated.

Make-up work will be at the discretion of the instructor and will depend on circumstances and verifiable reasons for missing or late assignments. Make-up assignments may not be the same as the original assignment and may be more difficult or longer.

Communication is key! Make sure to reach out to the professor as soon as possible. Exceptions are much more likely if there is good communication between the student and the professor, and communication comes promptly. Serious situations or poor communication will require more documentation.

D. Major Course Objectives

In this class we will explore sociological concepts as they relate to social deviance. This course will be heavily theoretical and involve a lot of qualitative and quantitative studies.

Topics that will be covered include: basic sociological concepts, classic and contemporary theories of deviance, individual deviance, and group deviance.

We will explore how these concepts relate to factors such as class, race, gender, wealth, prestige, and power. Most importantly, we will examine the causes and consequences of deviance using the sociological imagination.

Assignments and Course Point Breakdown:

- Weekly Quizzes = 12 x 30 points each = 360 points total
Students take 13 weekly quizzes, but lowest quiz score will be dropped
- Discussion Questions = 3 x 20 points each = 60 points total
- Journal = 2 x 20 points each = 40 points total
- Midterm = 40 points
- Final Paper = 100 points
- Total Points = 600

Grading Scale:

Final Grades will be based on the total number of points accumulated, using the following scale:

A= 100-90% = 540 points and above
 B= 90-80% = 480-539 points
 C= 80-70% = 420-479 points
 D= 70-60% = 360-419 points
 F= 60% and below = 359 points and below

All assignments are to be turned in on the Blackboard website. If Blackboard happens to be down when trying to submit assignments, assignments should be sent to timothy.schmidt@tamusa.edu to be time stamped to show they were done on time.

The Final Paper and Annotated Bibliography are to be in Microsoft Word to make sure they are compatible and comparable. Assignments submitted in any other program will not be accepted. Guidelines for assignments will be posted to Blackboard as the semester progresses.

There will be a weekly quiz and/or writing assignment on Blackboard covering the previous week's material. Quizzes and assignments will be posted to give at least 6 evenings and 5 days to complete them.

All assignments are due on Tuesdays. Quiz and assignment due dates are included in the schedule below. While assignments are due on Tuesday's students are encouraged to plan to complete them before the deadline in case technical or other issues arise.

Students will get to drop their lowest quiz grade, so it will not be counted for or against the final grade. This gives students the opportunity to miss a weekly quiz or to do poorly on one quiz without it hurting the student's grade.

- This means that some points will be dropped from students' final grade on Blackboard at the end of the semester... if the lowest quiz grade is not dropped, then the Final Grade would be calculated out of 630 total points possible.

All assignments are to be completed using the instructions for that assignment. Following directions/instructions is a big part of college and life, thus following the directions for assignments is crucial.

E. Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Examine social deviance from a sociological perspective.
- 2) Have a better understanding of how different types of deviance impacts people's lives and society.
- 3) Gain a broader understanding of how class, race, gender, statuses and power affect individuals and groups.
- 4) Critically think about how deviance shapes people's lives and society, and the importance of understanding these processes and their consequences.
- 5) Identify and analyze major sociological concepts involving social deviance.
- 6) Synthesize and analyze both primary and secondary sources related to the study of social deviance.

F. Lecture and Discussion Topics

- a. Basic Sociological Concepts
- b. Social Deviance
- c. Researching Social Deviance
- d. Anomie/Strain Theory
- e. Social Disorganization Theory
- f. Learning Theories of Deviance
- g. Social Control
- h. Labeling Theory
- i. Conflict and Critical Theories
- j. Classical and Contemporary Explanations of Deviance

G. Schedule

Week	Reading	Assignment	Misc. Info
August 26 – September 31	Syllabus Sociology Basics	Quiz #1 (due Tues 9/3)	First Day 8/26
September 1 – 7	Forward, Preface, How to Read an Article, and Chapter 1	Quiz #2 (due Tues 9/10)	Labor Day Holiday Monday 9/2
September 8 – 14	Chapter 2	Quiz #3 Discussion Questions #1 (both due Tues 9/17)	
September 15 – 21	Chapter 3	Quiz #4 (due Tues 9/23)	
September 22 – 28	Chapter 4	Quiz #5 Journal #1 (both due Tues 10/1)	
September 29 – October 5	Chapter 5	Quiz #6 Discussion Questions #2 (both due Tues 10/8)	
October 6 – 12	Chapter 6	Quiz #7 (due Tues 10/15)	
October 13 – 19	Work on Annotated Bibliography	Annotated Bibliography (due Tues 10/22)	
October 20 – 26	Chapter 7	Quiz #8 (due Tues 10/29)	
October 27 - November 2	Chapter 8	Quiz #9 (due Tues 11/5)	
November 3 – 9	Chapter 9	Quiz #10 Journal #2 (both due Tues 11/12)	

November 10 – 16	Chapter 10	Quiz #11 Discussion Questions #3 (Both due Tues 11/19)	
November 17 – 23	Chapter 11	Quiz #12 (due Tues 11/26)	
November 24 – 30	Work on Final Paper	Final Paper (due Tues 12/3)	Thanksgiving Nov. 28 – 30
December 1 – 7	Chapter 12	Quiz #13 (due Tues 12/10)	Pre-Finals Week
December 8 - 13			Finals Week

***This schedule is tentative and subject to change. If any changes are made students will be notified via Blackboard and TAMUSA email.**

- Assigned chapter readings come from *Deviance and Social Control* by Inderbitzin, Bates and Gainey.
- PowerPoint presentations come from Blackboard.
- Further PowerPoint presentations or outside readings may be added later.

There will be a quiz and/or assignment due basically every Tuesday. Due dates included on schedule above.

- Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.
- Quizzes will have to be completed within a time limit, so even though students can use their book and notes it is a good idea to read and possibly outline the chapters before beginning the quiz.
- Quizzes can only be attempted once and cannot be saved to be completed later. Therefore, once started a quiz must be completed within the time limit in one session.

The Final Paper will count as the Final Exam.

H. Miscellaneous

When emailing the instructor please include the class name and number in the email subject line: (For Example: Social Deviance – 3302 or SOC 3302 Social Deviance, etc.).

- **Please do not treat emails as an informal communication tool (like a text message).**
- **Emails should include a greeting, full sentences, your name, and any relevant information.**
- **Emails should be written using correct grammar and spelling, please.**

University Email Policy and Course Communications:

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. Students must have a Jaguar email account ready and working. If a student's email is not working, please contact the IT Help Desk.

As the course progresses it may be necessary, and better, to make changes to the course schedule. Therefore, it is very important that students regularly check both their TAMUSA email and Blackboard for announcements and updates.

Extra Credit and Late Assignments:

There will be no extra credit offered in this course, and late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval or documentation.

Make-up work is only guaranteed in the following three scenarios:

- Hospitalization or illness of you or a family member with documentation of hospitalization or illness emailed to professor in a timely manner
- Death of an immediate family member with documentation emailed to professor
- Military assignment that will prevent regular participation with documentation emailed to professor BEFORE participation is missed

Time Commitment:

- As adults, we are all expected to handle our own time.
- A normal 3-hour university course should require 2-3 hours of work outside the classroom for every hour in the classroom. That means 6-9 hours of outside work per week for each 3-hour course.
- Since this is an online class (with no in class time), students should expect 9-12 hours of work at home each week.
- Students may complete course work at whatever time works best for them, but students must devote enough time to complete the assignments and readings on time.

Life as a student is challenging and can sometimes feel overwhelming.

- **University Counseling and Academic Services** exist in order to assist students during difficult times.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to me or contact one of the resources on campus. These resources are here to help.
- It is much better to reach out for help than to implode in silence.

Counseling and Tutoring services information can be found on the TAMUSA website.

Any students requiring DSS accommodation please contact the instructor to make sure they are aware of the situation.

Key Dates:

August 26	First day of class
September 2	Labor Day
November 11	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 19	Last day withdraw from the University
November 28 – 30	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 5	Last day of scheduled weekday classes
December 6	Study Day
December 7 – 13	Final exams
December 13	Last day of Fall semester

The complete academic calendar is available online at link below:

[rptAcademicCalendar \(tamusa.edu\)](http://tamusa.edu/rptAcademicCalendar)

Student Misconduct:

Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Integrity:

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes **cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct.** This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook ([Student Rights and Responsibilities \(tamusa.edu\)](http://tamusa.edu/StudentRightsandResponsibilities))

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism and AI Assignment Generation software.

Nonacademic Misconduct:

The university respects the right of instructors to teach and the rights of students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede the exercise of those rights. Some examples include the following: physical or verbal abuse or threats; sexual misconduct or harassment; theft of property or services; and disruptive activities (see the student handbook for a complete list).

Sexual Misconduct:

Sexual misconduct of students and employees at Texas A&M University-San Antonio is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy is subject to disciplinary action. See the student handbook for more information.

Please see the [Important Policies and Resources Syllabus Attachment](#) for more info on:

- Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities
- Academic Learning Center
- Counseling Resources
- Emergency Preparedness
- Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance
- Jaguar Writing Center
- Meeting Basic Needs
- Military Affairs
- Religious Observances
- Respect for Diversity
- The Six-Drop Rule
- Statement of Harassment and Discrimination
- Students' Rights and Responsibilities
- Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center

Statement prohibiting the use of GenAI for all assignments:**Any use of GenAI is prohibited and constitutes academic misconduct.**

- Because a major focus of this course is on developing student's skills and fostering creativity in writing, argumentation, and critical thinking, students must complete assignments for this course entirely on their own.
- Students may not copy from any online sites (e.g. Course Hero or Chegg) or utilize composition technologies (e.g. Grammarly, ChatGPT or other GenAI software).
- Work submitted by students—all process work, drafts, low stakes writing, final versions, and all other submissions—will be generated by the students themselves.
- For the purpose of this course, any use of these sites or tools will be considered academic misconduct and consequences will follow University policies.
- If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, contact your instructor before submitting any assignments.