Observers of human societies are always fascinated with explaining why some members violate commonly accepted standards of conduct. Why are some people mad, bad or just plain odd? What should we (those who are supposedly normal) do to stop, fix or punish them? This course, however, begins by treating rules and social order -- not deviance -- as the social phenomenon that needs explanation. We will first seek to understand the social processes involved in how conformity is established and maintained. Only then, will we consider the issue of what constitutes deviant behavior, how and why it occurs, and what is done about it. This course considers several major sociological explanations of deviant behavior: functionalist, differential association, anomie, control and constructionist or labeling. These theories emphasize different aspects of the organization and dynamics of deviance as a social construction: how and under what conditions do certain behaviors come to be defined as deviance; becoming deviant and managing a deviant identity. We will also examine various informal as well as institutional strategies for controlling deviants and transforming deviant behavior. Of course, we’ll explore various instances of deviant conduct including witchcraft, gangs, white-collar crime, sexuality, drugs, etc.

Important Note:
As a general caution, please note that this course will examine topics and perspectives that may conflict with your personal or moral values. Additionally, some course materials include profanity, sexually explicit and violent descriptions. There will be explicit references to this kind of material in class when necessary to illustrate a point. If, for whatever reasons, you believe you cannot or choose not to examine this kind of material in an academic manner, then please choose not to take this course.

Required Books Available for Purchase at the Dartmouth Bookstore & Wheelock Books


Additional Required Articles & other course materials are in “Assigned Readings” folder on Blackboard. Selected deviance-related Online Resources are posted in the “Links” folder on Blackboard

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Much of the work of this course will involve our collective examination and discussion of secondary as well as primary sources - print, visual and recorded. Students are expected to attend all class sessions as well as any special sessions, to complete reading assignments in a timely fashion and to participate meaningfully in class meetings. Your active participation is encouraged, and I welcome questions and informed, insightful comments.

Class members are expected to demonstrate their mastery of course materials through several formats. These will constitute the following requirements, and their percentage of the final course grade:

20% Short Exercise
Each student will complete one exercise in the use of the sociological imagination in analyzing some aspect of construction of deviant behavior and/or social control. Descriptions of and guidelines for completing this assignment, with the respective due day will be posted on Blackboard under “Course Assignments”

40% Midterm Exam
The in-class midterm examination will consist of an essay question plus multiple-choice, identification or short answer items. It will cover readings, lectures, discussions, videos and required special events.

40% Final Examination
The final examination will consist of take-home, essay questions, which emphasize but not limited to information and materials covered after the midterm. There may be the option of submitting a research paper in lieu of the take-home examination.
COURSE POLICIES

Honor Principle Academic work is simultaneously a collaborative and an independent enterprise. Consulting with others and using their questions, ideas, findings and interpretations are integral parts of intellectual inquiry. The laborious, critical and creative work of developing one's own understanding is equally important. In this course, you will have opportunities to engage in both endeavors. Therefore it is essential that you maintain the integrity of each. Class members are encouraged to discuss readings, lectures and other course materials with one another. However in-class and take-home examination, written assignments or exercise reports, research papers must be your own independent work, unless otherwise permitted. You should familiarize yourself with Dartmouth College's Academic Honor Principle regarding honesty in completing all course examinations, research papers, and exercises (see online “Academic Honor” under the Registrar Regulations, plus the Standards of Conduct regulations on computing resources and library privileges). This Principle commits each of us to individual responsibility and fairness in all course work; and prohibits cheating on exams, fabricating research, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, purchasing papers, submitting fraudulent documents, engaging in computing abuses and forging signatures.

Acknowledgements & References Learning when and how to acknowledge appropriately the ideas, words, and work of others is a critical skill for academic as well as many other professional fields. Pay close attention whenever you consult or use -- and not only when directly quoting -- the intellectual and creative ideas, writings, images, and products of others (including other class members, the professor, readings, films, government reports, art work, lectures, lyrics, websites, and other sources). Always consult Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment, use links to various citation references posted on Blackboard’s “External Links.” You might consider purchasing a comprehensive reference book on acknowledging sources. Several useful style guides include Diana Hacker's Research and Documentation Online, a general guide or more social science-related guides such as The Chicago Manual of Style or the APA Style Guide.

Missed Classes As responsible adults, class members should notify the instructor in writing of any anticipated absences. In the event that you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for getting the lecture notes for that class from another student. As a general policy, I will not make my lecture notes available. I trust that members of the class will be cooperative in sharing their notes, realizing that you also may be in a similar position one day. Repeated absences, without documented evidence of illness or family emergency, will adversely affect your grade.

Religious Observances Class members may wish to take part in one or more of the religious observances that occur during the term. However, some activities may conflict with your participation and obligations in this course. Before the end of the second week of the term, please send me an email detailing the occasion, date and the specific course responsibility that may be affected. I will use this information to determine any appropriate accommodations.

Submission & Return of Assignments The submission of assignments, exams and paper is expected on the indicated “due date” during that day’s class meeting (unless otherwise stated). Requests for late submissions should be made prior to the due date. Please note that grades on non-approved late submissions will be penalized. All work to be graded should be submitted in a clas envelope, with your name clearly printed on the front. Graded work will be returned in the same envelope. Course assignments, examinations and papers may not be submitted by blitz, digitally via Blackboard, mail or fax (unless otherwise instructed and with prior approval).

Make-up Exams Students with valid reasons are entitled to make-up the midterm examination. However, such arrangements are only available for students who inform me at least 48 hours prior to the original exam date.

Note for Students who Speak English as a Second Language Students who speak English as a second language are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first week of the term to discuss any academic assistance you may require.

Note for Student Accessibility and Special Concerns Students with learning or other disabilities as well as chronic health conditions that may disrupt your studies are encouraged to meet with the professor during the first two weeks of the term to discuss any academic assistance or accommodations you may require. Please provide official documentation of your condition or circumstances. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Student Accessibilities Coordinator or other college officials may be consulted.

Electronic Devices Cell and smart phones, iPod, MP3, Blackberry, Bluetooth, etc. must be turned-off and put away during class sessions and required events. Laptop computers and notepads may only be used for note taking. Web browsing, text messaging, handling email and working on non-course related matters are distracting for you as well as other class members. The repeated disregard of this policy will lead to a reduction in your final course grade.

Email Policy Course assignments, examinations and research papers may not be submitted by email, snail mail or fax. Please note that I typically read and answer my email occasionally each day during the work week (i. e. Mon. – Fri.), but not necessarily according to any schedule. As a rule, I am not accessible via email during the weekends.
Classroom Etiquette: We will cover some complex and controversial subjects. Understandably, disagreement and debate are welcome and integral parts of the learning process. Please extend respect to all members of the class in terms of your verbal and nonverbal communications, listen attentively to their questions and comments as you would the lectures, and offer your informed observations and criticisms in a constructive manner.

Schedule of Course Readings, Assignments & Activities
(some readings subject to change)

PART I CONSTRUCTING DEVIANCE AS ESSENTIAL FOR SOCIAL ORDER

March 26 Weird, Evil, Crazy and Greedy
A Course Introduction

March 28 A Functionalist View of Social Deviance
Erikson, Kai. Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance, Chaps. 1 & 2

March 30 The Shapes the Devil May Assume
Erikson, Wayward Puritans, Chap. 3

April 2 Moral Crusades and the Constancy of Deviance
Erikson, Wayward Puritans, Chaps. 4 & 5

View: CBS News on LeRoy High School teens & strange physical ticks (on Blackboard)

April 4 A Contemporary Moral Crusade: Monstrous Child Predators


View: Dateline NBC: 'To Catch a Predator.” Watch at least one episode. (Links on Blackboard)

Optional:
View "The McMartin Case" (on reserve in Jones Media Center)


PART II CULTURE AND IDENTITY: EXPLANATIONS OF DEVIANCE

April 6 Learning to be Deviant


Optional:


April 9 Portraits of the OGs: Outlaws on the Road


Optional:
April 11  

**Looking to Belong: Socialization and the Gang Identity**  
February: 50-84 (on Blackboard)  

New York: Springer pp 71-84 (on Blackboard)  

**View:** Chicago Gangs, a 5-minute video clip (link on Blackboard)  

**Optional:**  
Highlights of the 2009 National Youth Gang Survey (on Blackboard)  

April 13  

**Gangs and Violence**  


**Optional viewing:**  
"Crips and Bloods: Made in America" (on reserve Jones Media Center)  
Zahn, Margaret A.; Susan Brumbaugh; Darrell Steffensmeier; Barry C. Feld; Merry Morash; Meda Chesney-Lind; Jody Miller; Allison Ann Payne; Denise C. Gottfredson; Candace Kruitschnitt. 2008. "Violence by Teenage Girls: Trends and Context," National Institute of Justice: May (on Blackboard)  

April 16 

**Escaping the Middle: Contemporary Youth Subcultures**  
Wilkins, Amy C. Wannabes, Goths, and Christians: The Boundaries of Sex, Style, and Status, Chaps. 1 - 4  

April 18 

**Escaping the Middle: Boundaries of Malleability**  
Wilkins, Wannabes, Goths, and Christians, Chaps. 5 - 8  

April 20 

No new readings  

**PART III**  
THE BODY AS A SITE OF PLAY AND CONTROL  

April 23  

**Things We Do When No One is Looking**  

**Read one (1) of the following 6 options:**  


Williams, D. J. 2008. "Contemporary vampires and (blood-red) leisure: Should we be afraid of the dark?,” Leisure/Loisir, v 32, n 2: 513-539 (on Blackboard)

Theorizing Abuse, Theorizing Pleasure

Front photos, Introduction, Chaps. 1-3

A Community of Addicted Bodies

Bourgois, Righteous Dopefiend, Chaps. 4-6

Once an Addict, Always an Addict

Bourgois, Righteous Dopefiend, Chaps. 7-9, Conclusion

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Negotiating Deviant Exchanges: Anonymity & Thrill-Seeking


Hammers, Corie. 2009. "An Examination of Lesbian/Queer Bathhouse Culture and the Social Organization of (Im) Personal Sex,” Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, v38 June: 308-335 (on Blackboard)

Optional:
Humphreys, Laud. 1970. Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places

Consent, Coercion and the Rationalization of Sexual Harms


Optional:

DEVIANCE AS INNOVATION, DEVIANCE AS WORK

Anomie Theory & the Drug Industry


Gender and Sexual Consumption


"It’s Hard Out There Being a Pimp” . . . It’s Harder Still to be a Prostitute

Staiger, Annegret. 2005. "'Hoes can be hoed out, players can be played out, the pimp is for life' -- The Pimp Phenomenon as Strategy of Identity Formation," Symbolic Interaction, v 28 n 3: 407-428 (on Blackboard)

**Read one (1) of the following 2 articles:**


**May 16**

**"Money, Money, Money" . . . and Crime in the Suites**


Optional Background Materials on Mortgage Crisis:


Optional:


**May 18**

**No new readings**

**PART V THE MORAL CAREER OF DEVIANTS & THE DILEMMAS OF SOCIAL CONTROL**

**May 21**

**Informal Social Controls and the Moral Career of Deviants**


*View: An episode of A&E “Intervention” (streamed from reserve in Jones Media, also via links on Blackboard)*

*Watch: current episodes on Monday nights 9 pm A&E TV*

Optional:


**May 23**

**Transforming Deviants: Total Institutions**


Optional:

Goffman, Asylums, pp. 175 - 320


**May 25**

**Some Unintended Consequences of Social Control**


May 28  No Class Meeting - Memorial Day & First Day of Reading Period
May 30  Transforming Deviance - Last Day of Class

Mon. June 4  TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DUE by 6 p. m.

Submit a hard copy to either my office in 107 Silsby or my mailbox in Sociology Department Office in 111 Silsby.  Email, fax and postal delivery will not be accepted or graded.