

Sociology of Deviance and Social Control

The story of deviance and social control is a struggle to control the way people feel, think and act. Theories about the causes of deviance and crime have varied historically and have strongly influenced ideas and policies about appropriate strategies for social control. This course examines how particular attributes or behavior are defined as deviant, and the social consequences of formal and informal deviant designations.

In the first half of the semester, we will consider several major theoretical perspectives on deviance within sociology, including pathological, social disorganization, learning, and social-reaction perspectives.

In the second half of the semester, we will move from a historical to a thematic analysis. In light of these theories, we will devote attention to different types of crime, such as political violence, prostitution, and drug dealing. Using examples from research, media and films, we will discuss how different theoretical perspectives might explain specific patterns of deviance.

Throughout, the course demonstrates the implications of inequality for deviance and social control. Students learn the extent to which deviant and criminal behavior is determined by a person's social, cultural, historical, gendered and economic positioning in society and the consequences of these inequalities for social control.

Assessment Methods

| | Percentage | Period |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Seminar participation | 20% | Throughout the term |
| Quizzes | 10% | Throughout the term |
| Research paper | 35% | Week 12 |
| Final Exam | 35% | Week 14 |

Policies

Attendance:

- Attendance is mandatory. More than three unjustified absences will result in a failing grade.
- There will be no make-up quizzes or exams, unless the student has a valid medical or other emergency.

Seminar participation:

Will be evaluated by the instructor, based on activity on seminars, the quality of home preparation, the originality of points raised during seminars, as well as the number of attended seminars.

Quizzes: Quizzes will take place at the beginning of the lecture (meaning that students have to be on time). Most questions will address major concepts, ideas presented in the lectures. Missed quizzes receive a score of 0. The grade for quizzes is calculated as the average of all individual quiz grades, except the lowest one.

Final: The final exam will cover all topics. Students missing the final exam for a certified reason (medical problems, emergencies etc.) will get the opportunity for an oral exam with the instructor. Uncertified absences from the final exam will result in a failing grade.

Research Paper: For this assignment, students shall write an essay on a subject matter suitable to the course. This assignment should start with the identification of a problem, followed by a discussion and analysis of supporting and illustrative materials. It needs to utilize the concepts, ideas, and arguments presented in class. Students need to critically discuss the material. The paper should have ~3000 (+/- 10%) words (excluding the bibliography). Assignments will have a non-negotiable late-policy. They are due before the seminar of week 12, and must be submitted via email *and* in print. Grade deductions will apply for each 12-hour period they are late. Students not submitting a paper by the end of the term will receive a failing grade.

By the seminar of week 6, students are required to submit a ~400-word (+/- 10%) *abstract* of their project, presenting the principal question, research design, and theoretical approach. Students submitting an abstract after the deadline, but before the seminar of week 7 will receive a penalty of 10% to their essay. The instructor will read the abstracts, and suggest modifications as necessary.

Required or Recommended Text and Readings

Reading Assignments (Books)

Bernstein, E. 2007. *Temporarily Yours: Intimacy, Authenticity, and the Commerce of Sex*. University of Chicago Press.

Bourgois, P. 1995. *In Search of Respect. Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge University Press.

Braithwaite J., Braithwaite V., Cookson M., Dunn L.. 2010. *Anomie and Violence: Non-Truth and Reconciliation in Indonesian Peacebuilding*. ANU Press.

Durkheim, E. [1895] 2014. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Simon and Schuster.

Goffman, E. [1963] 2009. *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Simon and Schuster.

Haney, L. 2010. *Offending Women. Power, Punishment, and the Regulation of Desire*. University of California Press.

Whyte, W. F. [1943] 1993. *Street Corner Society: The Social Structure of an Italian Slum*. University of Chicago Press

Reading Assignments (Articles and Book Chapters)

Geis, G. 1995. "White Collar Crime: The Heavy Electrical Equipment Antitrust Case of 1961," *Contemporary Masters in Criminology*, pp 139-156.

Merton, R. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3(5): 672-82.

Sutherland, E. 1940. "White Collar Criminality." *American Sociological Review* 5(1): 2-10.

Yang, L.H., Kleinman, A., Link, B. G., Phelan, J. C., Lee, S., Good, B. 2007. Culture and Stigma. Adding Moral Experience to Stigma Theory. *Social Science and Medicine* 64(7): 1524-1535.

Film Assignments

In the Blood: Is Criminal Behavior Genetic? (BBC, 1996)

Inside Job, Charles Ferguson (Oscar, Best documentary, 2011)

My Left Foot, Jim Sheridan (1989)

The Act of Killing (Nominated, Oscar, Best documentary, 2013)

Street of Shame, Kenji Mizoguchi (1956)

Detailed Outline of the Subject

Week 1: Introduction; The classical and pathological perspectives on deviance

- Overview of the course and the syllabus
- Notes on the concept of deviance

Film: In the Blood: Is Criminal Behavior Genetic?

PART 1: Historical Chronology: Images of Deviance and Social Control

The first half of the class is a review of history of crime and deviance as sociological concepts.

Week 2: The anomie perspective

Durkheim, E. 1895: "The Rules of Distinction between the Normal and the Pathological." In *Rules of Sociological Method*.

Merton, R. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3(5): 672-82.

Week 3: The social disorganization perspective

Whyte, W. F. 1943: "Doc and His Boys," pp. 3-25; "Conclusion," pp. 255-276. In *Street Corner Society: The Social Structure of an Italian Slum*.

Week 4: The learning perspective

Sutherland, E. 1940. "White Collar Criminality." *American Sociological Review* 5(1): 2-10.

Geis, G. 1995. "White Collar Crime: The Heavy Electrical Equipment Antitrust Case of 1961," *Contemporary Masters in Criminology*, pp 139-156.

Film: Inside Job, Charles Ferguson

Week 5: The societal-reaction perspective

Goffman, E. 1963. *Stigma*. (Chapter 1)

Yang, L.H., Kleinman, A., Link, B. G., Phelan, J. C., Lee, S., Good, B. 2007. Culture and Stigma. Adding Moral Experience to Stigma Theory. *Social Science and Medicine* 64(7): 1524-1535.

Film: My left foot, Jim Sheridan

Abstract of the paper due.

Week 6: The organizational deviance perspective

Devers, C.E., Dewett, T., Mishina, Y. and Belsito, C.A., 2009. A general theory of organizational stigma. *Organization Science*, 20(1), pp.154-171.

Vaughan, D., 1997. The Trickle-Down Effect: Policy Decisions, Risky Work, and the "Challenger" Tragedy. *California management review*, 39(2), pp.80-102.

Week 7: Break.

PART 2: Patterns of Crime

The second half of the class is an application of the theories presented to specific patterns of deviance, such as violence; prostitution; drug-dealing.

Week 8: Review and synthesis week. Introduction to qualitative research.

Week 9: *Ethnic, religious, political violence*

Braithwaite J., Braithwaite V., Cookson M., Dunn L., 2010: *Anomie and Violence: Non-Truth and Reconciliation in Indonesian Peacebuilding* (chapters 1 and 2)

Film: *The Act of Killing*, Joshua Oppenheimer, Christine Cynn, Anonymous.

Week 10: Individual research project presentations.

Week 11: *Prostitution*

Bernstein, E. 2007: *Temporarily Yours* (chapters 1 and 4)

Films: *Street of Shame*, Kenji Mizoguchi.

Week 12: *Prison*

Haney, L. 2010: *Offending Women* (Introduction and chapter 1)

TV show: *Orange is the New Black*, Jenji Kohan.

Research paper due.

Week 13: *Drug dealing*

Bourgois, P. 1995: *In Search of Respect*. (TBD)