

SOC 444 DEVIANCE AND CONTROL

Syllabus

Instructor: Ted P. McNeilsmith, Ph.D.
E-mail: tpmcneil@adams.edu
Phone: 719.587.7141
Address: Adams State College
Department of Sociology
208 Edgemont Blvd.
Alamosa, CO 81102

CREDIT HOURS:

Three Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

SOC 201: The Sociological Imagination

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The sociology of deviance and control examines the nature of rule making and rule breaking in modern societies. The course includes theoretical considerations of the causes and consequences of deviance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will:

- Describe the various ways deviant behavior is created and defined.
- Describe the various theories of deviance.
- Examine how social structure influences, and is influenced by, deviant behavior.
- Analyze the various ways societies respond to and attempt to control deviance.
- Develop effective writing skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course requires you to write eighteen critical reflection papers (CRPs), take two proctored exams, and write one research paper.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Best, Joel. *Deviance: Career of a Concept*. Wadsworth, 2004. ISBN-10: 0534570011, ISBN-13: 9780534570019

Conrad, Peter, and Joseph W. Schneider. *Deviance and Medicalization: From Badness to Sickness*. Temple University Press, 1992. ISBN-13: 978-0-87722-999-5, ISBN-10: 0-87722-999-6

Goffman, Erving. *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Simon and Schuster, 1986. ISBN-10: 0-671-62244-7, ISBN-13: 978-0-671-62244-2

Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Penguin, 1999. ISBN-10: 14028334, ISBN-13: 9780140283341

Paul, Richard and Linda Elder. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*, fourth edition. Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-0-944583-10-4, ISBN-10: 0944583105

Supplemental Reading Materials:

Other readings will be e-mailed to you as Microsoft® Word attachments. Contact your instructor to make alternative arrangements to receive supplemental reading materials.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 16 CRPs | 5 points each | 80 points |
| 2 CRPs | 10 points each | 20 points |
| Exam One | | 100 points |
| Research Paper | | 100 points |
| Exam Two | | <u>100 points</u> |
| Total Points | | 400 |

Scale:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 360-400 | A |
| 320-359 | B |
| 280-319 | C |
| 240-279 | D |
| 239 and below | F |

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

"...[Y]ou go to...school not so much for knowledge as for arts and habits; for the habit of attention, for the art of expression, for the art of assuming, at a moment's notice, a new intellectual position, for the art of entering quickly into another person's thoughts...the art of indicating assent or dissent in graduated terms, for the habit of regarding minute points of accuracy, for the art of working out what is possible in a given time, for taste, discrimination, for mental courage and mental soberness. And above all you go to...school for self-knowledge."

-- William Cory

The requirements for the course are designed to encourage you to acquire some of the arts and habits William Cory describes and to encourage **critical thinking and learning** about the complex issues we will be examining. They are described in some detail in the following pages. All assignments, proctored exams, and research paper **must** be completed in the order given in the study guide **in order to pass the course—NO exceptions**. When you send your work to me, wait to get my feedback before continuing on to follow the study guide. I will return all your work as quickly as possible.

Critical Reflection Paper (CRP):

The Critical Reflection Paper: A Learning Device and Mode of Evaluation.

"What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure."

-- Samuel Johnson

A great amount of learning in this course will be a result of your careful study of the assigned readings and the writing of your critical reflection papers; the rest of your learning will occur from taking the proctored exams and writing your research paper.

There are eighteen CRPs in all, sixteen of them worth five points each, and two worth ten points each.

The benefit of any learning experience is maximized when the reading assignments have been completed, followed by **critical thinking**, reflection, and writing about the subject matter. One way of showing evidence of this kind of intellectual involvement is to write your thoughts in critical reflection papers. This will enhance your understanding of the subject matter and greatly improve the quality of your experience in this class. This process is intended to encourage you to read the assignments very completely and carefully and to **think critically** and to come to your own conclusions about the subject matter.

I have come to understand that my particular expectations of close reading and careful writing establish new and often challenging criteria for many students used to different grading standards; therefore, I have tried here and elsewhere to explain as carefully as possible those criteria.

When we read a text, we often assume that everyone else sees the same thing, but that is rarely true. Your task is to show the reader how you made meaning from the text, and that requires careful attention. Furthermore, when we read we have a tendency to read quickly, and as a result, we often miss subtle things about the text that closer attention reveals. Your reading should be a slow one that focuses on the confusions, tensions, contradictions, difficulties, and even silences and omissions of the text. Find a quiet place where you can really focus and give yourself lots of time.

Your Critical Reflection Papers will address the following for each reading assignment: the key concepts, the most important information, the main conclusions, your personal opinions or reactions, ways that the assignment contributed to or challenged your views, and questions that are raised in your own mind. Always write to communicate effectively. In this instance, you are encouraged to write in a casual, semi-formal (but not sloppy) manner. While author reference is always required, footnotes and page numbers are not needed, as I have read the assignments too. Very **brief** quotes to make a point or to which you want to respond are desirable, as long as they are not very long or very frequent (and space-taking or “padding”).

Write in such a way that you will be able to understand (and interest) yourself when you re-read your CRPs five, ten, or twenty years from now. (Oh, yes, you will!) Your CRPs **must** be intellectual in nature (that is what we are here to honor and promote), but occasional emotion, righteous indignation, and humor (even light sarcasm) are most welcome too. This **critical thinking and learning** process will be repeated throughout the semester. CRPs must be in **14-point Times New Roman font** and **double-spaced**.

Keep all your returned SOC 444-related papers in chronological order, in your Course Portfolio Folder that you will use at the very end of the semester for the final CRP.

You should not be surprised at the clear expectation of college-level writing in terms of grammar, spelling (spellchecker catches most, but not all, errors), punctuation, and sentence structure.

Proofread

I don't want to be the first person to read your CRP. What you send me each time is a powerful representation of your self. You are, in effect, telling me, “Ted, this CRP reflects my very best thinking and writing, my best work. This is **me!**” HINT: **Proofread** by reading aloud to yourself is often a helpful technique.

A CRP will earn the full amount of points if it demonstrates **critical thinking**, addresses each point fully, consists of virtually error-free writing, and follows all of the directions in this study guide (and in the appendices) quite precisely. It will be considered **exemplary**, a model that I might use to show a new student what a CRP should ideally look like. By the way, every CRP is a “5” when I start reading it! A CRP will earn four points if it is above average, but deficient in one of the above criteria. Three points will be earned for an average CRP. Two points will be earned if the paper is below average. One point will be earned if the CRP is turned in, but clearly not on the college level of critical thinking and writing.

Instructor's Note: Inclusive language helps to reduce awkwardness, confusion, and ambiguity, as well as racism, sexism, and heterosexism (which rely, in part, on exclusive language for their perpetuation).

CRP Format Instructions

Please see the appendices at the end of the study guide for the CRP instructions that will direct you in format and other requirements for these assignments. You may also request electronic instructions to use as templates from your instructor. CRPs **must** be written **exactly** as indicated in the appendices. If you need help with this, please call me.

An Important Note on Plagiarism

By plagiarism, I mean turning in the same work that someone else has turned in, or that you have turned in before; quoting sentences from a source without using quotations and citing the source; and turning in a paper that is not your individual, original, independent work. If you do any of these things, you will receive an automatic failing grade for the course. In order to virtually eliminate the chances of this happening, you will electronically submit all of your work in this class to turnitin.com., at the same time you send it to me. Professors all over campus and all over the country are doing this. Contact your instructor for turnitin.com login instructions and details.

Proctored Examinations

There will be two proctored exams. They are worth 100 points each (i.e., each is worth one-fourth of your grade). Please refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and Submit your Exam Request Form three weeks BEFORE you plan to take the exam. These exams are multiple-choice and closed book; complete them within the two-hour time limit.

Research Paper

You will write a research paper on an issue related to deviance. This will be an **eight-page** paper on a **topic that must be approved in advance by me**. I suggest you begin perusing the texts now in order to find a topic of interest to you. Refer to the appendix "Format Requirements for the Research Paper" for the format, content, and procedural requirements for the paper. The research paper is worth 100 points (i.e., it is worth one-fourth of your grade).

ADA Statement:

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.