

**Deviance and Social Control**  
**Sociology 0317 Section 001**

**Instructor:** Eve Shapiro, Ph.D.  
**Phone:** 413-572-5385  
**E-mail:** through PLATO

**Office:** Mod Hall 101-C  
**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs 12:30 - 2:00  
and by appointment.

Deviance is a longstanding area of sociological inquiry, and one that has been and continues to be hotly debated. With its history of participating in and legitimizing marginalized populations, deviance has been heavily critiqued. Recently, many scholars have declared the area dead (or argued that it should, at least, be put to death). Sounds interesting, huh!

This semester we will focus on how deviance is socially constructed. We will consider: how particular populations are constructed as deviant, how certain acts/behaviors are seen as deviant, and how these two processes are related. We will begin by looking at definitions and theories of deviance, and then explore “deviant populations” in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and age. Next, we will focus on how particular activities and behaviors come to be defined as deviant in broader, more institutional terms (e.g., legal definitions, social problems), as well as how these are practiced, managed, and recognized on an everyday level. We will conclude by considering the meaning and consequence of “normal”, including the ethical issues that studying deviance raises. Welcome to one of the most interesting and contentious areas of sociological study!

The chance to take this course online is both exciting (class in your bathrobe! at 2 am!) and challenging (self-motivation! technology challenges!). And there are some significant challenges to overcome. First, you need to become adept at PLATO, JING, and the other technologies we will be using. Attending one of the PLATO Course Orientations is a good idea. Second, you must be your own boss. You'll need to make sure you put **8-10 hours a week into this class (the same expectation as in-person classes)**. **An online class is not a regular class without lecture. I promise it will take you as much time as an in-person class;** if you expect to do well by only reading the book and taking the exams you will be disappointed. However, if you put time and energy into watching class videos, participating in discussions, reading and responding to your peers, and exploring sociology, **I promise that you will learn far more than you expect.**

**Course Texts:** There is one book and an electronic collection of required readings (on PLATO) for this course. The text is available for purchase at the bookstore, and is on reserve at the library. You will not be able to do well in this course unless you do the reading.

1. Adler, Patricia A. & Peter Adler. 2009. Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction, 6th edition. New York: Wadsworth. **You must have the 6<sup>th</sup> edition.**
2. Additional required readings posted on PLATO.

<b>Requirements:</b>	Breaching Exercise	20 points
	Final Paper	25 points
	Weekly Modules	55 points
	(Optional Films/Lectures)	(6 points Extra Credit)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

**On-time work must be completed by 11:59pm, on the due date. Work submitted after that time will be considered late. Late work will be reduced one full letter grade per day, starting the day it is due.**

**Writing:** Writing matters. Indeed, it is one of the most important skills one gains at college. Grammar, spelling, structure, and clarity will all affect your grade. When turning in assignments, please make sure to edit and proofread your work.

**\*\*\*Any time that you use somebody's ideas or words you MUST give credit. Failure to do so is plagiarism. You must provide a citation whenever you paraphrase, quote, or borrow an idea.\*\*\*** If I find that you have plagiarized or cheated you will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs. I encourage you to visit Westfield's webpage on academic honesty:  
[http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current\\_Students/Student\\_Handbook/Academic\\_Life/Academic\\_Honesty\\_Policy.html](http://www.wsc.ma.edu/Current_Students/Student_Handbook/Academic_Life/Academic_Honesty_Policy.html)

**Breaching and Final Paper:** There will be two papers (3-5 pages, 8-10 pages) for this course. Each will be discussed in detail during the semester.

**Weekly Modules:** You are responsible for completing all parts of the weekly module. This includes doing the assigned reading, reviewing the lecture, completing any exercises or films, and participating in discussion. I will monitor the time you spend on each activity and assign points accordingly. Each module will be worth 5% of your overall grade.

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the course you can attend any school or town events that relate to our course. Each event will be worth **one point** and you may earn up to 6 extra credit points. To earn the points, you need to attend an approved event and turn in a one-page reaction **within one week**.

**A Note About the Course:** There will be times during this course that sensitive issues will be raised about race, gender, sexuality, religion, etc. Passion is welcome, disrespect is not. With this in mind, it is *absolutely essential* that we each **show respect to all others**, regardless of their views. There is no doubt that the material and discussion in this course can and will arouse strong feelings. If you find these issues too difficult or objectionable to engage with in an academic context, you may want to come talk to me about it OR see how it feels during the first week, OR reconsider taking this course.