Course Description and Objectives
This distance learning course presents a review and analysis of sociological approaches to the study of deviance and social control. The course objectives are (1) to provide you with a solid foundation in major theoretical perspectives on deviant behavior and social reaction processes, (2) to introduce you to important empirical methods in the study of deviant phenomenon, (3) to familiarize you with significant lines of research on various forms of deviance, and (4) to strengthen your critical awareness and sociological understanding of contemporary debates about deviance and social control.


Both books can be ordered from the FSU Bookstore, Bill’s Bookstore, or from various online booksellers such as Amazon (2 day shipping), but please make sure you get the correct edition. I will post other required reading material under “lectures” in the course library on Blackboard. Please let me know immediately by e-mail if you have any problems obtaining the required books or using the course website.

It is critical for students to understand that in this distance learning course, the required textbooks and assigned readings are the way in which course material is communicated. You MUST have the texts to be successful in this course. Quizzes and assignments in this course are drawn entirely from the assigned course material.

VERY IMPORTANT: You are expected to ensure that your computer and internet connection are functioning properly prior to exams or other online exercises. If necessary, please seek technical assistance from ACNS or other online resources listed on the Bulletin Board under “Help with FSU Procedures and Technology.” Additionally, you must have the required texts for successful completion of this course. All assignments will be drawn from the required resources as listed above.

Course Requirements:
Your final grade will be based on the quality of your performance with respect to the course assignments and responsibilities. The allocation of points is as follows:

(1) First Day Attendance Quiz – 5 points. IMPORTANT: You must complete the First Day Attendance Quiz before 11:59 pm on Wednesday, January 6, to satisfy the FSU “first-day attendance” policy. If you fail to do so, you may be dropped from the course. The First Day Attendance Quiz is a brief survey that will be posted under “Assignments.” You will receive five points for answering several questions about your academic background and interests.

(2) Two one-hour exams, short answer essay questions = 30 points possible. The two exams will cover material from the text, the reader, and “lectures” posted in the Online Review on
Blackboard. Each exam will include five “open-ended” (short-essay) questions, worth three points each for a total of fifteen points. The questions will ask you to write a paragraph or two about important theories, concepts, research findings, criticisms, or other points discussed in assigned readings and online material. Each exam will be scheduled on a specific day and will be available to students during a six-hour window, from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. ET. Once you begin taking an exam, you must complete it within one hour. We will grade each question on a three-point scale, where a good, complete answer is worth three points, a partially correct answer is worth one-two points, and an incorrect answer earns zero points. Grammatical or spelling errors detract from the quality of your answer and may result in a point deduction.

(3) Five open-book quizzes, each consisting of five questions = 25 points possible. These multiple-choice quizzes will be posted under “Assignments” on Monday as outlined in the course calendar. You will be able to find the answers to each of the five questions on these quizzes in the assigned readings or online material for the current and previous week. Not only will these quizzes be “open-book,” but you will be given the questions before you begin taking the quiz. You will have a five-day window to take each quiz (7am Monday – 9 pm Friday).

(4) Four group discussions on the Discussion Board = 40 points possible. At five points in the semester, a discussion topic will be posted in the Groups folder on Blackboard. The class will be divided into groups, and you will participate in a discussion board with other members of your group. Each student is expected to post a position statement, a 200-500 word essay, in response to the discussion topic and to post two replies to other students’ statement postings. Replies should be between 75 and 200 words. Position statements must include a citation to material and a word count. Based on the quality of your posts, you can earn a possible 10 points for your contribution in each group discussion. There will be no credit given for late postings on the discussion board or non-academic discourse or other inappropriate responses. Initial posts are due by 9 pm on Wednesdays and replies are due by 9 pm on Fridays. Posting deadlines are specified on the course calendar.

Grading Summary

First Day Attendance Quiz = 5 points

Two Essay Exams = 30 points

Five Open Book Quizzes = 25 points

Four Discussion Boards = 40 points

Total = 100 points

Incomplete Grades

Missing work or uncompleted assignments are insufficient reasons for a grade of Incomplete. An Incomplete grade will not be given except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor’s discretion. Note that College of Social Science guidelines require that students seeking an “I” must be passing the course.

Excused Absences / Missed Assignments
Students must take exams (and complete other assignments) during the times indicated on the syllabus except by making prior arrangement with the instructor at least one week in advance. If you are severely ill or otherwise unable to complete a requirement as scheduled, you must contact your mentor or me as soon as possible and be prepared to provide appropriate documentation. Medical illness refers to conditions that are serious in nature and require treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Any missed work will receive a score of zero, except under extenuating circumstances at the instructor's discretion. Documentation is required to make up missed work and assignments must be completed within two weeks. Please provide a copy of the documentation to your instructor and keep a copy for your own records Read the course calendar carefully and check the Blackboard website frequently for dates of assignments. Missing work is not a sufficient reason for a grade of Incomplete ("I").

Academic Honor Policy

Students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy of the Florida State University, including the statement on Values and Moral Standards published in The Florida State University General Bulletin. The Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of these expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty throughout the process. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Policy:http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm

Academic Dishonesty

Students must abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a "zero" for that particular assignment or an "F" for the course, at the instructor’s discretion. Any student who plagiarizes, cheats on exams, or otherwise behaves in a dishonest way may be reported to the university administration for further disciplinary action as specified in the Academic Honor Policy (http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/forms/honorpolicy.pdf).

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center, 108 Student Services Bldg., Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850)644-9566 (voice), (850)644-8504 (TDD)E-mail: SDRC@admin.fsu.edu, Website: http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/