

Deviance and Justice Section 80

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Contact Information

Instructor : Natalie Birthelmer

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Office: HB 125

Office Hours

Tuesday, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, Zoom

by appointment

Monday, 1:15 PM to 2:15 PM, HB125

In-person office hours will be held on Monday after class starting at 1:15pm, by appointment only

Course Description and Requisites

This course examines various areas of norm violations and rule-breaking behaviors including, alcohol and drug use/abuse, criminal violence, corporate deviance, gang violence, and sexual deviance, child abuse, hate crime, mental illness, computer piracy and evaluates justice policies.

Pre/Corequisite(s): Any 100W.

Note(s): Must achieve a grade of "C" or better to fulfill Justice Studies major requirements.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

Students are expected to:

1. Come to class prepared and participate
2. Complete all readings and assignments as scheduled on the syllabus
3. Check canvas and mysjsu regularly and be aware of any changes in the class schedule
4. Be respectful to their classmates in discussions and debates
5. Turn off their cell phones while class is in session

Program Information

Program Learning Outcomes

At the end of a Bachelor of Science degree in Justice Studies in the Department of Justice Studies, students should be able to:

technical issues as an excuse for late or missing assignments.

4. Quality of writing must be appropriate for university level education and must include proper APA citation. Refer to an APA style guide or the [Excelsior Online Writing Lab \(OWL\) \(https://owl.excelsior.edu/citation-and-documentation/apa-style/\)](https://owl.excelsior.edu/citation-and-documentation/apa-style/) at if unclear about APA guidelines on in-text citations and reference pages.
5. To ensure compliance with academic integrity policies, all work in this class must be turned in through Turnitin.com on Canvas, a plagiarism detection service with which San José State University contracts. Turnitin.com is integrated into all Canvas assignments, but students are responsible for ensuring their work is accepted and evaluated by Turnitin.com. Inability to do so will lead to an incomplete grade for affected assignments.

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Written Assignments : Discussions & Short Projects (CLO1, CLO2, CLO4, CLO5)

This course is an interactive seminar with online activities and focused discussions via discussion boards. Short project activities and discussion board prompts are used to develop and enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the application of theoretical principles in criminology to real world scenarios. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, which, in an asynchronous online format, includes self-motivated independent study. All coursework must be thorough, complete, and thoughtful and should reveal command of the course content as well as of critical reading, writing, speaking, and thinking.

Written Assignments : Research Projects (CLO1, CLO 2, CLO3, CLO4)

Students will complete two (2) small research projects.

RP 1 will evaluate and discuss the change in legality of a deviant behavior, and include an explanation of the behavior, how its status has changed over time, and why this change has happened (e.g. legalization of marijuana, changes in abortion law & access, cigarette smoking, gay marriage, prostitution, etc.).

RP 2 will apply two (2) criminological theories to a deviant person.

| When | Topic | Notes |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Week 1 | Introduction & Review of Syllabus | Due: Plagiarism Tutorials & Quiz Read syllabus and watch introductory video |
| Week 2 | What is Deviance | Project/Discussion 1 Chapter 1: What is deviance? Canvas: Tolention, J. (2018). The rage of the incels. Canvas: Sales, N.J. (2015). Tinder and the dawn of the 'dating apocalypse'. |
| Week 3 | Banning Behavior | Project/Discussion 2 Chapter 2: Why people ban behavior Canvas: Dugan, K.T. (2021). QAnon's deadly price. <i>Web of Make Believe: I'm Not a Nazi (Ep.3)</i> <i>The American Insurrection (Frontline)</i> |
| Week 4 | Criminological Theories | Project/Discussion 3 Chapter 3: What causes people to deviate? Theories of deviant behavior Canvas: Henning, P.J. (2018). The challenge of sentencing white collar criminals. Canvas: Davis, J. (1993). Psychological versus sociological explanations for delinquent conduct and gang formation. |
| Week 5 | Criminological Theories | Research Project 1 due |
| Week 6 | From Positive to Extreme Deviance | Project/Discussion 4 Chapter 4: What motivates people to break rules? From extreme deviance to positive deviance Canvas: Schramme, T. (2008). Should we prevent non-therapeutic mutilation and extreme body modification? |
| Exam Week 7 | Midterm Exam | Midterm Exam |
| Week 8 | Drift Theory & Neutralization Techniques | Project/Discussion 5 Chapter 5: Neutralizing morality and deviant motivations Canvas: Anthony, A. (2021). Meet Carl Hart: Columbia professor and heroin user Canvas: Scully, D. & Marolla, J. (1984). Convicted rapists' vocabulary of motive: Excuses and justifications. |
| Week 9 | Control Theories | Project/Discussion 6 Chapter 6: Failed socialization and weak social control Canvas: Watts, S.J (2017). The link between child abuse and neglect and delinquency: Examining the mediating role of social bonds. <i>Watch Marisol & Star's stories</i> |
| Spring Break Week 10 | Spring Break | |

