Moravian College
SOC 240 – Social Deviance
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PPHAC 317
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Office Hours: M 11-2; T 12-3; W 4-6; Th 12-2

Required Text:

- Supplemental readings to be announced throughout the quarter.

Please Note: I cannot be responsible for your purchase of a different edition than otherwise noted above. Please be aware that different editions have different page sequences and may offer either expanded coverage or wholesale subtractions from the edition assigned.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce deviance as a sub-heading of sociological inquiry
- To define deviance in both its modern as well as historical context
- To provide discussion of deviant behavior using a variety of sociological perspectives
- To think and write about deviance using a sociological imagination

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to take two written midterm exams, write a 6-8 page term-type paper, participate in a group project, take a final exam, which will be cumulative, and perform other tasks, including writing article reviews, unannounced quizzes, etc., as befitting this type of course. The midterms will be spaced at approximately one-third of the way through the course—fair warning will precede any exam. The final exam must be taken at the assigned period as outlined in the college schedule.

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Misc. Work, Reviews, Quizzes, etc. 20%
The grade scale is as follows:

- 93-100 = A / 90-92 = A-
- 87-89 = B+ / 83-86 = B / 80-82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+ / 73-76 = C / 70-72 = C-
- 67-69 = D+ / 63-66 = D / 60-62 = D- / 59-0 = F

Please Note: For most written work, I will be using a letter grade system in which the above letters will correspond to numbers ranging from 13 (A+) through 1 (F but different from a zero). Your final tally for these works will be drawn from the high end of each letter grade, i.e. a C+ will be marked as 79 pts, etc. I will be happy to explain this more completely upon request. Also, all outside work must be typed using a 12-sized font in black with default margins and in hard copy (in-class work is to be done in blue or black ink only). The term paper will not be returned, but you will receive a fully detailed rubric as explanation for your final grade.

Classroom Decorum and Expectations:

- **Attendance** – Class attendance is mandatory and vitally important to your success. Failure to attend on a regular basis not only puts your grade in jeopardy but will also be met with significant grade reductions. The limits are as follows:
  - Following your fourth absence, each subsequent absence will lower your final grade by one letter.
  - This penalty will continue to accrue per each successive absence from that point on.

  **Remember – there are no excused absences. If you have a legitimate emergency, it is your responsibility to bring it to the attention of your instructor at the earliest possible opportunity convenience. Communication (and hard work) are ultimately the keys to success at this level (forgive the fortune cookie tone!).

- **Tardiness** – Tardiness to class is not only detrimental to the learning process but quite disruptive and unfair to those who make it to class on time regularly. Recurring tardiness shows a lack of respect for the classroom, the instructor, and one’s fellow students and will not be tolerated. Therefore, once the door has been shut, you will not be permitted to enter the classroom.

- **Deadlines** – Assignment deadlines are exactly that. Students are expected to comply with deadlines in accordance with all rules, guidelines, and expectations of each assignment proffered. Failure to do so will result in a tendering of no-
grade for work not done to expectation or submitted on time. The policy for late papers is as follows:

- On minor assignments, you will be allowed to turn in one late assignment as long as it is within twenty-four hours for a ten point deduction. After your one exception, you will no longer enjoy this luxury.
- On major assignments, there will be no grace period. Failure to contact the instructor prior to a deadline (or missed exam) will result in a zero.

- Participation – Classroom discussions are a big part of the learning process and will be factored into your final grade. In the best tradition of many West African communities, your participation is not requested—it is required. Failure to contribute regularly is both in bad taste and could conceivably be detrimental to your ability to learn effectively.
- Disruptions – Disruptive behavior, including talking, unengaged behavior, i.e. reading a book, magazine, or newspaper, sleeping, chronic tardiness alongside loud entrances, and any other unfortunate breech will not, and should not, be tolerated. Learning is an active process, and failure to actively engage not only threatens the individual’s ability to learn but also affects those around him or her.
- Academic Honesty – You are all responsible for knowing and adhering to the code of academic honesty as established here at Moravian College. For those of you unfamiliar with this code, it can be found in its entirety on pages 52 through 57 on your student handbook. And to add further emphasis on this point, any paper turned in without proper citations will be subject to charges of academic dishonesty and any and all applicable penalties.

It is your responsibility to see to it that these expectations and guidelines are met satisfactorily and consistently. I take the classroom quite seriously, and I expect all of you to do the same.

A Note on Writing in This Course:

In the interest of full disclosure, you should be aware that this instructor is extraordinarily devoted to the development of proper written expression in his students. Therefore, in terms of all written assignments, I will weigh what you say against the backdrop of how you say it in my evaluation of your work. It is, thus, up to each of you to explore the most expedient means to improve your writing through attention to editing and, if necessary, trips to the college writing center as a means of fully realizing your scholarly potential.

Film Night:

At some point in the semester, I will announce a film night in which we will meet for a viewing and subsequent discussion of an applicable film. Again, ample warning will precede such an announcement.
A primary function of sociologists is to search out the determinants and consequences of diverse forms of social behavior.
—Robert K. Merton, Noted Deviance Scholar

Course Outline (STC):

Unit I: The Foundations of Deviance

Topics to Be Covered: (Readings: Vandenburgh; Handouts)

- The Language of Deviance
- Historical Treatments of Deviant Behavior
- Classical Theorists & Theories
- Deviant Behaviors & Mental Illnesses
- The Nature of Delinquency: Adult and Juvenile

Midterm #1

Unit II: American Deviance: The Birth of a Notion

Topics to Be Covered: (Readings: Erikson; Handouts)

- New England Social Norms
- Counter Expressions and Deviance
- Modern Incarnations of Puritanism
- Comparative Assessments of Linger ing Puritan Impact

Midterm #2

Unit III: The Politics of Modern Deviance

Topics to Be Covered: (Readings: Hendershott; Handouts)

- Medical Explanations of Deviance
- The Therapeutic Turn
- Deviance & Social Constructionism
- Moral Panics
- The (Post) Modern World & Modern Taboos

Final Exam (check college schedule)

**Check Black Board (Bb) Site Daily**

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