

Dr. Shearon Lowery

Tel: 305-348-3528

Office Hours:

Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45 PM in SIPA 326

Other times by appointment only.

Email: shearon.lowery@comcast.net or
Shearon.Lowery@fiu.edu

NATURE OF THE COURSE:

This course is an examination of selected behaviors and beliefs that counter the culturally accepted norms and violate social expectations. The social construction of deviance from time, place and context will be analyzed, noting the changing nature of what is defined as deviant. Various theoretical perspectives will be used to analyze deviance. Topics discussed will include many that are currently controversial in the United States and at variance with some other cultures (e.g., the use of medical marijuana, gay marriage, legalization and regulation of prostitution, etc.).

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

DEVIANT BEHAVIOR by Alex Thio, Taylor and Schwartz (11th Edition)(Required)(10th Edition will suffice)

EXTREME DEVIANCE by Erich Goode and D. Angus Vail, Pine Forge Press, 2008 (Recommended)

All readings from Goode and Vail are recommended only; no material from that book will be on tests unless covered in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

Only two exams will be given (midterm and final). These exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, identifications, and essay questions. To assist in your preparation for the exams, Study Guides will be prepared by the professor and distributed to students in the class. Extra credit points are added to the total number of points earned from the midterm and final exams and then the total divided by two for an average.

To add to the number of points, a student may write a reaction paper on either guest speakers or selected documentaries. Points received will usually range from 0 to 5 for a single paper. Occasionally, a paper will receive more than 5 points, indicating exceptional quality. The average paper will receive 3 points, those above average 4 or 5 depending on the quality. However, the papers must include **all** of the **components** described in the syllabus below. It should be noted that papers early in the semester will, by nature, be simpler to do because the student will have less course material to relate to the discussion. Later in the semester, as we cover additional material, the discussion will by necessity become more complex. You should strive to improve the thoughtfulness of your papers as the semester progresses. It is not required to use outside sources in these papers but if you do so, you must cite them appropriately.

In essence, reaction papers consist of three parts: (1) A summary of content; (2) Honest personal reaction and evaluation; (3) Connection of textbook content/lectures with information provided by the guest speaker or documentary. Length of paper will depend on documentary/speaker but usually will average three (3) to five (5) pages. **Reaction papers are optional – not required. Points will be awarded on the merits of the paper.** Papers are due one week after the speaker/video, and are to be turned in during class. If you are unable to attend class on the due date then email the paper to me on the due date and turn in a printed copy later. Papers must be typed and double-spaced.

Simply turning in “something” does not automatically add to a student’s grade. Maximum number of total reaction paper points shall not exceed 25. No papers will be accepted the last week of class. As these papers are done for extra credit, **No late papers will be accepted.** Do not plagiarize. If you are not familiar with FIU’s policy on plagiarism, please review it.

Regular attendance is expected. However, please stay home when you are sick, especially when you have a contagious disease. In addition, should you encounter any other situation that interferes with class attendance on an extended basis, please inform the professor. If you attend class, you are expected to sign the attendance sheet circulated to document your presence; if you do not sign, officially you were not there. *If you sign for another student, you risk academic penalties.* In awarding course grades, extra consideration will be given for both exemplary attendance and constructive classroom participation as discussion of issues enhances understanding. Excessive absence may result in a lower grade.

Some topics listed on this syllabus will require more class time than others. Therefore, be sure to follow the syllabus and read all **required assignments.** Since lecture time usually adds to the readings rather than just rehashing them, **not all chapters will be discussed in class; students are, however, responsible for the material contained in all assigned chapters.** In addition, students are encouraged to ask questions about the assigned reading either in class or during office hours.

REMINDER: Be sure to read and understand FIU's policy on plagiarism.

GRADE SCALE

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60 - 69	F = 59 and below
A- = 90-92	B = 84-86	C = 70-76		
	B- = 80-83			

COURSE OUTLINE FOR SOCIAL DEVIANCE

A. Introduction

1. Defining Deviance
 2. Conceptions of deviant behavior
 3. Basic issues in the study of deviance
- Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 1

B. Cognitive Deviance

1. Definitions
 2. Examples
 - a. Being abducted by aliens as a deviant belief
 - b. Believing in White Supremacy
- Recommended Readings:
 "Alien Attraction: Subculture of UFO Contactees" pp. 34-44 in Goode and Vail
 "White Supremacy as Extreme Deviance" pp. 108-116 in Goode and Vail

C. Sociological & Social-Psychological Explanations of Deviance

1. Anomie/strain theory
 2. Control theory
 3. Social learning theory
 4. Labeling theory
 5. Power theory
- Required Readings: Thio, Chapters 2 and 3

D. Drinking and Alcoholism

1. Major explanations of why people drink
 2. Binge drinking
 3. Social correlates of problem drinking
 4. Explanations of alcoholism
 5. Treatment programs
 6. Female alcoholics
 7. The role of culture in alcoholism
 8. Current issues in the study of alcohol use
- Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 13

MIDTERM EXAM: Date to be announced two (2) weeks in advance

E. Drug Use

1. The War on Drugs
 2. Types and effects of drugs
 3. Patterns of drug use
 4. Contemporary problems with drug use and abuse
 5. Treatment programs
 6. Theories of drug use
- Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 12

F. Sexual Deviance

1. Heterosexual deviance
2. Homosexual behavior and Homophobia
3. Bisexuality
4. Transsexualism
5. Prostitution
6. Swinging
7. Rape
8. Cybers
9. Koro
10. Sexual asphyxia and other unusual types of sexual practices
11. S & M Sexual Practices

Required Readings: Thio, Chapters 5, 9, 10 and 11

Recommended Reading:

“S & M: An Introduction” pp. 202-206 in Goode and Vail

”Sexual Spanking” pp. 212-220 in Goode and Vail

“The S & M Experience” pp. 220-225 in Goode and Vail

G. Mental Illness

1. Popular beliefs
2. Types of mental disorder
3. Conceptions of mental illness
 - a. The medical model
 - b. The labeling model
 - c. The social learning model
4. Variations in rates of mental illness
5. Societal responses to mental disorder
6. Global Perspective on mental disorder

Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 8

H. Suicide

1.	Variations in suicidal behavior
2.	Group differences in suicide rates
3.	Theories of suicide
4.	Situational factors in suicide
5.	Societal Response to suicide
6.	Prevention
7.	Current Issues
Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 7	

I. Potpourri Deviance

Recommended Readings:

“Bod Mod to the Max” pp. 2-4 in Goode and Vail

“Tattoos are Like Potato Chips... You Can’t Have Just One” pp. 5-14 in Goode and Vail

“Flesh Journeys: The Radical Body Modification of Neoprimatives” pp. 15-26 in Goode and Vail

“NAAFA: Attempting to Neutralize the Stigma of the Hugely Obese Body” pp. 72-80 in Goode and Vail

“The Fat Admirer” pp. 80-90 in Goode and Vail

“Strategic Experimentation and Stigmatization in Earth First” pp. 189-196 in Goode and Vail.

FINAL EXAM: Scheduled by FIU