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 TEXT:

DEVIANTE BEHAVIOR by Alex Thio (Latest Edition)(earlier editions will suffice for economy)
EXTREME DEVIANCE by Erich Goode and D. Angus Vail, Pine Forge Press, 2008
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 three major exams will be given (midterm, second and final). If a student passes the midterm and second exam, they are not required to take the final exam. If taken, the grade on the final is averaged with the midterm and second exams and collectively they comprise 90% of your grade. 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 via email to students in the class. Tests are compiled using the study guide. A minor test will be given early in the semester on the content of this syllabus. The breakdown of all the points available on tests is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syllabus Test/Midterm/ Second exam Taken</th>
<th>Syllabus Test/Midterm/Second/Final Exam Taken</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 On Syllabus 10 points 10 % of total</td>
<td>Test 1 On Syllabus 10 points 10% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 Midterm 100 points 45 % of total</td>
<td>Test 2 Midterm 100 points 30% of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3 Second 100 points 45 % of total</td>
<td>Test 3 Second 100 points 30 % of total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 4 Final 100 points 30% of total</td>
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Extra credit points are added to the total number of points earned from midterm, second and final exams and then the total divided by the appropriate number 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 two (2) weeks 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<td>80-83</td>
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</tbody>
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**COURSE OUTLINE FOR SOCIAL DEVIANCE**

**A. Introduction**

1. Defining Deviance
2. Conceptions of deviant behavior
3. Higher consensus versus lower consensus deviance
4. Mundane deviance
5. Basic issues in the study of deviance
   Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 1.

**B. Cognitive Deviance**

1. Definition
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 12

**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 11

F. Sexual Devianey

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

Required Readings: Thio, Chapters 5, 9, 10 and 15
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. Types of mental disorder
2. Conceptions of mental illness
   a. The medical model
   b. The labeling model
   c. The social learning model
3. Variations in rates of mental illness
4. Societal responses to mental disorder
5. Current issues
   Required Readings: Thio, Chapter 8

H. Suicide

1. Variations in suicidal behavior
2. Group differences in suicide rates
3. Theories of suicide
4. Societal Response to suicide
5. Prevention
6. 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 Neoprimitives” 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.

SECOND EXAM  Monday April 14
FINAL EXAM    Date Determined by FIU Final Exam Schedule