

Course Summary

Instructor and Course Designer: Liz N. Roberts, M.A.

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Computer Tech Support for Online Classes: If you have network or computer compatibility problems, please call the Help Desk Tech Support at (425) 564-4357.

Course Description: In this course I want to introduce you to the central sociological concepts of deviance, social order, social power, identity construction, and identity management. In this class we will work together to begin to understand the basics of the sociological perspective, and to see how it differs from the psychological approach that most people are used to using to understand society and social life. We will use the topic of deviance to see how groups of people have the power to shape social definitions and apply them onto others. We will then look at the consequences for those defined as deviant of this label. We will look at how people come to develop a deviant identity and what that means to them in the exercise of their everyday lives. The readings I have selected are designed to take us through this intellectual pathway in an interesting and informative manner.

Course Goals: A central aim of this course is to help students become more aware of how their lives are shaped by social forces and to gain an appreciation of their ability to engage and interact with the world in a constructive manner.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: Students should leave this course with a grounded understanding of the major theoretical perspectives associated with the sociological study of deviant behavior. Students will learn about the prevalence, causes, and consequences for different types of deviant behavior. In addition they will be able to analyze the different types of deviant behavior by applying concepts from each theoretical perspective. Students should also be able to recognize the influence of culture and social context on the prevalence and interpretation of deviant behaviors.

Office Hours: I will not hold office hours this summer, as I am not located in the Seattle area. Please send me an email, as I check it numerous times daily. I do guarantee a response within 24 hours. If we cannot figure something out via email I am happy to set up a phone appointment with you. Also, if you have a question that you want answered right away, try posting it in Cafe Conversations, that way maybe your classmates will be able to help you if I am not available at that moment.

Course Materials

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested: that is, some books are to be read only in parts, others to be read, but not curiously, and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.

-Francis Bacon

Required Books:

Adler, Peter and Adler, Patricia A. 2009. Sixth Edition Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction. Belmont, California: Thomson Wadsworth. ISBC#13-978-0-495-50429-0

This book is available from online book sellers such as Amazon.com or Barnesandnoble.com for approximately new \$75.00 and \$65 used. Students may also want to check availability and prices with other online booksellers. The books may also be purchased from the Bellevue Community College Bookstore or online at the bookstore's site at: bcc.collegestoreonline.com.