

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023**

**SO2240(A2 & VC): Sociology of Deviance and Conformity – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	Dr. Michael Holland	<b>PHONE:</b>	780-539-2973
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	By appointment		

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A study of the politics and social ramifications of conformity, deviance, and their relation to social change. The course examines how and why some behaviour patterns are defined as deviant or conformist, and factors that influence this. Many types of behaviour will be discussed.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Completed the following:

**SO1000 - Introductory Sociology**

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Inderbitzin, M., Bates, K. A., & Gainey, R. R. (2020). *Deviance and social control: A sociological perspective*. Sage Publications.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g. webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g. camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define a range of concepts used within the fields of the sociology of deviance and conformity
- Explain deviance using sociological insights
- Illustrate the applicability of sociological concepts in the analysis of the cause and consequences of deviance
- Identify and explain the research tools used by deviance sociologists
- Explain key ethical principles employed in the study of the sociology of deviance.

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
Chapter Quizzes * 10 @ 10 points each	100 pts	7.5 %
2 Video assignments (20 pts each)	40 pts	7.5 %
Midterm	60 pts	25 %
Case study	170 pts	30 %
Final Exam	100 pts	30 %
Total	470 pts	100 %

Note: assignment instructions and rubrics will be made available on our myClass page.

**Chapter Weekly Quizzes**

Beginning week 3, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (myClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice), and one bonus quiz. These quizzes serve to encourage you to consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course. Beginning the third week of the class (See below), **quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM**. It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

**Video Assignments (group or solo work)**

You will complete two assignments based on two films shown in the semester. These assignments ask you to critically assess the content of the films, apply sociological theories and concepts, and demonstrate your critical thinking skills. You will have one week to complete the assignments after the film has been shown in class. You may work on these assignments in groups or individually. Please note: grades will be shared if working in groups. Instructions for these assignments are available on myClass.

### **Written Assignment: Deviance Case Study**

You will complete a research project based on a case study related to deviance and social control. The topic is up to you, but options will be given upon request. The project will be broken down into the following steps: First, you will come up with a **proposal (20 points, 2 percent)**, which will consist of a case study topic (of your choice), write a research problem statement, theoretical framework, and a research question(s) that you will ask about the topic to be further explored.

This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving on to the **outline assignment (40 points, 7 percent)**. The outline assignment consists of locating academic or news resources, and then organizing research into a logical essay in which you paraphrase research and utilize proper citations (APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition citation style). Next, you will prepare a **presentation about the case study (50 points, 7 percent)**. You will have the option of presenting in class (dates will be assigned) or a recorded presentation. You must also provide peer feedback (**competition grade, 1 percent of your course grade**). Finally, you will complete a **full research paper (60 points, 13 percent)** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page using APA format. The full research paper will be between 6-8 pages (double-spaced) in length (references extra). Specific information about this assignment will be provided and discussed in class.

### **Midterm and Final Exam**

The midterm will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, matching, and short essay questions. The final exam will be a take-home exam that will open the day after the last scheduled classes and close by 11:59 pm on the date scheduled by the registrar. Further details will be provided when available. Reviews before the exams will take place in class.

### **GRADING CRITERIA**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

### **Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:**

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
Sept 5, 7	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Course Syllabus	
Sept 12, 14	Intro to the sociology of deviance, conformity, and social control	Chapter 1	
Sept 19, 21	Diversity of deviance	Chapter 2	Quiz 1 starts
Sept 26, 28	Researching/studying deviance *Tinder swindler (video one)	Chapter 3	Proposal due Sept 29, 11:59 pm
Oct 3, 5	Explaining deviance: Anomie/Strain theory	Chapter 4	
Oct 10, 12	Explaining deviance: Social disorganization theory	Chapter 5	
Oct 17, 19	Explaining deviance: Differential Association and Social Learning theories	Chapter 6	
Oct 24, 26	<b>Midterm review</b> <b>Midterm (Oct 26)</b>		
Oct 31, 2	Social control theories American Psycho (Video 2)	Chapter 7	Outline due Nov 3, 11: 59 pm
Nov 7, 9	Labeling theories	Chapter 8	
Nov 14-17 Fall Break			
Nov 21, 23	Conflict theory	Chapter 9	Case Study Presentations start

Nov 28, Nov 30	Critical theories	Chapter 10	Case Study Presentations continue. Quizzes end
Dec 5, 7	Societal Responses to Deviance	Chapter 11	Case Study Presentations continue
Dec 12	Deviant Careers/ Course review and wrap-up; prepare for final exam	Chapter 12	Case Study Presentations continue.  Final Paper Due Dec 19 at 11:59 pm

**OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Sept 14 Last day to add courses or drop courses for a full refund (in most programs) & last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan). Last day to opt out of Student Health/Dental Plan
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day—No Classes
- Nov 13-17 Fall Break—No Classes
- Nov 28 Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a “W”
- Dec 8 Deadline to apply for Winter courses
- Dec 12 Last day of classes for the Fall semester
- Dec 14 - 21 Final exam period

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

For Video Conferencing Students:

During classes, VC students must turn on their cameras, use an appropriate screen name, and participate during class for credit.

**Important VC information for the midterm test:**

For the midterm, VC students are required to use a dual camera setup, which means having a webcam that shows your camera behind you showing your work area with your computer.

If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by the instructor. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc. If the above options do not work for you, may simply join us on campus to write the midterm exam during the scheduled time.

**Please note:** It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.

**Submission & Late Policies:** It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0% unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me.

### **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **D2L (MyClass)**

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

#### **Professional Conduct:**

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

**Please note:** If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you toward other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "How do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO 2240" in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).

- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails *formally*, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!