

**DEPARTMENT OF Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2022**

**SO2240 (A3): 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.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Michael Holland      **PHONE:** 780-539-2973  
**OFFICE:** C-404      **E-MAIL:** mholland@nwpolytech.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11 am, or 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.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S):** SO1000

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

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

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** lectures, class and group discussion, group work, film analysis

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Introduce students to the essential sociological concepts of deviance and conformity
- Help students understand the social ramifications of conformity and deviance and their relation to social change
- Assist students to learn to apply the theories and methodologies of the sociology of deviance

- Familiarize students with the key concepts, theories, and debates in the sociology of deviance and conformity
- Promote and develop students' skills in critical thinking, writing, referencing, and research

**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
2 Media assignments (20 pts each)	40 pts	7.5 %
2 Video assignments (20 pts each)	40 pts	7.5 %
Midterm	60 pts	25 %
Research Project: Proposal (written or presented) (5 pts; 5 %) Outline (20 pts; 10 %) Complete paper (50 pts; 15%)	75 pts	30 %
Final Exam	100 pts	30 %
Total	315 pts	100 %

**Media Assignments**

Throughout the semester, there will be 2 media assignments that you will complete. In these assignments, you will discuss how deviance and social control are portrayed in the media and what it means for our society. These assignments involve applying concepts, theories, and issues discussed in both readings and lectures. Specific details about these assignments will be discussed during class.

### Video Assignments

You will complete two assignments based on two films that will be 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. Further details will be posted early in the semester.

### Research Paper Assignment

You will complete a full research paper based on a topic 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**, which will consist of a research topic (of your choice), write a research problem statement, and a research question(s) that you will ask about the topic to be further explored. You have the option of either submitting a written proposal or an in-class presentation. More details about these options will be discussed in class.

This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving on to the **outline assignment**. The outline assignment consists of locating peer-reviewed, academic 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). Finally, you will complete a **full research paper** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page. The full research paper will be between 6-8 pages (double-spaced) in length (references extra). Note: all of these assignments have strict due dates. **You must complete each part of these assignments in order before moving on to the next.** Specific information about this assignment will be provided and discussed in class.

### Midterm Test and Final Exam

The Midterm term test and Final Examination will consist of multiple-choice, true/false questions, and a short answer question. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is cumulative (emphasis on 'big picture' themes and concepts). The midterm test and the final exam will be based on all course material (textbook, classroom discussions, and video clips shown).

**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.

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

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

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94	C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84	D+	1.3	54-59
B	3.0	75-79	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74	F	0.0	00-49

### COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments and Due Dates
Sept 2	Introduction to the course Meet and Greet	Course Syllabus	
Sept 5	Labour Day –No classes		
Sept 9	Intro to the sociology of deviance, conformity, and social control	Chapter 1	
Sept 12, 16	Diversity of deviance	Chapter 2	Media assignment 1 due Sept 16, start of class
Sept 19, 23	Researching/studying deviance	Chapter 3	Video 1 shown in class
Sept 26	Explaining deviance: Anomie/Strain theory	Chapter 4	Video assignment 1 due Sept 26, start of class
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No class		
Oct 3, 7	Explaining deviance: Social disorganization theory	Chapter 5	Research project proposal due Oct 3, presentations (if any)
Oct 10-14	Thanksgiving and Fall Break – No classes		
Oct 17, 21	Explaining deviance: Differential Association and Social Learning theories	Chapter 6	

Oct 24, 28	<b>Midterm review (Oct 24); Midterm (Oct 28)</b>		
Oct 31, Nov 4	Social control theories	Chapter 7	Video 2 shown in class (Oct 31)
Nov 7	Labeling theories	Chapter 8	Video 2 assignment due Nov 7, start of class
Nov 11	Remembrance Day – No classes		
Nov 14, 18	Conflict theory	Chapter 9	Research Outline due Nov 14, start of class
Nov 21, 25	Critical theories	Chapter 10	
Nov 28, Dec 2	Societal responses to Deviance	Chapter 11	
Dec 5, 9	Deviant Careers	Chapter 12	Media assignment 2, due Dec 9, start of class
Dec 12	Course review and wrap-up		Complete Research Paper Due (Dec 12)
			Final exam 30% (cumulative) Scheduled by the Registrar Office

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

Sept 5 – Labour Day – No classes

Sept 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No classes

Oct 10 – Thanksgiving Day – No classes

Oct 11-14 – Fall Break – No classes

Nov 11 – Remembrance Day – No classes

Dec 12 – Last day of classes

Dec 14 – Exam Start

Dec 22 – Last day of Final exams

Please note that I may alter or add a reading assignment, film, reference list, or topic of investigation. You will be notified in class and in writing through myClass.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES**

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as is your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered, and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and/or notes that may be due.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

A missed exam won't be accommodated *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency, and unless you can provide documentation.

### **EXAM ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Exam accommodations are used by any number of students whose learning disabilities affect processing and comprehending printed material, learning, and/or concentration (either due to the condition itself, or the effects of the medication which is used to treat the condition).

Accommodations can also be sought by students with conditions that include, but are not limited to, mental health conditions, chronic illness, neurological disorders, visual disabilities, and motor disabilities. If you require exam accommodations due to a disability or condition, you must contact Accessibility Supports (in the library). More information is available at <https://libguides.nwpolytech.ca/learningcommons/AccessibilityServices>

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>

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

## **Additional Information:**

### **myClass**

This course will make extensive use of our website on myClass 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 course work, 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 towards 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.

- 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!

### **Student Performance**

- Please note that you won't always perform your best on assignments, tests, or final exams. Life happens, too. If you receive a less than satisfactory grade or comments, don't take this as the world is ending. Instead, see this as an opportunity to improve on things that you currently have trouble understanding. Education is also improvement!
- If you receive a grade for an assignment and you wish to speak with me about it, I suggest **waiting at least one day before you send off that e-mail asking me "why did I get this mark? I worked really hard!"**. Sometimes it helps to take a breather and to sort out your thoughts before writing them in an e-mail.
- 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?"
- It is my priority, as your instructor, to give you the tools to be as successful as possible. I am always available for help, whether in person or via e-mail.