

SOCIOLOGY 314, Deviant Behavior

Cross-Listed with CCJS 441

Instructor: A. Vigorito, Ph.D. (anthony.vigorito@gmail.com)

Fall 2016

Prerequisites: Sociology Major/Minor (SOCI 314 section)

GE: No

Catalog Descriptions

Examines the nature of deviant behavior in contemporary society. This class will focus on the processes by which an act becomes defined as deviant as well as the selective application of the deviant stigma. Additionally, the role of power and the embeddedness of society and its norms in and between our minds is a major theme woven throughout this course.

By the end of this semester students will have gained:

1. A critical skepticism regarding social problems and their resolution.
2. An ability to specify the social mechanisms creating deviance categories.
3. A deeper knowledge of what society is, and how our beliefs reflect the major themes of our most invisible social constructions.
4. An awareness of major patterns of individual and organizational deviance.
5. An in-depth understanding of specific types of deviance and the social issues surrounding them.

General topics include symbolic interaction, labeling theory, stigma, and both positivist and constructivist theories of deviance. Specific topics include gender and sexual deviance, the phenomenology of drug use, and corporate deviance. Class format will include both group discussion and lecture. Participation is a major part of the course, so attendance is mandatory.

Required Texts

3 books will be assigned (tba)

Grading

Two exams, along with quizzes and assignments throughout the semester.

All information included is subject to change.