

# Sociology and Non-Conforming Behavior

## SOCI 154

Fall 2025 Section 01 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/05/2025

### Contact Information

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**Instructor:** Dr. William Armaline

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**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

### Course Information

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#### Class Days/Time

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:45 am

#### Classroom

DMH 231

### Course Description and Requisites

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Sociological analysis of behavior outside of social conventions including crime, mental illness, suicide and chemical dependency.

Prerequisite: SOCI 1 or equivalent.

Letter Graded

### Classroom Protocols

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- 1) This course depends on participation and interaction. Students are expected to be on time to class out of respect for your colleagues and instructor.
- 2) All classroom participants are expected to foster an environment that encourages the participation of others (be respectful to one another, do not insult or intimidate others, and so forth).
- 3) Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- 4) Students are responsible for any and all notes and materials missed in their absence.

## Program Information

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### Program Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to think sociologically about the relationship between social structure, interaction, identities, and inequalities.
2. Students will be able to identify and explain major sociological theories and apply them to everyday life.
3. Students will be proficient in qualitative and quantitative research design, data collection and data analysis.
4. Students will be proficient in oral and written communication skills appropriate to the discipline.
5. Students will be able to practice sociology as educated and civically engaged persons.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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(CLO1) Demonstrate an understanding of several theoretical approaches to concepts like deviance, norms, and social control.

(CLO2) Demonstrate the ability to apply these different theoretical approaches in an analysis of contemporary society.

(CLO3) Explore several case studies on deviant behavior in order to practice the application of sociological theories of deviance.

(CLO4) Demonstrate the ability to engage with complex theories in conversation with intellectual peers.

## Course Materials

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### Required Text

Inderbitzin, Michelle, Kristin Bates, and Randy Gainey. (2021). *Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective* [3rd Ed.]. Sage.

ISBN: 9781544395777

**Other readings and materials** will be provided by the instructor (as links or PDFs) via email and the "files" link on Canvas.

# Course Requirements and Assignments

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## Readings

Students are expected to complete readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings so that we can engage the material together. Though readings are not a graded assignment, students are required to draw from them and other course materials to complete both exams.

## Classroom Activities and Discussion

Though not graded, this course requires a great deal of classroom discussion and classroom activity. Discussions and classroom activities are designed to help students successfully achieve all learning objectives and to prepare students for exams.

## Exams

The only graded material in this course (other than extra credit) will be a take home Midterm and FinalExam, each worth 50% of the final course grade. Students will receive the exams well in advance, and there will be an in-class review session for each (see course schedule). Both exams require students to define and apply several core theoretical concepts in an analysis of contemporary society

Students are encouraged to form study groups in class to tackle readings together and to assist each other in preparing their exams. We will discuss acceptable strategies for doing so in class.

## Extra Credit

Students may submit an unlimited amount of extra credit in this course. The typical written assignment should be split into three sections: summary, analysis, and critique. Assignments may be on any subject matter, and may be in any format/media (written, video, audio, artwork, etc.), but MUST apply a sociological analysis drawing on course content. The instructor will provide some EC opportunities where/when available, but students are encouraged to come up with their own ideas, and should take advantage of this opportunity to examine content of their choice for credit.

Extra credit can be submitted at any time to the instructor via email (or however appropriate). However, all EC assignments must be submitted by the last day of class (12/08/25).

## Grading Information

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Final grades will be calculated as a percentage on a typical "100 point scale":

A+ 98-100%

A 94-97

A- 90-93

B+ 88-89

B 84-87

B- 80-83

C+ 78-79

C 74-77

C- 70-73

D+ 68-69

D 64-67

D- 60-63

F <60%

Assignment Percentage of Final Grade:

Midterm 50%

Final Exam 50%

TOTAL 100%

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 1 - Wednesday 08/20/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Course Introduction, Review Syllabus, Plan Content	We'll take this opportunity to review the course and to plan some of our case study material.  Some decisions for us to make by next week:  What cases would you like to study for "cults and subcultures" week?  Which classic film would you like to watch for our unit on the American Mob?
<b>Lecture</b> Week 2 - Monday 08/25/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Basic Introduction; How to read a research article and other general tips.	What is the study of deviance/norms and social control?  How to read a research article and more on "doing school."  <i>Read Forward from Howard Becker (pg. xix) and "How to Read a Research Article" (pg. xxx) in text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 2 - Wednesday 08/27/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Introduction to Deviance	Define basic concepts - warm up material.  <i>Read Chapter 1 in text</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 3 - Monday 09/01/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	NO CLASS - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 3 - Wednesday 09/03/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Types (categories, cases, etc.) of Deviance in Society	<i>Read Chapter 2 in text</i>

When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 4 - Monday 09/08/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Researching Deviance (methods and examples)	<i>Read Chapter 3 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 4 - Wednesday 09/10/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Discuss and review the Midterm Exam	We'll go over the exam together and develop some strategies for preparation and success.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 5 - Monday 09/15/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Durkheim, Functionalism, and Anomie/Strain Theory	<i>Read Chapter 4 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 5 - Wednesday 09/17/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Class activity/discussion - Thinking about purpose and the future.	The class will explore the role of social norms in thinking about their own futures and discuss the notion of a national or collective "purpose."
<b>Lecture</b> Week 6 - Monday 09/22/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Social Disorganization Theory	<i>Read Chapter 5 in the text.</i>

When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 6 - Wednesday 09/24/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Exploring all things crime and "copaganda" in the US	We will look at relevant local and national data on crime in comparison to popular/political beliefs about crime and public safety in our communities. How are perceptions of crime and policing woven into our politics and political discourse? What is "copaganda"? What is a police state? What is the global police state?  <i>Assign film, Gangs of New York (2002) for EC discussion/activity next week.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 7 - Monday 09/29/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Differential Association and Social Learning Theories	<i>Read Chapter 6 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 7 - Wednesday 10/01/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	History of "gangs" in the US	Report back on film, <i>Gangs of New York (extra credit!)</i>  Discuss historical and contemporary work on "gangs" in the US and in CA/the Bay Area.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 8 - Monday 10/06/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Cults and Subcultures Week (class choice of docs and material)!	In the first week of class, students will choose case studies to examine (readings and documentaries) as examples of cults and subcultures in recent US history.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 8 - Wednesday 10/08/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Cults and Subcultures Week!	Continue with selected case study material.  In-class MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW activity (remember to <i>bring all of your notes/drafts/materials</i> ).

When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 9 - Monday 10/13/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Social Control Theories of Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 7 in the text.</i>  <b>MIDTERM EXAM DUE VIA EMAIL BY 11:59 PM</b>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 9 - Wednesday 10/15/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Looking at the Modern Surveillance State - The US, China, and Silicon Valley	We will examine the incredible surveillance apparatus of both the US and China, the role of these technologies in our lives, and how Silicon Valley companies are in the middle of it.  How does this reflect/connect to geopolitics? How does it connect to the global police state?
<b>Lecture</b> Week 10 - Monday 10/20/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Labelling Theory and the work of Howard Becker	<i>Read Chapter 8 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 10 - Wednesday 10/22/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	History of Cannabis Prohibition and (State) Legalization in the US	We'll apply Howard Becker's concepts to explore the history of cannabis prohibition and the broader "drug war" in the US. This discussion will also prepare the class for a future exploration of the "Iran Contra Scandal."
<b>Lecture</b> Week 11 - Monday 10/27/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Marxist and Conflict Theories of Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 9 in the text.</i>



When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 11 - Wednesday 10/29/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Deviance and Class War (also - Halloween!)	We will explore the relationship between the constructions of norms and deviance and the waging of class war (in both directions...)  As a side (but connected) conversation, we'll discuss Halloween as what in some ways is a social celebration of deviance, and ritual relaxation of social norms.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 12 - Monday 11/03/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Critical Theories of Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 10 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 12 - Wednesday 11/05/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Iran - Contra Scandal Part 1	We will look into the wild, and somewhat complicated history of the "Iran - Contra Scandal," that included a conspiracy by the CIA to illegally aid (ensure) shipments of cocaine and cash in major metros all over the country at the height of the drug war (late 20th century).
<b>Lecture</b> Week 13 - Monday 11/10/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Iran - Contra Scandal Part 2	Continued!
<b>Lecture</b> Week 13 - Wednesday 11/12/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Societal Responses to Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 11 in the text.</i>

When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 14 - Monday 11/17/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	TBA (catch up day)	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 14 - Wednesday 11/19/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	Deviant Careers and Career Deviance	<i>Read Chapter 12 in the text.</i>
<b>Lecture</b> Week 15 - Monday 11/24/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 15 - Wednesday 11/26/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 16 - Monday 12/01/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231	The Mob, the CIA, and the Heroin Trade (Alfred McCoy); Final Exam Review	<p>First, we'll take this opportunity to review the final exam together and strategize for preparation and success. Please make sure to bring all of your notes/materials/drafts to class.</p> <p>Second, we'll look at the (broad strokes) findings of Alfred McCoy in his classic study of US intelligence agencies deep involvement in the global heroin trade for much of the 20th and 21st centuries. This included the collaboration of American mob families in the US with the early CIA and anti-communist (liberals and fascists...) forces in Europe following WWII... We'll get into it.</p> <p><i>Read McCoy Excerpt (will be distributed)</i></p>

When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 16 - Wednesday 12/03/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231 (Alternative TBA for screening)	Film Party Part 1!!	We'll watch the film students selected. Location TBA.  Let's have some fun!
<b>Lecture</b> Week 17 - Monday 12/08/2025 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM DMH 231 (Alternative TBA for screening)	Film Party Part 2!!	We'll wrap up the film and answer any remaining questions on the final exam.  <i>All EC assignments are due by 11:59 pm via email.</i>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	FINAL EXAM DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 15TH	PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR FINAL EXAM VIA EMAIL BY 11:59 PM AS INSTRUCTED.