# COURSE SYLLABUS
## SO 400-I01
### THEORIES OF DEVIANCE
#### SPRING 2012

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

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**READ THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th><strong>Professor:</strong> Dr. Alex Takeuchi, Ph.D. (a.k.a. Dr. T)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office:</strong> 562 Stevens Hall</td>
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</tbody>
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**Required Textbook**

**Physical Office Hours:**
- Monday and Wednesday: 11:50am-1:05pm
- Tuesday and Thursday: 1:45pm-3:00pm.
- Friday: By appointment only.

**Recommended Textbook**

**Online Office Hours:**
- Wednesday: 7:30pm-8:30pm CST (via Course Mail only)

**Student Responsibilities**

- Course Preparation
- Readings
- Examinations

**Grading**

This is a senior level seminar that examines the major perspectives and theories of crime and deviance. "Deviance" is a relatively broad sociological concept closely related to the shared cultural norms and values of a society. Though deviant behavior overlaps with "abnormal" or "immoral" behaviors, it probably overlaps more closely with "crime" (i.e., violation of law) as laws tend to reflect significant values and norms of the society. For all practical purposes, therefore, theories of deviance are also social theories of crime.

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**Learning Disabilities Policy**

**Course Itinerary**

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The main objective of this course is to provide the students with a working knowledge of the major theoretical approaches to the study of crime and deviance by summarizing and critically evaluating them, in terms of how they can describe, explain and predict various forms of crime and deviance that occur in society. At the end of the course, students are expected to be familiar with the major sociological theories that explain why some forms of behaviors are defined as deviance in a society, as well as why some members of the society are more prone to such forms of behavior. In other words, the ultimate goal of this course is to help students gain a deeper understanding of human society by analyzing how society defines and creates deviance, and how people become deviant.

Required Textbook


This is the required textbook that you will be using mainly. (Because theories of deviance do NOT change every other year, the 2nd edition of the book will still work, if you can get it somehow.) I call this book as a "beginner's manual" on theories. It offers a brief and concise description of each theory appropriate for distance learning students. Although the book title says "Criminological Theory" instead of "Deviance Theories," those two categories of theories developed in the sociological tradition are the same. I will also provide "Class Notes" for each assigned chapter from this book to help you understand the theories that you will learn.

Recommended Textbook (for those who are planning to go to graduate school)


This is a recommended textbook for those who would like to gain much deeper understanding of major theories of deviance beyond the beginner's level. I'd call this book a
"professional level manual" on deviance theories. This book is a collection of actual articles and book chapters written by leading scholars for other scholars. As such, this book is not for everyone, and the contents are difficult to understand without proper guidance in the form of class lecture. Of course, I do not expect you to know and understand the contents in this recommended book for the purpose of the exams. However, if you are planning to apply for a Master's program in Criminal Justice, you may want to read corresponding articles in there after you have studied the theories in the required textbook and in the Class Notes.

Student Responsibilities

General Comments: It is a senior level theory course in sociology. As such, I have designed this course on the basis of the assumption that you are all mature, very well disciplined, self-reliant serious students who can take advantage of an internet based distance learning course without much guidance or opportunities to earn extra credits. Therefore, there is no paper or essay assignment in this course. You only have three multiple-choice exams during the semester that YOU MUST TAKE ON THE PRESCRIBED DATES NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.

That said, the down side of it is that you will have to rely on yourself much more heavily than in a conventional classroom setting in order to understand the material and do well. Obviously, you won’t have the advantage of the lecture, virtually no extra-credit pop-quizzes or essays that I normally give in the classroom version of my courses, but you only have three exams to demonstrate your understanding of the material.

Course Preparation: I expect you to be a very well disciplined, self-reliant, independent learner to take advantage of an internet based distance learning course without much guidance. To be successful in a distance learning course, you must read your assigned chapters not just once or twice but a few times, take your own notes as you read those chapters, stay current with those chapters, and be diligent preparing for and be punctual in taking the
exams.

Students must also keep careful track (using the calendar feature) of their course obligations and requirements, especially the exam dates. Remember, fewer requirements mean fewer opportunities to make up, if you ever fail to do your part at any point. I aim to be very explicit about what you must do in terms of testing, but this will amount to nothing if you fail to do your part. You should make a practice of visiting this course site on a regular basis.

Readings: The entire reading materials from the textbook are divided into three blocks called "Content 1," "Content 2" and "Content 3." Each "Content" consists of materials corresponding to several chapters from the textbook assigned to the "Content," and at the completion of each "Content," you will take an exam based on those chapters. (See Table of Contents below.) In lieu of my lecture, "Class Notes" explaining what you must learn are provided in each content. You should read the Class Notes first before you read the assigned chapters, and after reading the assigned chapters, It is also very important to take careful notes while reading each chapter. After reading the assigned chapters, go back to the Class Notes again and study them very carefully.

Examinations: There will be three examinations in this course in every 5 to 6 weeks, and they are all administered online on the prescribed dates. (See Course Itinerary below, and remember those exams dates!) Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions including T/F questions (with 2pts for each correct answer), and will count 100 points or 1/3 of the course grade. Exam#3 (the last exam) is NOT comprehensive, and it will only cover the materials since after Exam#2. Make-up examinations are given only when the student has a legitimate excuse (e.g., serious illness, death of an immediate family member, etc.) and it will be given at the discretion of the professor on a specified date.

For more information on how to take an exam online, see "Instruction for Taking Exam Online" below.

Grading
The following grade point scale (A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; and below 60%=F) is employed. No grades of exams are dropped in this course. Course averages may be calculated at any point in the semester by simply averaging the exam scores. For example, if you made 90pts on Exam #1 but 75pts on Exam #2, your grade at the point would be 82.5% (B). All grades, including your final course grade, will be posted to the grade book.

Where do my course points come from?

Exam#1 = 100pts (1/3 of the course grade)
Exam#2 = 100pts (1/3 of the course grade)
Exam#3 = 100pts (1/3 of the course grade)
Total = 300pts (100% of the course grade)
Extra Credit = 15pts (Extra 5% of the course grade)

Your course grade (in %) = (Your total points) / 3

Learning Disabilities Policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services. (For more information, contact the Office of Student Life Rm111 GUC or call 256-765-4214.)
Course Itinerary

Date and Event/Subject

1/11  Classes begin, review of syllabus and course procedure.
1/16  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday!
2/15  (Wed)  Exam#1
      *Accessible only from 9:00am to 10:00pm CST
2/17  Winter Break
3/21  (Wed)  Exam#2
      *Accessible only from 9:00am to 10:00pm CST
3/26 - 30  Spring Break
4/6  Good Friday!
4/18  Last day to drop a class or withdraw from UNA
5/2  (Wed)  Exam #3
      *Accessible only from 9:00am to 10:00pm CDT
5/3  Study Day
5/12  Commencement

Note. CDT=Central Daylight Saving Time. CST=Central Standard Time.

Table of Contents

Though you are encouraged to read the recommended textbook for your educational enrichment, for the purpose of the exams, you will be held responsible only for the materials in the assigned chapters from the required textbook and in Class Notes, which are grouped together in three "Contents." (See below.)

Content 1

Exam #1 (on 2/15) will cover the following chapters:

Chapter 1: An Introductory Overview
Chapter 2: Classical Theory
Chapter 3: Biological Theories
Chapter 4: Psychological Theories

Content 2
Exam #2 (on 3/21) will cover the following chapters:

Chapter 5: The Social Ecology
Chapter 6: Learning and Cultural Transmission Theories
Chapter 7: Strain Theories

Exam #3 (on 5/2) will cover the following chapters:

Chapter 8: Control Theories
Chapter 9: Theories of Social Conflict
Chapter 10: Evaluating and Integrating Theory

Instruction For Taking Exams Online

1. To avoid slow connection, it is strongly recommended that you take an exam on a computer that has a high speed internet connection.

2. All exams in this course are administered via ANGEL (by clicking on the icon in the course homepage), and they are accessible only from 9:00am to 10:00pm CDT/CST of the designated exam days. So make sure that you have access to a computer on those days no matter where you are.

3. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Once you start, you will have a maximum of 60 minutes to complete and submit it online.

4. When the exam begins, you will be presented only one question at a time. Once you select an answer and proceed to the next question, and you can no longer go back to a previous question to change your answer.

5. If you ever run out of time before finishing the last question, (e.g., you have spent 60 minutes after answering the 45th question), you will only receive points on those questions that you correctly answered.

Make-up Exam Policy

The Department of Sociology has a strict make-up exam
policy. Make-up exams are given at the discretion of the professor only under extreme circumstances with documented excuses. Requests for a make-up exam must be made by the student prior to or within three days of the scheduled exam date. Serious illnesses and death of an immediate family member are the only non-university approved reasons that will justify a make-up exam. All make-up requests must be accompanied by official written notice and any make-up work must be completed on or by the date defined by the professor. Professor is NOT responsible for informing students of missed work.