

**SOC212H1S: Crime and Deviance**  
**Section: LEC0101**  
**Winter 2019**  
**Room: AH100 Fridays 10:00-12:00**  
**Instructor: Mark van der Maas**

Office hours: Mondays 10:30-12:30: Location: CAMH Russel Tower Building Rm. T316  
Email contact: mark.vandermaas@mail.utoronto.ca

**Course Description:**

This course will focus on giving students a strong understanding of the theories and methods used to investigate deviance. Each week of this course will cover a theoretical perspective or methodology used to understand activities and behaviours that fall outside of our experiences of daily life. By the end of this course students should be able to critically evaluate how unwanted behaviours are identified and controlled.

**Prerequisite: The prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y1 or SOC102H1 or SOC100H1. Students without the prerequisite will be removed at any time discovered.**

**Evaluation:**

- 1) Weekly written assignments; 40% of final grade
- 2) Midterm test consisting of 50 multiple choice questions that will cover readings and lecture materials; 20% of final grade. February 15
- 3) Term test consisting of 75 multiple choice questions; 25% of final grade
- 4) Weekly in-class participation assignments; 15% of final grade. April 5

**Teaching Assistants:**

Xiaowei (Cathy) Li

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Miranda Doff

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Office Hours : TBA rm 225, Sociology Department

**Readings:**

Readings for this course will be from a primary text:

Inderbitzin, M., Bates, K. A., & Gainey, R. R. (2018). *Perspectives on Deviance and Social Control*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Sage Publications.

**Weekly topics**

**Week 1, January 11: Introduction to the course**

Chapter 1. Introduction to Deviance  
Instructional: Writing critical responses

**Week 2, January 18: Methods**

Chapter 3. Researching Deviance

**Week 3, January 25: Functionalism and Anomie**

Chapter 4. Anomie/Strain Theory

**Week 4, February 1: The Chicago School**

Chapter 5. Social Disorganization Theory

**Week 5, February 8: Subcultures and Deviance**

Chapter 6. Differential Association and Social Learning Theories

**Week 6, February 15: Midterm**

**Reading Week Break**

**Week 7, March 1 Symbolic Interactionism and Labelling**

Chapter 8. Labeling Theory

**Week 8, March 8: Control Theories**

Chapter 7. Social Control Theories of Deviance

**Week 9, March 15: Radical Approaches**

Chapter 9. Marxist and Conflict Theories of Deviance

**Week 10, March 22: Feminist and critical perspectives**

Chapter 10. Critical Theories of Deviance

**Week 11, March 29: Social control**

Chapter 11. Societal Responses to Deviance

**Week 12, April 5 Term test**

**Course Requirements**

**Weekly reflection pieces**

Much of the course grade will come from weekly written assignments based on the readings from the text book. Students will be asked to critically reflect and answer several questions based on what they read for that week. Students will write 8 reflection pieces in total from any from the assigned readings excluding the first week. Assignments will be due by midnight the day before the corresponding lecture.

All assignments must be submitted to the course's portal website (Quercus). Further details are found in the accompanying assignment description document. Late assignments will not be accepted. 40% of final grade.

### **Midterm Test**

There will be a short midterm worth 20% of your final grade. The midterm will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

### **End-term Test**

There will be a final worth 25% of the final grade. The end-term test will consist of 75 multiple choice questions and will cover materials since the midterm.

### **In-class participation assignments**

Each class there will be a period where students will divide into groups of no more than 4 students and collectively answer a series of question based on lecture materials. Grades for this portion will be calculated from the ten best participation marks of the term. As these marks are allocated to those attending the class, late submissions are not possible

### **Attendance**

Attendance will not be taken during class. However, in-class activities can only be completed in person during class time. In order to get full marks for the course you will have to be in class or have your absence validated by medical documentation.

### **Missed tests**

If you miss a test due to illness or some other valid reason, you must provide the instructor with proper documentation within **one week** of the missed test.

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, do not contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline or a test will not be considered sufficient.

\* In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor's note is acceptable but **MUST** indicate start and anticipated end date of the illness. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work at class or to your TA during their office hours.

\* If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work at class or to your TA during their office hours.

### **Communication**

Please strive to be courteous and professional in your email contact with the instructor or TA. Students should wait at least two business days before following up on an email. All work for the course will be submitted either in person (in class activities) or on the course's Blackboard site (weekly reflection pieces).

### **Late submissions and make-up tests**

As course work will be participatory or submitted on a weekly basis **there will be no late assignments accepted without proper documentation.**

### **Accessibility**

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

### **Language Support**

If you have any difficulty with writing or reading in English, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of English Language and Learning Program (ELL). They have course and one-on-one services that would be of great benefit to anyone learning English while in university (no small task!). The earlier you get support the easier it will make the rest of your career here at U of T.

Here is a link to the ELL website: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

### **Writing Centres**

Moving from what was an appropriate standard of writing in high school to what is expected in a university setting is a very big step for undergraduate students. Learning how to write in an academic environment is likely something that few of you have prepared for but something you will all have to do. Taking advantage of the different writing centres around campus early will pay big dividends during your undergraduate career

For a list of downtown writing centres please follow this link: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic offences will be taken very seriously in this course and taken to the department head when required. An infraction may result in a zero on a test or assignment, failure of the course, or, in the case of repeat offences, academic probation or expulsion.

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

Students are expected to know what constitutes AI: Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (August 1995), which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students:

- To use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that
- those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to
- commit plagiarism;
- To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work;
- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment;
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing
- another student completed work;
- To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission
- of the instructor;
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is
- not limited to, doctor's notes; and
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

And above all DO NOT REFERENCE OR PLAGARIZE WIKIPEDIA

## Weekly Writing Assignment

SOC212H1S: Crime and Deviance

Instructor: Mark van der Maas

**Description:** Each week you will pick a concept or theory (hereon referred to as “idea”) from the assigned reading and reflect on how and why it is useful to the study of deviance and/or crime.

### **The purpose of the assignment:**

The weekly written assignments are designed for two main purposes. First, the assignments require you do the readings that are assigned before they discussed in lecture. This means that you will be required to keep up with the pace of the class throughout the term rather than fall into the dangerous rhythm of coast and cram that is common for undergraduate students. Second, writing a short piece will help you to apply some of the knowledge in those readings and you will have something to say about them during group discussions. This will be useful for your class participation activities and ensure that we get the most out of our larger group discussions.

### **Requirements:**

There will be a total of 8 submissions over the course of the term, each worth 5% of your final grade (combined total of 40%). Each submission should be between 2-3 double-spaced pages long with a minimum of 500 words and max of 700. Responses must be in full sentences (i.e. not point form) and should use subheadings when moving from one topic to the next. Assignments will be submitted to Blackboard under the “assignments” section. Assignments are due by 11:59 the night *before* the corresponding reading is discussed in class. The area of Blackboard where you can submit your assignment will be closed after that time so no late submissions will be possible.

### **Topics:**

**Relevance:** Here, you will discuss how this idea challenges common sense/common knowledge assumptions about people or activities that are deemed deviant or illegal. It is often good to reflect on how this idea changed your own thoughts or assumptions or address an assumption that is common among people you know or among the media you’ve seen. It is also appropriate here to discuss the implications that this idea has for how deviance is studied or explained by sociologists or other professionals that might be concerned with deviance

**Application:** Here, you will pick some kind of deviant activity or identity (ex: cannabis use, assault, sexual identity *etc.*) and discuss how this idea could affect how we understand or deal with that activity or identity. Here you might discuss how the idea applies in certain situations better than others. You might

also discuss how the idea affects the way that your example of deviance is controlled. It is important to try to work with a wide range of deviance throughout the term and not just work with forms of deviance you are the most comfortable discussing.

**Concerns:** In the “concerns” section you will be discussing any problems or shortcomings that the idea you are discussing might have. These can take the form of criticisms or questions that might show the limitations of the idea. Your concerns might be related to the “relevance” or “application” sections. If you are asking questions, make sure to give some context and explain how the question is relevant to themes of the class.

**Evaluation:**

Each entry will be marked out of 5. The quality and clarity of writing, the engagement with the topic and the application of course themes and concepts will all be reflected in your grade. You will not be given a specific rubric or individual feedback for the weekly writing assignment. Instead, the TA () will be writing a document each week that identifies common problems or misunderstandings with the submissions and will give advice on how to improve. This document will be posted on Quercus.

Please try to keep a professional tone in your weekly writing assignments and make sure edit your work before submitting.