

Social Exclusion, Social Power, and Deviance
Sociology 350
Spring 2022
TTH 12:30-1:50 THH 217

Dr. Karen Sternheimer (she/her/hers)

Office hours: TTH 11:15-12:15 *by appointment, other appointment times may be available*

Office Location: HSH 318 (Hazel and Stanley Hall Building)

sternhei@usc.edu (response time within 24 hrs M-F 9-5)

Students are expected to comply with all aspects of USC's COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to SJACS.

Please do not come to class if you have any symptoms. Every effort will be made to record class meetings. To access recordings, go to Blackboard, Zoom, and then Cloud Recordings. USC prohibits sharing of any course content outside of the learning environment.

Themes and goals:

Who is considered an outsider? Why? We will examine the roles of social context and power in defining deviance in order to understand who is excluded from full social acceptance. Our central questions will focus on how deviance is conceptualized, who gets labeled deviant, and who *avoids* the deviant label. We will also consider how wealth, power, and prestige influence social exclusion, paying particular attention to corporate crime and its impact. The goal of this class is to lead you to question what might seem to be natural or inevitable about both social exclusion and acceptance.

This course explores definitions and categorizations of deviance, social control and regulation of deviance, as well as how society polices its members, both formally and informally. Specific areas of focus include mental illness, sexuality, the body, drugs, crime, and social institutions. *Be advised that we will discuss topics that may make some people uncomfortable.*

In this class we will attempt to discover how sociologists understand and conduct research on populations labeled deviant, as well as the impact social exclusion has on our everyday lives. By the end of the course we will have a greater understanding of the judgments that we take for granted about what is “strange” and how societies construct outsiders in order to regulate and define themselves. *You will also develop critical thinking, research, data analysis, writing, presentation, and teamwork skills.*

Student evaluation:

Participation	10%
Reflective Blackboard Journal Entries	5%
Weekly essays	5%
Take home midterm (due 2/24)	25%
Research paper or group project (various dates)	25%
Take home final (due Wednesday 5/11 at 4pm)	30%

Tracking your progress:

You are expected to seek more than a grade from this course. You are responsible for keeping a record of your grades and to be aware of your progress as well as areas where improvement is needed, and for seeking help from your peers or professor. Use the breakdown above to calculate your grade. You can access your grades regularly on Blackboard.

Technology Etiquette:

E-mail is a great resource but never takes the place of a conversation. Please include “SOCL 350” in the subject line. Lengthy questions or concerns should be addressed during office hours or a special appointment.

Emails are typically answered within one business day. No assignments will be accepted via e-mail. We will be using Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu>) for all course content.

Cell phones must be turned off during and put away during all class meetings, and laptops or electronic devices may only be used by special permission. Multitasking (web surfing, using social media, texting, studying for another class) is expressly forbidden and will negatively impact your grade.

Participation (10%):

This class is based on active student participation in discussions and activities and is designed to be hands-on and experiential. Students are expected to attend class meetings prepared to discuss the assigned reading and participate in all activities. *Always be ready to discuss the assigned reading in class.* **If you are not able to attend class, you are expected to fully participate in the discussion board conversations on Blackboard that week. Discussion questions will be posted each week. You are encouraged to participate on the discussion board even if you are able to attend.**

Students are expected to welcome differing viewpoints and to respect the thoughts and ideas of all class participants, listen quietly while others are speaking, and join and leave meetings on time. Note that a great deal of information covered in class may not be in the readings, and vice versa. Students are responsible for getting notes or assignments from Blackboard and other students if you miss class.

A full rubric detailing how participation is graded is posted on Blackboard on the “Syllabus and Grading” tab. Active participation in activities, comments and questions that reflect knowledge of course material, as well as courteous attention to your professor and peers are expected.

Reflective Blackboard Journal Entries (5%):

Each week, you are asked to reflect on what you have learned during the week and what questions you have about the material and your project using Blackboard’s Journal tool. There will be ten journal entry requirements, each worth .5% of your grade. Only you and your professor/TA can see these entries. They are due each week of the semester by 11:59 pm PST on Fridays. *You can miss up to 5 without penalty.*

Essays:

Before the midterm, there will be five essay assignments to ascertain your comprehension of the course material. The essay topic will come from a central theme from the previous week’s reading and course discussions and will be an opportunity for you to reflect on the material. These essays will be posted on Blackboard by 5pm on the Thursdays they are scheduled, and due the following Tuesday before the start of class. In order to earn credit your writing must reflect awareness of central issues and ideas expressed by authors and in class (see rubric on Blackboard for more specific details). These assignments are graded credit/partial credit/no credit and are each worth 1% of your total course grade. **Missed essays or essays that earn “no credit” can be made up with extra credit assignments, as noted below.**

Extra Credit

After the midterm, an essay question will be posted on Blackboard on Thursday afternoons. Your one-page response must be uploaded onto Blackboard before the start of class the following Tuesday. By completing these assignments you may make up any missed essays or no credit essays and/or earn up to 3 percent extra credit in the course (1 percent per essay).

You may earn *up to* 10 points extra on your group project grade or midterm (i.e. a grade of 90 can be increased to a grade of 100) by reading three articles from the journal *Deviant Behavior* on a single topic and answering the questions posted on Blackboard in a 5-7 page paper (due date 4/23). A brief, informal presentation to the class is required as well.

Moral Panic Paper or Group Project, Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm and final exams are designed to help you synthesize the central course concepts. They will be essay format and will require thoughtful analysis and application of issues from the readings and class

meetings. Both the midterm and final exams will be take-home essay format and will be posted at least one week in advance.

The moral panic paper or group project will involve an in-depth exploration of a class-related topic of your choice. Details are provided on Blackboard. All deadlines are firm; **late midterm exams and term papers will be reduced by 10% per day (including weekend days) and no late group projects or final exams will be accepted.**

All assignments must reflect original work and must be turned in on Blackboard's turnitin site to generate an originality report (instructions will be provided). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and consequences will be in accordance with university policy. Any papers that are dramatically different in style and content from in-class work will require an oral exam. Failure to appear or to successfully demonstrate that the work is your own within one week of notification will result in a failing grade and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. **Please see Blackboard for USC Code of Ethics and for student resources.**

Finally, grades are earned, they are not given. It is your responsibility to do the best work you are capable of producing. Extra credit opportunities may arise at times; special individual opportunities for extra credit violate university policy and will not be considered. **Nitpicking over points is discouraged, as it reveals a commitment to a grade rather than to learning. Continued enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of class policies.**

****Any special learning needs should be brought to my attention as soon as possible.****

Required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

****All readings and assignments are estimates and subject to change****

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Reading</u>
-------------	----------------------

T 1/11	Introduction to course
--------	------------------------

I. Defining Social Exclusion and Deviance

TH 1/13	What is deviance? <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Erikson, On the Sociology of Deviance FIRST WEEKLY ESSAY POSTED (Due 1/18)
---------	---

T 1/18	Constructing deviance and outsiders <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Becker, Moral Entrepreneurs▪ Tuggle & Holmes, Blowing Smoke: Status Politics and Smoking Ban
--------	---

TH 1/20	Moral panics <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ DeYoung, Another Look at Moral Panics: The Case of Satanic Day Care Centers▪ Burns & Crawford, School Shootings, the Media and Public Fear▪ Sternheimer, Do Video Games Kill? SECOND WEEKLY ESSAY POSTED (Due 1/25)
---------	---

T 1/25	Moral panics <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reinerman, The Social Construction of Drug Scares
--------	--

II. Explaining Exclusion, Power, and Deviance

- TH 1/27 Structural Theories
- Durkheim, The Normal and the Pathological
 - Spitzer, Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance
- MORAL PANIC PROJECT OUTLINE DUE**
THIRD WEEKLY ESSAY POSTED (Due 2/1)

- T 2/1 Interactionist Theories
- Becker, Outsiders—Defining Deviance
 - Lemert, Primary and Secondary Deviance

III. Studying Deviance

- TH 2/3 Participant Observation
- Anderson & Calhoun, Facilitative Aspects of Field Research
- FOURTH WEEKLY ESSAY POSTED (Due 2/8)**

- T 2/8 Research Ethics
- Adler, Researching Dealers and Smugglers

IV. Stigma and Stigma Management

- TH 2/10 Stigma
- Goffman, Stigma and Social Identity
- MORAL PANIC PROJECTS DUE**
FIFTH WEEKLY ESSAY POSTED (Due 2/15)

- T 2/15 Stigma and the Unhoused
- Anderson, Snow & Cress, Negotiating the Public Realm: Stigma Management and Collective Action Among the Homeless
- GROUP PROJECT SIGN UP DEADLINE**

- TH 2/17 Stigma and Mental Illness
- Mechanic, Some Factors in Identifying and Defining Mental Illness
 - Rosenhan, On Being Sane in Insane Places
- MIDTERM POSTED**

- T 2/22 Mental Illness and Medicalization
- Conrad, The Discovery of Hyperkinesis

V. Sexuality, Power, and Exclusion

- TH 2/24 Sexuality, Power, and Social Exclusion
- MIDTERM DUE**

- T 3/1 Sex Work
- Pasco, Naked Power: Stripping as a Confidence Game

- TH 3/3 Prostitution
- Lucas, Race, Class, Gender and Deviancy: The Criminalization of Prostitution

- T 3/8 Sexual Assault ****note that this topic may make some students uncomfortable****
- Martin & Hummer, Fraternities and Rape on Campus
 - Scully & Marolla, Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive
- TH 3/10 Child Sexual Abuse ****note that this topic may make some students uncomfortable****
- Thomson, et al., Disclaimers and Accounts in Cases of Catholic Priests Accused of Pedophilia
 - Durkin & Bryant, Propagandizing Pederasty: A Thematic Analysis

GROUP PROJECT TOPIC STATEMENT DUE

VI. Elite Deviance and Social Power

- T 3/22 Introduction to Elite Deviance
- Simon, The Classification of Elite Deviance
- TH 3/24 Corporations
- Clinard & Yeager, The Culture of the Corporation
- T 3/29 Corporations, Gaming, and Gambling
- Cavender & Miller, Corporate Crime as Trouble
- TH 3/31 Medicine
Liederbach, Opportunity and Crime in the Medical Professions
TOPIC #1 GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
- T 4/5 Aviation
- Matthews & Kauzlarich, The Crash of ValuJet Flight 592
- TOPIC #2 GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS/JEP OUTLINE DUE**
- TH 4/7 Law Enforcement
- Hunt & Manning, The Social Context of Police Lying
- TOPIC #3 GROUP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**
- T 4/12 The State
- Kelman & Hamilton, The My Lai Massacre: A Military Crime

VII. Social Control

- TH 4/14 What is Social Control?
- Marx, Ironies of Social Control: Authorities as Contributors to Deviance
- T 4/19 Formal Social Control: The War on Drugs
- Friedersdorf, How Drug Warriors Helped to Fuel the Opioid Epidemic
- TH 4/21 What are Symbolic Laws?
- Gusfield, Moral Passage: The Symbolic Process in Public Designations
- EXTRA CREDIT READING ASSIGNMENT/PRESENTATION DUE**
- T 4/26 Informal Social Control
- Berger, The Meaning of Social Controls

VIII. Exiting Deviance, Conclusions

- TH 4/28 Exiting Deviance
- Adler & Adler, Shifts and Oscillations in Deviant Careers
 - Pager, The Mark of a Criminal Record

W 5/11 **FINAL EXAM DUE 4 pm– NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED**