

**SOCA 302**  
**Deviant Behavior**  
**Spring 2017**

**Lecture/Class Meeting:** Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00am-11:15am in Oglebay Hall 103

	<b>Office:</b>	<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>E-mail address:</b>
Professor Corcoran	400-D Knapp	Monday noon-2:00pm	kecorcoran@mix.wvu.edu

**Course Description:**

Society labels groups and individuals who deviate from 'normal behavior' as deviant, sick, or evil. Yet the boundaries surrounding what is normal and deviant evolve over time, as yesterday's deviance becomes today's normal. How do we know what is 'deviant'? Is deviance an objective fact or a socially constructed concept? With social scientific lenses, we will explore how groups become defined as deviant and how these definitions change over time. Through examining case studies of stigmatized groups with a focus on controversial religious groups often called 'cults', we will learn why individuals engage in deviant behavior, why some groups are more likely to be considered deviant, and what methods society uses to control deviance. Credit Hours: 3; Prerequisites: SOCA 232 and SOCA 234.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify different ways of defining deviance
2. Describe sociological theories of deviance
3. Apply sociological theories of deviance to case studies
4. Critically analyze and compare sociological theories of deviance
5. Provide examples of groups that illustrate sociological concepts

**Required Texts:**

Inderbitzin, Michell, Kristin A. Bates, and Randy Gainey. 2015. *Perspectives on Deviance and Social Control*. Edition 15. Sage Publications.

Dawson, Lorne L. *Cults and New Religious Movements: A Reader*. Edition 3. Wiley.

All readings marked "\*" on the syllabus are on our E-CAMPUS website (labeled by author's last name). I cannot help with technical problems. If you experience technical problems, please contact the ITS service desk at 304-293-4444 or email [itshelp@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:itshelp@mail.wvu.edu). Technical problems do **not** earn extensions on assignments/exams/presentations/etc or excuse failure to do the assigned readings for the day.

NOTE: *This course includes readings and audiovisual materials that some of you may find violent or offensive. Our discussions of deviant behaviors and groups will highlight differences in our faiths and values. Throughout the course, we will treat each other and the groups we study with respect as we learn from this material. No alternative assignments will be offered.*

### **Class Format and Participation:**

Class periods will consist primarily of interactive lecture, discussion, and both individual and group activities. Active participation is required, which entails doing the readings and coming to class prepared to discuss them. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Just showing up to class, does not count as participating. It is very important to consistently come to class and stay for the whole class period. **We will often be working directly with the texts, so you should bring them to every class period.**

### **Active Learning Activities:**

Research shows that students learn more and receive higher grades when they engage in active learning, particularly in groups. As such, this course will have active learning opportunities, typically requiring group work, during nearly every class period. **If you are not interested in learning in this manner, you should not take this course.** In-class activities **cannot be made up** unless the absence was due to a university-sanctioned event or a documented emergency. If you have a university-sanctioned absence, you must tell me at least one full week in advance of the class you will miss. If you present documentation of a university-sanctioned absence or emergency, you are allowed to complete the activity within one week. **Your lowest activity grade will be dropped**, which takes into consideration that you might have to miss class for a reason that is not documented. In addition to the in-class activities, you will have one at-home activity on Tuesday, April 18th in lieu of class, which will be due at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Turning the at-home activity in late will result in a 10% deduction per day; after class on the day it is due counts as one day late. If you know you will miss class for any reason, including a university-sanctioned absence, you must turn this activity in early. You will also be required to turn in typed notes on your assigned reading for Thursday, April 6. We will be doing an activity in class and 10% of your grade on that activity will be for turning in your typed notes.

There is no set number of activities as the number might change due to university closures for inclement weather and the speed at which we cover the material. Given this, while your activity grade is worth 20 points, that does not mean we will necessarily complete 20 activities. Instead, each activity is graded from 0-100%. Your activity scores are averaged and that percent of 20 represents your score. This means that as we complete more activities your activity grade can **go up or down**. For example, if you score 80% on Activity 1 and 100% on Activity 2, e-campus will show your TotalActivity grade as 18. This is because the average of 80% and 100% is 90% and 18 points is 90% of 20. However, if you score 100% on Activity 3, then your TotalActivity grade will be 18.67 as the average of 80%, 100%, and 100% is 93.33% and 93.33% of 20 is 18.67.

Activity1	Activity 2	TotalActivity Grade
80%	100%	18

Activity1	Activity 2	Activity 3	TotalActivity Grade
80%	100%	100%	18.67

**Attendance Policy:** I do not take attendance formally. However, attendance is expected and strongly encouraged. **We will have an in-class activity, quiz, or occasionally both on nearly every class period. Therefore, if you miss class, you will miss the points associated with the activity and/or quiz.** If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student. Once you have carefully gone over notes from another student, any material listed on the website, and the readings, I will be happy to discuss the material with you during office hours. **I do not give out my power point slides for any reason.** You are required to know any announcements given in class or sent through email. You are therefore responsible for checking your MIX mail account or making sure that it is forwarded to an account that you do check.

### **Readings:**

Students must complete the course readings before the assigned class period and come to class ready to participate. **All readings marked with “Case Study” will involve either an individual or group in-class activity. You should make sure to read those texts carefully and bring them to class.**

### **Introduction Assignment:**

Students are required to complete an introduction assignment that is due at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, January 17th**. This assignment includes submitting a picture of yourself through e-campus, which will help me learn your names. **Exams will NOT be graded until the introduction assignment is fully completed and submitted.** You cannot pass the course without submitting this assignment in its entirety. Late assignments will be docked 10% for every day they are late.

### **Group Presentations:**

Students will be assigned to groups, which will be required to read and present on a new religious movement (NRM) profile. Students must submit TWO typed copies of reading notes on their NRM profile at the beginning of class on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and must give their presentation on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Students must attend class on January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup> and stay for the entire class period to receive credit for the group presentation. You will be graded based on the extent to which you accurately describe your NRM profile and connect it to the course material.** A handout with further information regarding the presentation, including a detailed grading rubric, will be provided. You will be assigned one of the following profiles:

- **A: Van Zandt, D. E.** “The Children of God.” 127-132.\*
- **B: Barker, E.** “The Unification Church.” 223-229.\*
- **C: Paden, R.** “The Boston Church of Christ.” 133-140.\*
- **D: Bednarowski, M. F.** “The Church of Scientology.” 385-392.\*
- **E: Rochford, E. B. J.** “Hare Krishna in America.” 215-221.\*
- **F: Bromley, D. G. and S.G. Ainsley.** “Satanism and Satanic Churches.” 401-409.\*
- **G: Matthews, C.** “Neo-Paganism and Witchcraft.” 339-345.\*
- **H: Ellwood, R. S.** “UFO Religious Movements.” 393-399.\*
- **I: Chevannes, B.** “The Rastafari Abroad.” 297-302.
- **J: Olson, R. E.** “Eckankar” 363-370.

### **Quizzes:**

Quizzes may be short answer, multiple choice, or both and may cover lectures, readings (including the readings for the day), films, presentations, and activities. You may only make-up a quiz if you have a documented emergency or university-sanctioned absence. If you have a university-sanctioned absence, you must tell me at least one full week in advance of the class you will miss. However, there will be at least seven quizzes and **your lowest quiz score will be dropped**. This allows you to miss one quiz without penalty. On e-campus, you will see your score for each individual quiz as well as a TotalQuiz score. The TotalQuiz score will add together the scores you received on each quiz. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester, so the TotalQuiz score will not reflect that until after all the quizzes have been completed.

### **Exams:**

There will be three exams in this class, two during the semester and a **cumulative final exam during finals week**. Exams will involve objective questions, such as multiple choice, True/False, and/or matching. **The exams build on each other; some material from Exam 1 will be on Exam 2**. The final will cover material from the entire semester. Exams will be based on readings, lectures, videos, class discussions, presentations, and activities.

Exams must be taken during class on the date they are scheduled. If you have a documented emergency or absence you may make-up Exam 1 or 2 without penalty. All other students who miss Exam 1 or 2 will have their make-up exam score reduced by 10 percent. All make-up exams (for Exam 1 or 2) must be taken within 3 days of the scheduled exam unless you received prior approval from me. If you need to miss an exam due to a university-sanctioned absence, you must communicate this to me as soon as you become aware of it. **There are NO make-ups for the final exam except for extreme emergencies (e.g., hospitalization)**. If you miss a scheduled exam, you must contact me to make arrangements for a make-up exam by **the end of the day of the scheduled exam** or you **will receive a score of zero**. **If you are unable to take the final exam at the time it is scheduled, you should drop the course.**

### **Grades:**

I will regularly update the E-CAMPUS gradebook with your grades. Make sure to keep anything returned to you in case you have questions regarding your grades. The grade breakdown is provided in the chart below. If your total score puts you within one point of a higher grade, I will round the grade **ONLY** if you completed all assignments/activities and exams on time, participated in class, never violated the electronic device or classroom behavior policies, and completed some extra credit assignments. I will also consider improvement in the course when computing final grades. Grades are **NEVER** negotiable. I do not give you a grade, you **earn** your grade. If you want a particular grade, you need to make sure that you have the requisite number of points to receive it. I do **NOT** bump grades because you want a particular grade but did not put in the effort to earn it. **I reserve the right to offer extra credit at any time and to make changes to any grade requirements if it benefits students' grades to do so.**

As the final is cumulative, I reward improvement on the final in the following way: If the percent you receive on the final is higher than the percent you received on one of your prior exams, I will average your final percent with the percent of your lowest exam score and replace your lowest

exam score with that averaged percent. For example, if you receive a 70% on Exam 1, a 75% on Exam 2, and an 80% on the Final, I would average your Exam 1 percent with your Final percent and replace your Exam 1 grade with 75% (as Exam 1 is worth 66 points this amounts to 49.5 points).

*Original Grades*

Exam 1	Exam 2	Final
70% (46.2 points)	75% (49.5 points)	80% (52.8 points)

$$(70\% + 80\%) / 2 = 75\%$$

*Final Grades*

Exam 1	Exam 2	Final
<b>75% (49.5 points)</b>	75% (49.5 points)	80% (52.8 points)

<b>Grade Breakdown:</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Exam 1	66	22%
Exam 2	66	22%
Final Exam	90	30%
Assignment, Presentation, and Quizzes	48	16%
Introduction Assignment (3 pts total)		
Group Presentation (15 pts total)		
Six quizzes (30 pts total)		
Class Participation	30	10%
Activities (20 pts total)		
Participating in discussion (10 pts total)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Point Scale</b>
A+	291 and above
A	279 to 290
A-	270 to 278
B+	261 to 269
B	249 to 260
B-	240 to 248
C+	231 to 239
C	219 to 230
C-	210 to 218
D+	201 to 209
D	189 to 200
D-	180 to 188
F	179 and below

**Extra Credit:**

I reserve the right to offer extra credit opportunities. If I decide to offer them, they will be announced during class to those who are in attendance. If you are not in attendance, you will miss the announcement and likely miss the opportunity. Just turning extra credit in does not mean you will receive credit for it. The amount of credit will depend on the thoroughness, thoughtfulness, correctness, and completeness of responses.

**Academic Integrity:**

I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the West Virginia University Academic Catalog at <http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecredittermsclassification/#academicintegritytext>. Should you have any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please see me before the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

**Inclusivity statement:**

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu>.

**Special accommodations:**

Students requesting special accommodations for exams are required to inform me at least one full week in advance of the exam and provide documentation at that time.

**Inclement Weather:**

While unlikely, if I need to cancel class due to inclement weather, I will send an email to your MIX account by 8:00am on the day of the canceled class (or sooner if possible).

**Electronic Devices Policy:**

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices (including but not limited to tablets, PDAs, MP3 players, and so on) during class except laptops for the purposes of taking notes only, unless told otherwise by me; all prohibited devices must be turned off and placed out of sight until the class has concluded. **A student's first violation of this policy will result in a verbal warning (one verbal warning per semester), and each subsequent violation even during the same lecture will result in a 1% deduction in the student's overall course grade.** Using laptops for any purpose other than taking notes will result in the same penalties. If I see electronic devices during quizzes or exams, this will be considered cheating and I will enforce West Virginia University's academic integrity policy.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:**

I will not tolerate inattention or incivility to me or to other students in the class. When I am speaking to you and to the class, I expect to have your undivided attention. When another student is speaking, I expect you to give him/her your undivided attention. If you have a question, raise your hand and I will be happy to answer it. You should arrive to class on time; coming to class late disrupts everyone. You should stay for the entire class period unless you made prior arrangements with me. Do not get up and leave during class sessions (this includes when we watch video clips and when we are doing in-class activities), unless you are ill or have spoken with me prior to the class. Do not get up and leave in order to make/receive a phone call or text message. Do not read newspapers, magazines, or any other material during class unless it pertains to what we are doing. Do not sleep during class. If you are going to sleep, text message, read newspapers, surf the web, do work for other classes, or be disruptive, do not come to class. **A student's first violation of this policy will result in a verbal warning (one verbal warning per semester), and each subsequent violation even during the same lecture will result in a 1% deduction in the student's overall course grade.**

**Intellectual Property Policy:**

All course materials, including lectures, class notes, quizzes, exams, handouts, presentations, and other materials provided to students for this course are protected intellectual property. As such, the unauthorized purchase, sale, or distribution of these materials may result in disciplinary sanctions under the Campus Student Code.

**Course Schedule:**

The course schedule is subject to change. I will announce any changes to the schedule in class and through MIX email.

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams and due dates
<b>Section I: What is Deviance? Deviance and Its Varied Forms</b>			
<b>Tuesday, January 10</b>	<i>Why study deviance?</i>	No reading.	
<b>Thursday, January 12</b>	<i>What is deviance? Part 1</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 1: Introduction to Deviance.	
<b>Tuesday, January 17</b>	<i>What is deviance? Part 2</i>	<i>Case Study: E-campus: Bynum, Jack E.</i> "Being Deviant: A Left-Hander in a Right-Handed World."*	<b>DUE: Introduction Assignment</b>

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams and due dates
<b>Thursday, January 19</b>	<i>Cult or religion? Who decides?</i>	<b>Dawson</b> , Pages 7-24 (Barker, Eileen: "The Scientific Study of Religion? You must be Joking!") <b>E-campus:</b> Read your NRM profile.*	
<b>Tuesday, January 24</b>	<i>Is this deviant?</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 2: Diversity of Deviance.  <b>Case Study: E-campus: Vail, Angus.</b> "Personal Account of a Tattoo Collector."*	
<b>Thursday, January 26</b>	<i>What are New Religious Movements?</i>	<b>Dawson</b> , Pages 36-56 (Wallis, Roy. "Three Types of New Religious Movements.")  <b>Dawson</b> , Pages 59-69 (Stark, Rodney and William Sims Bainbridge. "Cult Formation; Three Compatible Models.")	<b>Due: Bring TWO typed copies of notes on your NRM profile</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 31</b>	<i>Deviance in the Suites</i>	<b>E-Campus:</b> Thompson, William E. and Jennifer C. Gibbs. 2017. "Corporate Crime and Elite Deviance."*	
<b>Thursday, February 2</b>	<i>The Diversity of New Religious Movements</i>	<b>Presentations on NRM Profile</b>	<b>Group Presentations on assigned NRM profile</b>
<b>Section II: How do We Study Deviance?</b>			
<b>Tuesday, February 7</b>	<i>Researching deviance Part 1</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 3: Researching Deviance.	
<b>Thursday, February 9</b>	<i>Researching deviance Part 2</i>	<b>Case-Study: E-campus: Alder, Patricia A.</b> "Researching Dealers and Smugglers."*	
<b>Tuesday, February 14</b>	<b>REVIEW for Exam 1</b>	No reading. Activity with extra credit points possible.	
<b>Thursday, February 16</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>	Bring a scantron and two pencils.	<b>EXAM 1</b>



Date	Topic	Readings	Exams and due dates
<b>Section III: What Leads Someone to Engage in Deviant Behavior?</b>			
<b>Tuesday, February 21</b>	<i>Anomie/Strain Theory Part 1</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 4: Anomie/Strain Theory.	
<b>Thursday, February 23</b>	<i>Anomie/Strain Theory Part 2</i>	<b>E-campus: Glock, Charles Y.</b> "The Role of Deprivation in the Origin and Evolution of Religious Groups." Pp. 147-158.*	
<b>Tuesday, February 28</b>	<i>Models of Recruitment to New Religious Movements Part 1</i>	<b>E-campus: Lofland, John and Rodney Stark.</b> 1965. "On Becoming a World-Saver: A Theory of Conversion to a Deviant Perspective." American Sociological Review, 862-875.*  <b>Case Study: Dawson,</b> ONLY Pages 131-136 (Levine, Saul. "The Joiners.")	
<b>Thursday, March 2</b>	<i>Social Disorganization Theory</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 5: Social Disorganization Theory.	
<b>Tuesday, March 7</b>	<b>No class</b>	Spring Recess	
<b>Thursday, March 9</b>	<b>No class</b>	Spring Recess	
<b>Tuesday, March 14</b>	<i>Differential Association and Social Learning Theory</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 6: Differential Association and Social Learning Theory.	
<b>Thursday, March 16</b>	<i>Models of Recruitment to New Religious Movements Part 2</i>	<b>E-campus: Stark, Rodney and William S. Bainbridge.</b> "Networks of Faith: Interpersonal Bonds and Recruitment to Cults and Sects." American Journal of Sociology 85:1376-1395.*  <b>Dawson,</b> Pages 116-126 (Dawson, Lorne. "Who Joins New Religious Movements and Why")	
<b>Tuesday, March 21</b>	<i>Social Control Theory</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 7: Social Control Theories of Deviance.	
<b>Thursday, March 23</b>	<b>REVIEW for Exam 2</b>	No reading. Activity with extra credit points possible.	
<b>Tuesday, March 28</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>	Bring a scantron and two pencils.	<b>EXAM 2</b>

Date	Topic	Readings	Exams and due dates
<b>Section V: How is Deviance Socially Constructed?</b>			
<b>Thursday, March 30</b>	<i>Labeling Theory Part 1</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 8: Labeling Theory.	
<b>Tuesday, April 4</b>	<i>Labeling Theory Part 2</i>	<b>Case study: E-campus: Chambliss, William J.</b> "The Saints and the Roughnecks."*	
<b>Thursday, April 6</b>	<i>Brainwashing and Coercive Conversion</i>	<b>Dawson,</b> Pages 147-159. (Singer, Margaret Thaler. "The Process of Brainwashing, Psychological Coercion, and Thought Reform.")  <b>Dawson,</b> Pages 161-165 (Richardson, James. "A Critique of Brainwashing. Claims about New Religious Movements.")  <b>Dawson,</b> Pages 167-177 (Robbins, Thomas. "Constructing Cultist 'Mind Control.'")	Typed notes on the reading(s) you were assigned for today (this will be worth 10% of the grade for the activity we will due in class).
<b>Tuesday, April 11</b>	<i>Conflict Theories of Deviance</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 9: Marxist/Conflict Theories of Deviance.	
<b>Thursday, April 13</b>	<i>Moral Panics and entrepreneurs Part 1</i>	<b>E-campus: Becker.</b> Moral Entrepreneurs.*  <b>E-campus: Goode, Eric and Nachman Ben-Yehuda.</b> "Moral Panics."*	
<b>Tuesday, April 18</b>	<b>No class</b>	<b>E-campus: Reinerman.</b> The Social Construction of Drug Scares.* You will complete an activity on this reading, due next class.	
<b>Thursday, April 20</b>	<i>Moral Panics and entrepreneurs Part 2</i>	<b>Case Study: E-campus: Deyoung, Mary.</b> "Moral Panics: The Case of Satanic Day Care Centers."*	<b>Activity from April 18th due</b>
<b>Section VI: How is Deviance Controlled? What are the Effects of Social Control?</b>			
<b>Tuesday, April 25</b>	<i>Social Control of Deviance</i>	<b>Inderbitzin, Bates, and Gainey.</b> Chapter 11: Social Control of Deviance	
<b>Thursday, April 27</b>	<b>REVIEW for Final Exam</b>	No reading. Activity with extra credit points possible.	
<b>Thursday, May 4 at 5pm-7pm</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	Bring a scantron and two pencils.	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>