

**DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024**

**SO2240(A2 & VC): Sociology of Deviance and Conformity – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

|                      |                                       |                |                        |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>   | Dr. Michael Holland                   | <b>PHONE:</b>  | 780-539-2973           |
| <b>OFFICE:</b>       | C404                                  | <b>E-MAIL:</b> | mholland@nwpolytech.ca |
| <b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> | 10 am – 11 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays |                |                        |

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A study of the politics and social ramifications of conformity, deviance, and their relation to social change. The course examines how and why some behaviour patterns are defined as deviant or conformist, and factors that influence this. Many types of behaviour will be discussed.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Completed the following:

**SO1000 - Introductory Sociology**

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Inderbitzin, M., Bates, K. A., & Gainey, R. R. (2020). *Deviance and social control: A sociological perspective*. Sage Publications.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** On-Campus and Videoconference (VC).

Note: *Videoconference Student Requirements:* Technology (e.g. webcam, microphone, speakers), Class Participation (e.g. camera on during class, appropriate screen name)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define a range of concepts used within the fields of the sociology of deviance and conformity
- Explain deviance using sociological insights
- Illustrate the applicability of sociological concepts in the analysis of the cause and consequences of deviance
- Identify and explain the research tools used by deviance sociologists
- Explain key ethical principles employed in the study of the sociology of deviance.

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca/>

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

**EVALUATIONS:**

| Assessment               | Weight |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Attendance/participation | 5 %    |
| Chapter Quizzes          | 7.5 %  |
| Video assignment         | 7.5 %  |
| Midterm                  | 20 %   |
| Case study               | 30 %   |
| Final Exam               | 30 %   |
| Total                    | 100 %  |

Note: assignment instructions and rubrics will be made available on our myClass page.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance will be recorded for each class and is essential to your success. Active participation is also important; even in a larger class, your contributions are valued. Strive to engage in discussions by sharing insights supported by readings, personal experiences, and critical thinking. Remember, even occasional thoughtful participation can make a significant impact! **Note: If you miss a class, you are required to watch the recorded lecture and submit a 3-page, single-spaced reflection on what you found interesting and what you learned from the lecture.**

## Chapter Weekly Quizzes

Beginning week 3, you will complete chapter quizzes on our course webpage (myClass). There will be 10 questions (multiple choice), and one bonus quiz. These quizzes serve to encourage you to consistently read the chapters and to test your knowledge as we move forward in the course.

Beginning the third week of the class (See below), **quizzes will open on Monday at midnight and close the following Sunday at 11:59 PM.** It is your responsibility to ensure that you complete these quizzes on time. No exceptions will be made for lateness.

## Video Assignment – Tindler Swindler

You will complete an assignment based on a film shown in the semester. The assignment asks you to critically assess the content of the film, apply sociological theories and concepts, and demonstrate your critical thinking skills. You will have one week to complete the assignment after the film has been shown in class.

## Written Assignment: Deviance Case Study

You will complete a research project based on a case study related to deviance and social control. The topic is up to you, but options will be given upon request. The project will be broken down into the following steps: First, you will come up with a **proposal (20 points, 2 percent)**, which will consist of a case study topic (of your choice), write a research problem statement, theoretical framework, and a research question(s) that you will ask about the topic to be further explored.

This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving on to the **outline assignment (40 points, 7 percent)**. The outline assignment consists of locating academic or news resources, and then organizing research into a logical essay in which you paraphrase research and utilize proper citations (APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition citation style).

Next, you will prepare a **presentation about the case study (50 points, 7 percent)**. You can choose the format based on your technical skills and preferences—whether it's a PowerPoint presentation, a simple video recorded on your phone, a more polished video, an academic poster (we'll workshop this), or a live class presentation. The presentation should be 5-10 minutes long or the equivalent if you're creating a poster. Your work will be assessed on quality and clarity. Additionally, you are required to view and comment on three other students' presentations and submit your feedback on MyClass before the end of the presentation period. You must also provide peer feedback for at least 3 other students (**competition grade, 1 percent of your course grade**). Finally, you will complete a **full research paper (60 points, 13 percent)** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page using APA format. The full research paper will be between 6-

8 pages (double-spaced) in length (references extra). Specific information about this assignment will be provided and discussed in class.

## Midterm and Final Exam

### Midterm and Final Exam

Note: There are 2 options for the midterm and the final exam for the course.

Option A will be a closed-book exam written with the class that will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer questions/longer answers for final exam.

Option B will be an open-book exam that consists of essay answer questions. These questions must be submitted on myClass by the completion time.

There will be a brief review in class before the tests and final exam respectively. These will test your knowledge and application of concepts, theories, and perspectives on the course material (textbook chapters, classroom lectures, discussions, and video clips). The final exam is cumulative but with an emphasis on ‘big picture ideas’ covered throughout the semester.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

### Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines | Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A+          | 4.0                | 95-100                | C+          | 2.3                | 67-69                 |
| A           | 4.0                | 85-94                 | C           | 2.0                | 63-66                 |
| A-          | 3.7                | 80-84                 | C-          | 1.7                | 60-62                 |
| B+          | 3.3                | 77-79                 | D+          | 1.3                | 55-59                 |
| B           | 3.0                | 73-76                 | D           | 1.0                | 50-54                 |
| B-          | 2.7                | 70-72                 | F           | 0.0                | 00-49                 |

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

| Date  | Topic  | Reading         | Assignments   |
|---|--|-----------------|---|
| Sept 6  | Introduction to the course<br>Meet and Greet   | Course Syllabus |   |
| Sept 9, 13  | Intro to the sociology of deviance,<br>conformity, and social control                      | Chapter 1       |   |
| Sept 16,<br>20  | Diversity of deviance  | Chapter 2       | Quizzes start   |
| Sept 23,<br>27  | Researching/studying deviance<br>*Tinder swindler (film assignment)                        | Chapter 3       | Proposal due<br>Sept 27, 11:59<br>pm                    |
| Sept 30   | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—No classes                                       |                 |   |
| Oct 4   | Explaining deviance: Anomie/Strain<br>theory   | Chapter 4       |   |
| Oct 7, 11   | Explaining deviance: Social<br>disorganization theory<br><br>Brief midterm review (Oct 11) | Chapter 5       |   |
| Oct 14  | Thanksgiving - No class  |                 |   |
| Oct 18  | Midterm  |                 |   |
| Oct 21, 25  | Explaining deviance: Differential<br>Association and Social Learning theories              | Chapter 6       |   |
| Oct 28,<br>Nov 4  | Social control theories  | Chapter 7       | Outline due Nov<br>4, 11: 59 pm                         |
| Nov 8   | Labeling theories  | Chapter 8       |   |
| Nov 11-15 – Remembrance Day and Fall Break – No classes |  |                 |   |
| Nov 18,<br>22   | Conflict theory  | Chapter 9       | Case Study<br>Presentations<br>start                    |
| Nov 25,<br>29   | Critical theories  | Chapter 10      | Case Study<br>Presentations<br>continue.<br>Quizzes end |
| Dec 2, 6  | Societal Responses to Deviance   | Chapter 11      | Case Study<br>Presentations<br>continue                 |
| Dec 9   | Deviant Careers/ Course review and<br>wrap-up; prepare for final exam                      | Chapter 12      | Case Study<br>Presentations<br>continue.                |

|  |  |  |                        |
|--|--|--|------------------------|
|  |  |  | Final Paper Due<br>TBA |
| Final exam scheduled by the Registrar's office |  |  |                        |

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Sept 12     | Last day to add courses or drop courses for a full refund (in most programs) & last day to pay Fall semester fees (except for students on an approved payment plan). Last day to opt out of the Student Health/Dental Plan |
| Sept 30     | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—No Classes   |
| Oct 14      | Thanksgiving Day—No Classes  |
| Nov 11      | Remembrance Day—No Classes   |
| Nov 12-15   | Fall Break—No Classes  |
| Nov 27      | Last day to withdraw from classes (most programs) with a “W”   |
| Nov 29      | Deadline to apply for Winter courses   |
| Dec 10      | Last day of classes for the Fall semester  |
| Dec 12 - 19 | Final exam period  |

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

*Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.*

If at any point in the semester, you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your coursework, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. **Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.**

### Submission & Late Policies:

- Missed tests and assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me **well in advance of any due date**.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor before the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

### STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## **Additional Information:**

This course will make extensive use of our course website (myClass) to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

### Professional Conduct:

- Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.
- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "How do I get an 'A'?", ask yourself "How can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Classroom etiquette:
  - Please do not be late for class.
  - Avoid the use of cell phones except for course-related activities.
  - **Do not disrupt the class**, especially when talking about things non-sociology related
  - You will be given a warning and subsequent action will be taken if disruptive behaviour continues, including being asked to leave the class.
- Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO 2240" (with your section) in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails formally, as you will need to do so regularly. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!