

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2025

SO2240(A2): 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.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael Holland **PHONE:** 780-539-2973
OFFICE: C404 **E-MAIL:** mholland@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 10:30 to 11:30 am, or by appointment

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):
Completed the following:
SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

COREQUISITE(S):
None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
All readings will be posted for free on myClass (D2L) as PDFs and open-text links

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

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 <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

Item	Weight	Description
Unit Quizzes (4 total)	20%	Short, in-class quizzes testing your understanding of each unit.
Case Study Project	30%	Step-by-step project on a deviance case, ending with a gallery walk presentation and peer feedback.
Film Analysis	5%	Complete a sociological analysis of a film related to the course.
One-Minute Responses	5%	Quick in-class reflections to check understanding and participation. These are completed each week.
Participation & Learning Activities	10%	Credit for meaningful engagement in class discussions and activities.
Final Exam (scheduled by registrar)	30%	Comprehensive exam on all course material, in-person or take-home.

Assignment rubrics and instructions will be made available on myClass.

GRADING CRITERIA:

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

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:

Week	Date Range	Topic/Unit & Key Reading(s)	Assignments
1	Sept 3 (Wed)	Foundations – What is Deviance? OpenStax – *Deviance & Control* (Ch. 7.1) Read syllabus.	
2	Sept 8, 10	Foundations – Studying Deviance (Methods) BCcampus – *Sociological Research* (Ch. 2)	Case Study: Topic & Rationale Due Sept 10
3	Sept 15, 17	Foundations – Theoretical Overview OpenStax – *Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance* (Ch. 7.2)	
4	Sept 22, 24	Classic Theories – Anomie & Strain Durkheim – *Anomie* [PDF on D2L]	
5	Sept 29, Oct 1	Classic Theories – Social Disorganization Kirk & Papachristos – *Neighborhood Violence* [PDF]	

6	Oct 6, 8	Classic Theories – Learning Deviance Akers & Jensen – *Social Learning Theory* [PDF]	Unit Quiz 1 (Foundations) Oct 8
7	Oct 13, 15	Oct 13 – Thanksgiving (No Class) Oct 15 – Classic Theories – Labeling Theory Bernburg – *Labeling Theory* [PDF]	
8	Oct 20, 22	Power & Inequality – Conflict Theory & Power BCcampus – *Deviance, Crime & Social Control* (Ch. 7)	Unit Quiz 2 (Classic Theories) Oct 22
9	Oct 27, 29	Film Screening (in-class) [Film shown in class / D2L link] - TBA	Case Study: Project Proposal Due Oct 29
10	Nov 3, 5	Power & Inequality – Feminist Theories Chesney-Lind & Morash – *Feminist Theories of Crime* [PDF]	Film Analysis Due Nov 6
–	Nov 10, 12	Fall Break – No Classes	
11	Nov 17, 19	Power & Inequality – Media & Moral Panics Goode & Ben-Yehuda – *Moral Panics* [PDF]	
12	Nov 24, 26	Contemporary – White-Collar & State Crime Tombs & Whyte – *The Corporate Criminal* [PDF]	Unit Quiz 3 (Power & Inequality) Nov 26
13	Dec 1, 3	Contemporary – Cyber-Deviance Cioban et al. – *Cyber-Deviance* [PDF]	
14	Dec 8 (Mon)	Contemporary – Deviant Careers (Gallery Walk) Sampson & Laub – *Life-Course Desisters* [PDF]	Case Study: Gallery Walk Presentations start Dec 8
15	Dec 10 (Wed) – Last Class	Integration & Review – Preparing for Final Exam	Unit Quiz 4 (Contemporary)

		Review of readings & notes	Applications) Dec 10 Last chance for Gallery Walk
–	Dec 12–19	Final Exam (Registrar scheduled) Covers all course material	

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 <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

****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?”
 - Please only use your NWP e-mail account to contact me to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
 - Always include “SO2240” 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!
- **Use of AI-Generated Content:**

You are expected to complete all course work using your own knowledge and effort. Submitting content generated by AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, or similar) without explicit permission is considered a form of academic misconduct. All submitted work should reflect your understanding and engagement with the course material. If you're unsure whether a tool is appropriate to use, please check with me first. AI tools may be used for brainstorming or grammar checking only if the final submission reflects your original thought and analysis. You must clearly note any use of AI assistance in your assignment.