



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021**

**SO2240 (A3): Sociology Deviance and Conformity - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Michael Holland      **PHONE:** 780.539.2973  
**OFFICE:** C-404      **E-MAIL:** [mholland@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:mholland@gprc.ab.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays (1-2 PM); Wednesdays (11:30-12:30 PM), or by appointment  
Zoom office hours available: <https://gprc.zoom.us/j/9996329885>

**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.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S):** SO1000

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Bereska, T. (2018). Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. North York, Ontario; Pearson Education Canada.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** lectures, class and group discussion, group work, film analysis, class presentations

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Introduce students to the essential sociological concepts of deviance and conformity
- Help students to understand the social ramifications of conformity and deviance and their relation to social change
- Assist students to learn to apply the theories and methodologies of the sociology of deviance

- Familiarize students with the key concepts, theories and debates in the sociology of deviance and conformity
- Promote and develop students' skills in critical thinking, writing, referencing and research

**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 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.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	Total Point Value	Weight
Online Discussion Posts *5 (10 pts each)	50 pts	7.5%
In-class Activities * 5 (10 pts each)	50 pts	10%
1 Midterm	60 pts	20 %
1 Group Presentation	50 pts	7.5 %
Research Project <i>Thesis/research problem (5 pts)</i> <i>Outline (20 pts)</i> <i>Complete paper (50 pts)</i>	75 pts	25 %
Final Exam	80 pts	30 %
Total	365 pts	100 %

**Online Discussion Posts**

You will be required to upload a reaction post (reactions to course content, readings, films, lectures) to **any 5 questions** asked by the instructor, beginning end of week 2. These will be completed and **submitted online (MyClass)**. To earn full credit, you must: a) answer a discussion question posted by the instructor; and b) demonstrate reading comprehension and knowledge of the topic. It is your

responsibility to make sure that you complete **5 reflection papers** for full credit. Due dates for these assignments are on Sundays at 11:59 PM.

### **In Class Activities**

Throughout the semester, there will be in-class activities based on a given topic for the class. Working in groups, you will need to **submit only 5** short assignments based on these activities, although it is expected that you will participate in all activities for participation credit. All members of the group will share the grade for the activity. Assignments must be completed in class. No exceptions.

### **Group Presentation (case study)**

Before the end of the semester, you will work in groups and present on a case study related to the course. The purpose of the presentation is to engage the class, demonstrate your knowledge of the topic, and to apply concepts/theories/arguments about sociology of deviance. This is also an opportunity to receive feedback from your classmates as well as the instructor. Groups will be assigned in the first 2 weeks of class and the groups will have a choice of topic and when to present. All members of the group will share the grade for the activity. More details on this will be discussed in the second week of classes.

### **Research Paper Assignment**

You will complete a full research paper based on a topic related to deviance. 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 **research topic (of your choice), write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument.**

This first project will be evaluated and must be approved by the instructor before moving onto the **outline assignment.** The outline assignment consists of locating peer-reviewed, academic 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). Finally, you will complete a **full research paper** that consists of full sentences, paragraphs, and a complete title page and reference page. All of these assignments have strict due dates. **You must complete each part of these assignments in order before moving on to the next.** Specific information about this assignment will be provided and discussed in class.

### **Midterm Test and Final Exam**

The Midterm term (20%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. The final exam is cumulative (emphasis on ‘big picture’ themes and concepts). Tests and final exam will be based on all course material (textbook, journal articles, classroom discussions, and video clips).

**Please note:** It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement.

**Submission & Late Policies:** It is very important to complete your assignments on time. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day (including weekends). Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0%, unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities 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	66-69
A	4.0	90-94		C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84		D+	1.3	54-59
B	3.0	75-79		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74		F	0.0	00-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due Dates
Sept 1	Introduction to the course The sociology of deviance, conformity and social control	Course Syllabus	
Sept 6	Labour Day – No classes		
Sept 8	Determining deviance Who is deviant Studying deviance	Chapter 1	
Sept 13, 15	Explaining deviance: the act Theorizing deviance Why do people become deviant? Research assignment workshop (Sept 13)	Chapter 2	
Sept 20, 22	Explaining deviance: The perception, reaction, and power Non positivist theorizing Interpretive theories Critical theories	Chapter 3	

Sept 27, 29	Deviance: the role of the media Why media matters Studying the media The media-deviance nexus	Chapter 4	Paper topic and working thesis due Sept 29
Oct 4, 6	'Deviant' and 'normal' sexuality The cultural and historical construction of sexuality Sexual culture today Sexuality and the deviance dance Pornography Prostitution	Chapter 5	
Oct 11, 13	Fall Break – No Classes		
Oct 18, 20	Midterm review (Oct 18) Midterm (Oct 20)		
Oct 25, 27	The troubling and troubled world of youth Deviant youth: 'troubling' youth Deviant youth: 'troubled' youth Youth at risk	Chapter 6	
Nov 1, 3	Looking Deviant: Physical appearance Voluntary and involuntary physical appearance Body modification The 'too fat', 'too tin', and 'ideal'	Chapter 7	
Nov 8, 10	Film: Movie (T.B.A). Film analysis and debate		Research Outline due Nov 10
Nov 15, 17	Mental disorders Who has mental disorders? The costs of mental illness Controlling mental disorder: Stigmatization and medicalization The deviance dance: Resisting stigmatization, inadequate care, and psychiatry itself	Chapter 8	
Nov 22, 24	What do you believe? Religion, science and deviance Religion Science	Chapter 9	
Nov 29, Dec 1	The 'deviance dance' continues The objective subjective Continuum Social typing, social control, and powerful group The deviance dance	Chapter 10	

	The search for standards		
Dec 6, 8	Course review and wrap-up		Complete Research Paper Due (Dec 8 <sup>th</sup> )
			Final exam 30% (cumulative) Scheduled by the Registrar Office

## **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

**Sept 1** — First Day of Classes

**Sept 6** — Labour Day – No classes

**Oct 11** — Thanksgiving – No classes

**Oct 12-15** — Fall Break – No classes

**Nov 11** — Remembrance Day – No classes

**Nov 26** — Last day to withdraw from courses in most programs with a grade of “W”

**Dec 9** — Last day of classes

**Dec 11** — Finals start

**Dec 20** — Finals end

Please note that I may alter or add a reading assignment, film, a reference list or a topic of investigation. You will be notified in class and in writing through MyClass.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **ATTENDANCE AND EXAM POLICIES:**

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged, as are your participation in class discussions and group discussions.

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student’s learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating to the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). *Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.*

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes by asking fellow students for the material covered,

and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

A missed exam won't be accommodated *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency, and unless you can provide documentation.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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

**Additional Information:**

**D2L (MyClass)**

This course will make extensive use of our website on D2L 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 precious and valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

**Please note:** If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "how do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Please only use your **GPRC e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO 2240" 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 regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name!