

Sociology (SOCI) 365

Sociology of Deviance (Revision 6)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#) for the current revision ✖

Delivery mode: Individualized study online with eText

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites: None. **SOCI 287** or **SOCI 288** are strongly recommended.

Precluded: None

Challenge: SOCI 365 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Overview

When we think of “deviance,” we often consider it to be a quality of distinct groups of Others who cause problems for society. However, we must ask ourselves who it is

that causes such problems, and indeed, why their actions are considered problematic in the first place. Looking across cultures and over time reveals that actions considered “deviant” in one culture or at one time in history may not be viewed as such in another culture or at a different time. In fact, even if we focus attention on a single culture at a specific time in history, there will be varied points of view as to whether a certain behaviour is deviant or not.

Therefore, it may be more accurate to think of deviance as a process rather than a quality. Furthermore, it is a process in which each of us is a participant. Each of us has been subjected to measures of social control, either in response to being perceived as deviant or in order to prevent us from becoming deviant to begin with. We even subject ourselves to measures of social control, whether by joining a self-help group to address issues of substance use or weighing ourselves to see if we have gained or lost weight. Conversely, each of us also socially types others as deviant and subjects them to measures of social control, whether formally via our occupations or informally in our casual interactions with friends, family members, co-workers, or strangers. This course introduces you to the sociology of deviance as an area of study.

Outline


- Unit 1: Are *You* Deviant?
- Unit 2: Becoming Deviant
- Unit 3: Perceiving and Reacting to Deviance
- Unit 4: Media and Deviance
- Unit 5: What is “Deviant” Sexuality?
- Unit 6: “Deviant” Youth
- Unit 7: Do *You* Look Deviant?
- Unit 8: Mental Health and Illness
- Unit 9: Religion and Science
- Unit 10: Reflections on the Sociology of Deviance

Learning outcomes

- Identify the key concepts, principles, and theories that characterize the sociology of deviance as an area of study.
- Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various definitions of “deviance” and “normality.”

- Explain how structures of social inequality and relations of power affect perceptions of deviance and mechanisms of social control.
- Summarize and evaluate the research that has been conducted on various topics related to the sociology of deviance.
- Describe the explanations offered by varied theories of deviance that arise from positivist, interpretive, and critical approaches to theory-building, and assess their value.
- Apply the core concepts, principles, and theories of the sociology of deviance to local, national, and global issues.

Evaluation

Your final grade in SOCI 365 is based on the grades you achieve on the Unit Quizzes, the Midterm Assignment, the Critical Analysis Assignment, and the Final Assignment. To **receive credit** for this course, you must achieve a minimum of 60% on the final assignment and a minimum composite course grade of **C- (60 percent)** . The chart below summarizes the course activities and the credit weight associated with each.

Activity	Weight
Unit Quizzes (10 @ 2% each)	20%
Midterm Assignment	25%
Critical Analysis Assignment	25%
Final Assignment	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar**.

Materials

Bereska, T. M. (2022). *Deviance, conformity, and social control in Canada* (6th ed.).
Pearson Canada. (eText)

eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on **electronic textbooks**, please refer to our **eText Initiative site**.

Note: This is a digital textbook (eText). You will have the option of adding on a printed, loose-leaf version (for an extra fee), if you wish. The eText includes note-taking capabilities, audio accessibility, and a glossary. The eText can be used offline through the VitalSource desktop app.

Other Materials

All other course materials can be found online.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the SOCI 365 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** [📄](#) on the online challenge examination.

The **challenge examination** for this course must be taken online with an AU-approved exam invigilator at an approved invigilation centre. It is your responsibility to ensure your chosen invigilation centre can accommodate online exams. For a list of invigilators who can accommodate online exams, visit the **Exam Invigilation Network** [↗](#) .

[📄](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- [Academic advising](#)
- [Program planning](#)

- **Request assistance**
- **Support services**

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
