

**St. Francis Xavier University  
Department of Sociology**

Sociology 250.13  
Fall/Winter 2012

Dr. David Lynes  
Annex, Rm. 9C

**Deviance and Social Control**

This course examines how the designation of Deviance becomes attached to certain behaviours and social attributes and not others. Inseparable from this question is the concern for the consequences of the label for individuals and collectives who are both its creators and its targets. This focus changes the question from “Who or what is deviant?” to “How is this designation applied, by who, and for what reasons?” The course also examines particular instances of behaviours which are often referred to as deviant along with how people respond to and deal with being identified in this way.

In order to adequately understand the concept of deviance, however, we will need to spend almost as much time understanding what is considered non-deviant or “normal” since it is only against the background the often unstated and assumed standard of normalcy that what is abnormal or deviant comes to light. This means that the study of so called deviant social behaviours is inexorably tied to and can be used to better illuminate the whole round of social action we live within and rely upon to help define ourselves and our society.

**Textbooks**

There are two required texts for this course:

*Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada* by Tami M. Bereska (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.)

*Exploring Deviance in Canada: A Reader* by Ed Ksenych (Editor)

Portions of both books will be assigned together on a regular basis. Both books are available in the university book store. Used copies of both books may be available. Feel free to use these if you have access to them. Additional material may be made available on reserve in the library.

**Evaluation**

The course grade will be based on a series of weighted tests and assignments which are designed to promote the critical analysis of deviance and social control.

October Quiz	15%
In-class and take-home short assignments	10%
Christmas Exam	25%
Second term Essay/Presentations	20%

Final Exam	25%
Participation	10%

### **Class Format**

The class format and the speed at which the material is covered will be open for revision as the course progresses. However, the aim will always be to pursue the work within the context of open class discussions and exercises in addition to lectures and presentations. **Please Note:** Attendance is especially important for this course, as the in-class discussions will be essential to an adequate grasp of the course material and objectives. (A more detailed schedule of readings and test dates will be distributed in the following weeks).

### **Office Hours**

My office is in room 9C in the Annex. Office hours are as follows (First term only):

Tuesday: 2:30 to 4:00  
Wednesday: 12:00 to 2:00

If I am out of the office due to meetings or other responsibilities, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Other times can be arranged by appointment if you are unable to make those listed. Contact me by phone or through E-mail with course-related questions or to arrange a meeting. Phone: 867-3802. E-mail: [dlynes@stfx.ca](mailto:dlynes@stfx.ca).

Finally, please feel free to drop in at any time during the semester to discuss any aspect of the course, your progress, or the Sociology program generally.