SOCI 262 – Social Deviance
Section EC, Fall 2026

This syllabus is subject to change and any changes will be posted in the Announcements section of your eConcordia portal.

Disclaimer: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

About this Course

This is a course offered by the Department of Sociology.

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TA Contact Information: available on the course website Contact Page

Office hours: available on the course website Contact page. Students are encouraged to consult with the professor and TA during office hours for questions related to course material.

Course Description

Welcome to SOCI 262 – Social Deviance. Attention is focused on deviations from social norms, particularly those that are socially induced. This course examines the nature, forms, sources, functions, and dysfunctions of deviations from social norms, and the mechanisms of social order and control. Deviance is viewed as a social process of interaction and relationships that is shaped by social structure and, in turn, have consequences for it. Various forms of deviance are considered in terms of contemporary social theory and research.

This course is an introduction to the study of deviance from a sociological perspective. This means it looks at the social aspects of deviance and normalcy. This includes the social processes through which we learn deviance and normalcy, and the ways everyday understandings of what is normal and deviant are affected by social contexts, relationships with others, and collective histories. The course also reviews central sociological theories of deviance, including different ways that sociologists have defined deviance and tried to understand its role in society. We will look at how definitions of deviance and normalcy change over time and vary across and within cultures, as well as how power shapes what is considered normal and deviant. The course also considers the effect of deviant labels on individuals and the forms of social control that are unleashed once a deviant label is applied. Much of the course is focused on how these themes manifest in particular contexts, including physical appearance, sexuality, and religion, among others. Over the course of the semester, we will apply the material we are learning to examples of deviance through the use of film.

Note: This course is not about determining what is normal and what is deviant. Rather, it is about understanding how the categories of normalcy and deviance are created and how they function in a social context.

Course Objectives

1. Explain the social aspects of deviance and normalcy and the different ways that sociologists define deviance.
   1.1. Describe objective approaches to deviance and related theories (e.g., functionalism, strain, association, learning theories, etc.)
   1.2. Describe subjective approaches to deviance and related theories (e.g., social constructionism, conflict theories, labelling, etc.)
   1.3. Explain and illustrate the social typing process in specific contexts
   1.4. Identify different forms of social control and how they operate in various contexts.
2. Apply different theories to contexts of deviance (e.g., physical appearance, mental illness, sexuality, religion, etc.)

Course Material

1. SOCI 262 course website which includes the videos, forum and other course material. The course is offered through eConcordia Moodle and can be accessed through the Moodle dashboard located on the eConcordia homepage (https://www.econcordia.com/). Your eConcordia account will be valid for 6 months after the end of the term for which you are registered. Your account will allow you to access the online course material, which includes videos, discussion boards, all graded course components, useful links, readings and many more resources from the course website for the duration of the term and 6 months after its end date.

   Important note: in order to gain access to the course Lessons, you must first take **and pass** the ungraded Mandatory Outline Quiz located in the Getting Started Section.

2. **Textbook:** Bereska, Tami M. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. Pearson Canada, 2022.

3. **Films** (required and optional):
   a) *Buying Sex* (2013)—required
   b) *Codes of Gender* (2012)—required
   c) *Selling Sex* (2020)—optional
   d) Frontline: The Medicated Child (2008) —optional
   e) *Beyond the Shadows (1989*) —optional

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for the assigned readings, lecture material, films, and class activities. If you have questions after doing the readings and completing the online course components, please contact the professor, your TA, or come to office hours.

Assessments

Graded Assessments

Quizzes (3)	30%
Knowledge Check Questions (5)	15%
Group Film Activity	15%
Final Exam (in-person)	40%

Important note: in order to gain access to the course Assessments, you must first take **and pass** the ungraded Mandatory Outline Quiz located in the Getting Started Section.

Knowledge Check Questions (5 x 3% = 15%):

Over the semester, students will complete five individual written responses, each worth 3% of the final grade. Each response must be a minimum of 200 words.

Each Knowledge Check question is based on the content of the lesson for the week in which they are assigned. You may complete each Knowledge Check at any time during the week of the corresponding lesson, up until the deadline on Friday at 11:59 PM.

Once you begin a Knowledge Check, you will have **30 minutes** to complete and submit your response.

Feedback will be provided after the deadline by sharing anonymized examples of strong responses with the class.

Quizzes (3 x 10% = 30%):

There are three quizzes during the semester. Each quiz contains 40 questions (a combination of multiple choice and true/false) and covers material from lectures, readings, and films.

- **Quiz 1:** Lessons 1–5
- **Quiz 2:** Lessons 6–8
- **Quiz 3:** Lessons 9–11

Each quiz will be available for a 24-hour window, during which you may choose when to start. Once you begin a quiz you will have 40 minutes to complete it.

During the 24 hour period when a quiz is available, access to the lessons covered in the quiz will be blocked.

Group Activity: Film Questions + Self-Assessment and Peer Evaluation (15%)

This assignment has two components.

The first is a group submission worth 10%. Students will work in groups of three to five to respond to five questions related to the film *Buying Sex* (assigned in Week 8). Each answer must be a minimum of 250 words. This is a collaborative activity, and all group members are jointly responsible for ensuring that all five questions

are completed. Every member of the group will receive the same grade on the assignment. However, only one student per group needs to upload the group's answers to the course site.

The second component is a self- and peer assessment, worth 5%. Each student must complete a Self-Assessment describing their own contributions to the group work and a Peer Evaluation assessing the contributions of each group member.

The grade for this component is based on completion of the questions and the quality of the reflection, not on how positively you rate yourself or your group. Full marks require completion of all questions and a specific response to both parts of the written reflection. Failure to complete any component of the assessment will result in a grade of zero.

Final Exam (40%):

The final exam is in person. It will be a closed book cumulative exam. It will consist of one long answer question and five short answer questions. You will be able to choose the questions you want to answer from a list of provided options. The Group Film Activity and Knowledge Check Questions will help you prepare as the questions in those assessments will be similar to the ones on the final exam.

The date, time, and location of the final exam will be set by the Exams Office and will occur after the last day of classes. You will have 3 hours to complete the final exam. You will be notified of the date and time of the final exam in your Student Hub.

Extensions and Technical Issues:

Extensions on assignments or quizzes for medical reasons will only be granted if students complete a Short-Term Temporary Absence Form. This form lets you submit a request for short-term medical accommodation *without* documentation like a medical note. For more information on the Short-Term Temporary Absence Form, including how to submit one, please consult: https://www.concordia.ca/students/absence-form.html

Extensions on assignments or quizzes for non-medical reasons only be granted in cases of valid, documented reasons (e.g. family emergency). Please note that **technical difficulties are not accepted as a reason for late or missed submissions.**

To avoid problems, do not wait until the last minute to complete or submit your work. If you encounter technical issues, contact the eConcordia Help Desk or IITS immediately. The course professor cannot assist with technical problems.

Please note that all activity on the course website is automatically logged and may be reviewed by the professor, eConcordia administrators, and technical staff. Be honest about when and whether you accessed course materials. This information can and will be verified.

GenAI Use:

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools (GenAI) or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited. Students may not copy or paraphrase from any generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course.

Use of Concordia Email

Your Concordia email is the official channel for all university communications, as required by the university's Policy on Concordia email accounts for students and employees. Please use your Concordia email for all

communication related to this course and check it regularly so you don't miss important information. Learn more about how to access your Concordia email.

As a student, you are expected to follow the email policy and to use your Concordia email in a respectful and responsible manner. The policy helps ensure that communication across the university is secure, reliable, and consistent.

Grades:

To view your grades throughout the semester, select the Grades tab on the vertical left-side menu of your course page.

It is your responsibility to ensure your work has been received (to be verified as outlined in your assignment instructions) and to contact your TA via e-mail for clarification if you have any questions concerning your grades.

Your final letter grade for the course will be posted in your Student Hub at the end of the term.

Mark Breakdowns:

Letter Grade	Percentage (%)	Letter Grade	Percentage (%)
A+	90 to 100	C	63 to 66.9
A	85 to 89.9	C-	60 to 62.9
A-	80 to 84.9	D+	57 to 59.9
B+	77 to 79.9	D	53 to 56.9
B	73 to 76.9	D-	50 to 52.9
B-	70 to 72.9	FNS	0 to 49.9
C+	67 to 69.9		

Important Information

Topic	Link
Academic Integrity	Academic Integrity
Educational Technology Guidelines	Concordia Educational Technology Guidelines for Faculty and Students (the "Guidelines")
Access Centre for Students with Disabilities	ACSD
Concordia Library Citation & Style Guides	How to cite...
Course Communication Tools	Communication
eConcordia Policies	Policies

Final Exams Information	Final Exams
Helpdesk/Support	FAQ
Refunds	Refunds
Short-Term Temporary Absence Form	Short-Term Temporary Absence Form
Technical Requirements	Technical Requirements
Tips for Studying Online	Studying Tips
Tips on how to reach online learning goals (learning modules)	How to Succeed @ eConcordia

Academic Dishonesty

The most common offense under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism, which the Code defines as "the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement." This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on an exam, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work. It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism. Basically: DO NOT COPY, PARAPHRASE OR TRANSLATE ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE WITHOUT SAYING FROM WHERE YOU OBTAINED IT. See: http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/plagiarism

Exceptional Circumstances

Section 16, Academic Information: Definitions and Regulations of the Undergraduate Calendar will be strictly administered – particularly on deadlines, Failing Grades, Administrative Notations, and Late Completions. In addition, please note that the Examination Office not the instructor administers DEF and MED notations.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances and pursuant to the Academic regulations - Concordia University, the University may modify the delivery, content, structure, forum, location and/or evaluation scheme. In the event of such extraordinary circumstances, students will be informed of the changes.

SOCI 262 – Social Deviance
Agenda - Fall 2026

All deadlines indicated are on the due date listed by 11:59 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Week 1 : September 7 – September 13	
September 7	**Labour Day, university closed**
September 8	**Classes begin**
	Complete the Outline Quiz in the Getting Started Section to gain access to the course Lessons and Assessments
	Lesson 1: What is Normal?
Week 2: September 14 – September 20	
	Lesson 2: Explaining Deviance: Objective Theories I (Functionalist and Strain Theories)
September 18	**Lesson 2 Knowledge Check Question due**
Week 3: September 21 – September 27	
	Lesson 3: Explaining Deviance: Objective Theories II (Learning, Differential Association, Neutralization and Control Theories)
September 21	**Deadline to add fall-term courses**
September 21	**Deadline for withdrawal with tuition refund (DNE) from fall-term courses**
September 25	**Lesson 3 Knowledge Check Question due**
Week 4: September 28 – October 4	
	Lesson 4: Explaining Deviance: Subjective Theories I (Interpretivist Theories)
October 2	**Lesson 4 Knowledge Check Question due**
Week 5: October 5 – October 11	
	Lesson 5: Explaining Deviance: Subjective Theories II (Conflict Theories)
October 9	**Quiz #1 (Lessons 1 – 5)**
October 10	**Reading Week Begins**
Mid-Term Break: October 12 – October 16	

October 12	**Thanksgiving Day, University closed**
October 16	**Reading week ends**
Week 6: October 19 – October 25	
	Lesson 6: Media and Deviance
October 23	**Deadline to submit required documentation to register with the *Access Centre for Students with Disabilities* and request exam accommodations for the Fall 2026 final examination period**
October 23	**Lesson 6 Knowledge Check Question due**
October 24	**Group Film Activity: Find Your Partners page opens**
Week 7: October 26 – November 1	
	Lesson 7: Normal and Deviant Sexuality
October 30	**Lesson 7 Knowledge Check Question due**
Week 8: November 2 – November 8	
	Lesson 8: The Deviance Dance over Sexuality
November 2	**Group Film Activity: group submission page opens**
November 6	**Quiz #2 (Lessons 6 – 8)**
Week 9: November 9 – November 15	
	Lesson 9: Physical Appearance: Body Modification and Body Size
November 13	**Group Film Activity: group submission due**
November 13	**Group Film Activity: self-and peer assessment opens**
Week 10: November 16 – November 22	
	Lesson 10: Physical Appearance: Gender Display
November 16	**Deadline for academic withdrawal (DISC) from fall-term courses**
Week 11: November 23 – November 29	
	Lesson 11: Mental Health and Illness
November 27	**Group Film Activity: self- and peer-assessment due**
Week 12: November 30 – December 7	
	Lesson 12: Religion and Science
November 30	**Last day for instructor-scheduled tests or examinations**
November 30	**Quiz #3 (Lessons 9 – 11)**
December 7	**Last day of classes**
Examinations Period: December 9 – December 22	
	Final Exam date and time is posted on your Student Hub