Although deviant behavior is often considered a residual and unimportant category of social phenomena, "deviance" in fact includes a wide range of socially important behaviors. What we learn about these behaviors can teach us much concerning non-deviant behavior and the "normal" social processes in which we are all involved.

We will attend particularly to three sets of questions about deviance:

First, why do people commit deviant acts? Why do some types of people (for instance, young men) seem to commit so many more acts of deviance than do other people (for instance, young women)? Relatedly, why are some acts and some actors considered deviant, and others are not? To answer such questions, we will review the major social structural and social psychological theories of deviance and suggest how such sociological explanations differ from more individualistic explanations. We will try to see how apparently competing explanations of deviance can be combined into a unified explanation or, at least, into a few behaviorally-specific explanations.

Second, how are the lives of deviant actors organized? How are deviant transactions themselves organized? To explicate the social organization of specific deviant careers and of specific forms of deviance, we will examine some forms of deviance more closely. [Some students in the past have found some of these topics difficult to discuss. Please look ahead at the syllabus, and if you anticipate that you will find it difficult to discuss any of these topics, please talk to me beforehand.]

Third, how does our society react to deviance? Which societal reactions affect the incidence of deviance and the likelihood that people will offend? To answer these questions, we will look more closely at the criminal justice system, with particular concern for that system's major elements and their effectiveness.

Because the dominant theories of deviance (and the "facts" about deviance) have been based on studies of male deviants and have assumed those experiences to be universal, the literature on deviance may need to be rethought. So, one of the continuing themes of this course will be to consider how thinking explicitly about gender (and race and social class) will improve our knowledge of all forms of deviance and of all deviants.

Graded, written work in this course consists of two short papers (30%), one longer paper (30%), and a final exam (20%). The longer paper (10 to 12 pages) will be shared with others in the class, who will provide feedback. In addition, everyone will write a short reading memo (which will be distributed to the class) on one of the articles in the Kelly reader or on reserve (15%). Finally, I expect everyone to contribute to class discussion (5%). Please note that I will not accept unexcused late work and that I evaluate papers in terms of both content and style. If you are concerned about your writing, I recommend that you see me about each paper and that you go to the Writing Lab.

You must abide by the rules on plagiarism, outlined in the Student Handbook (pp. 11-14), which require that you "acknowledge explicitly any expressions, ideas, or observations that are not" your own. In the case of cooperatively produced work, you must indicate who produced which part of the data or product. I take these rules very seriously. If you are unsure of your obligations, please see me. In any event, please use the ASA reference style described on the sheet attached to this syllabus.

Much of the course readings come from the books listed immediately below and from the two Course Packets. Other material is on reserve in Burling. I strongly recommend that you read ahead and that you finish each set of readings before we discuss the topic in class.
Required Texts:  
Kelly & Clarke (Reader) (ed.), *Deviant Behavior*  
Lowe, *Women of Steel*…  
Walker, *Sense and Nonsense about Crime*  
Wright, *Armed Robbers in Action*  
Course Packets (1 and 2)  
Recommended readings are indicated by * and are not on Reserve.

8/25  
Introduction  

8/28  
UNGRADED PARAGRAPH DUE MONDAY [email to me at Hunter@grinnell.edu]:  What is your definition of "deviance"? Why?
What behaviors illustrate this definition well? What behaviors don't?

**Approaches to Understanding Deviance**

**Week 1**

8/28  
A. Creating Deviance: What Is deviant?  
(Reader) 1-3:1-40 [Conceptions; Positive Deviance; Moral Entrepreneurs]

8/30 & 9/1  
Packet One, Set #1 (Reader) 28-29:358-401 [Epistemological Challenge; Gang Statistics]


**Week 2**

9/4  
C. The “Big Picture”: Social Structural Approaches

1. Functionalist Arguments: What does it accomplish?  
(Reader) 7&8:78-91 [*Durkheim; Erikson*]

9/6  
2. Conflict Arguments: Whose rules do we use? Who decides?  
(Reader) 9-11:93-119, 4-6:443-74 [Conduct Norms; Radical Perspective; Differential Punishing; Status Politics; Production of Deviance; Hyperkinesis]

9/8 & 9/11  
3. Demography, Inequality, and Crime: Age & Gender, Race & Class  
Packet One, Set #2 [Read “Highlights” and skim rest]


*Harer & Steffensmeier "The differing effects of economic inequality on black and white rates of violence" *Social Forces* 70(1992):1035-54

*Peterson & Krivo "Racial segregation and Black urban homicide” *Social Forces* 71(1993):1001-1026
D. Micro-Social and Processual Approaches

1. "Bad Apples? Bad Barrels?": Control and Strain
   (Reader) 14&15:137-167, 16&17:170-198 [Anomie; Homeboys; Control Theory; Decision Making]

2. "Do Birds of a Feather Flock Together?: Social Learning and Subcultural Support
   (Reader) 12&13:121-136, 22:246-261 [Techniques of Neutralization; Situational Ethics; Tinydopers]
   *Hagan "Destiny and drift..." ASR 56(1991):567-582

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Case Studies of Deviants and Deviance

A. The Social Organization of Deviants and of Deviance: a heuristic framework
   (Reader) 35&36:484-524 [Social Organization; Bookmakers]
   [Burling E-reserve & IngentaConnect]

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SHORT PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS FRIDAY:
[Your evaluation of the implications of demographics for crime or of the micro-social and processual explanations of deviance.]

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B. Individual Deviance: body modification through bodybuilding & tattooing
   Lowe Women of Steel 1-73, 74-161

[IN CLASS] Short Selection from Documentary on Bodybuilding
Week 6
10/2

C. Individual Deviance: Living with STDs, HIV/AIDS
(Reader) 23:263-281, 38:550-564, 30:402-405, 42:610-630 [Stigma Management; Drama; Medicalization; Damaged Goods]

D. Deviant Exchange (Sales & Trades)
1. impersonal sex

*Krol "Restroom to tearoom, a cultural conversion..." Deviant Behavior 11(1990):273-280
*Prus & Irini Hookers, Rounders, & Desk Clerks (1980)

Week 7
10/9 & 11

2. power and the process of stripping or exotic dancing

10/13
NO CLASS: HAVE A GOOD BREAK!

10/11
PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION OF FINAL PAPER TOPIC, WITH INITIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, DUE ON WEDNESDAY

10/14 -22
FALL BREAK!!

Week 8
10/23
10/25

E. Deviant Exploitation
1. sexual aggression in the home, in the suites, and on the streets
(Reader) 39:565-582 [Rape on Campus]

Packet Two, Set #1 [“Cycle of Violence,” “Later Criminal Consequences”]

*South and Felson "The racial patterning of rape." Social Forces 69(1990):71-93
*Gilbert "Realities and mythologies of rape." Society (May 1992): 4-10

10/27

[IN CLASS] Documentary Film on Homophobic Murder:
Licensed to Kill [53 min]
Deviance and Social Control

Week 9
10/30
*Kleck & Sayles "Rape and resistance." Social Problems 37(1990):149-62

11/6
SHORT PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS MONDAY:
[The paper will focus on deviant exploitation.]

11/1 & 3
Week 10
11/6
2. predatory crime on the streets: and the situational perspective
   Wright & Decker Armed Robbers in Action 1-60, 61-139
   Packet Two, Set #2 ["Revictimization" & "Crime Hot Spots" selection; skim third item]
   *Miethe & Meier Crime in its Social Context 5:75-100
   *Shover Great Pretenders: Careers of Persistent Thieves (1996)

11/8 & 10
3. on the streets: organized crime
   (Reader) 37:526-547 [Drifting into Dealing]
   Mohamed & Fritswold, "Damn, it feels good to be a gangsta: The social organization of the illicit drug trade servicing a private college campus." Deviant Behavior 27(2006):97-125. [Burling E-reserve]
   *Steffensmeier & Terry "Institutional sexism in the underworld: a view from the inside." Sociological Inquiry 56(1986):304-322

Week 11
11/13 & 15
4. in the suites: organizational crime
   (Reader) 40:583-595 [Criminogenic Regulatory Structure]

Social Control and the Criminal Justice System

11/17
A. How do we deal with crime? Who are "we"? With whom do we deal?
   Walker 1-4:1-80

Week 12
11/20 & 22
B. Could we significantly improve the criminal justice system?
   1. What if we arrest more people?
      Walker 5:85-105


11/22

**FINAL PAPER DUE BEFORE THANKSGIVING**

11/23 & 24

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Week 13**

11/27 & 29

2. What if we try to deter more people?

Walker 6,7:109-154

(Reader) 24:282-293, 26:313-338 [Informal Sanctioning; Private Prisons]

*Walker 8,9:158-191


12/1

3. What if we try to rehabilitate more criminals, or raise non-criminals?

Walker 11:217-241

(Reader) 33-34:447-481, 44:647-659, 32:428-446 [Moral Career; Suspended Identity; Exiting the Deviant Career; Medicalizing Homelessness]

Packet Two, Set #3 ["Recidivism” (2 items); “Effective Intervention”]


**Week 14**

12/4 & 6

4. What if we try to fix criminogenic situations? [contextual crime prevention]

Walker 10:193-211, 14:293-314

Packet Two, Set #4 [“Visibility and Vigilance”]


12/8

5. What if we reform the law, the legal system, and/or society?

Walker 12-13:244-291

Packet Two, Set #4 ["Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn’t, What’s Promising." (Selection)]

12/14

**TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION is due at 10 am on Dec 14.** [I’ll give you the exam about a week ahead.]
Recommended Reference Works:

reviews [books] in Burling:
Annual Review of Psychology
Annual Review of Sex Research
Annual Review of Sociology
Criminology Review Yearbook
Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice
Crime and Justice

recent statistics on crime and criminals:
Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics

useful journals not in Burling:
Child Abuse & Neglect
Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior
Victimology
Violence and Victims

useful journals at circulation desk:
Journal of Homosexuality
Journal of Sex Research
Sex Roles

useful journals in Burling:
American Journal of Sociology (AJS)
American Sociological Review (ASR)
British Journal of Criminology
Crime and Delinquency
Crime, Law, and Social Change
Criminology
Deviant Behavior
Gender and Society
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Journal of Research in Crime &
    Delinquency
Journal of Social Issues
Journal of Studies on Alcoholism
Law and Society Review
Psychology of Women Quarterly
Sex and Gender
Signs
Social Forces
Social Problems

useful Web sites:

Criminology Links:
http://www.hsu.edu/dept/soc/criminology.html
Justice Information Center:
http://www.ncjrs.org
Bureau of Justice Statistics:
http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs
Federal Bureau of Investigation:
http://www.fbi.gov/
Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics
ONLINE:
http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook