In this course we will study traits, conditions, actions, and behaviors that violate social norms and elicit negative societal reactions. We will explore social, cultural and individual factors in the etiology of deviance; the establishment and maintenance of deviant categories; the motivations behind deviant behavior; the identification as deviant of individuals and of particular segments of society, by formal and informal means; the effects of institutionalization and social control upon the deviant; and the efforts of deviants to eradicate the label society has placed upon them.

What this all means is that we are going to undertake a sociological examination of those on the margins of society and societal efforts to “deal with” them. Students will be introduced to research on many forms of deviance, including obesity, mental disorders, suicide, substance abuse, prostitution, and violence. The course is fully online so you can take it from anywhere this summer.