



VirginiaTech

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Teaching Evaluation Committee
Department of Sociology

Dear committee members.

I have been asked to conduct a review of Jonathon Lloyd's teaching in *SOC 2404 Deviant Behavior*. The course was delivered as a synchronous online class, and I reviewed a recorded lecture. In general, I found the lecture to be well organized, insightful, and informative.

The lecture began with a discussion of an assignment for the course, which was a survey to be fielded by the students. The assignment was for each student to have one person who was not in the class complete the survey. This is a great exercise to use in a deviant behavior class as it provides students insights into how sociologists often get the data that we use to test our theories and claims. Mr. Lloyd went over the instructions for the assignment, which seemed to be clear and easily understandable. Impressively, he used this opportunity to not only explain the assignment and why it was important, but to also discuss important ethical considerations about research involving human subjects.

After providing an opportunity for students to ask questions about the assignment, Mr. Lloyd moved to the lecture's main topics. The first part of the lecture presented Travis Hirshi's bond theory, a leading theory of deviant behavior. This lecture was apparently one of several devoted to sociological theories of deviant behavior as Mr. Lloyd briefly reviewed the theories that were previously covered and nicely placed bond theory in the context of the broader theoretical traditions in sociology. I was impressed with his presentation of the theory's basic argument, and I found his explanation of the specifics of the theory to be accurate and easy to understand. I was also pleased to hear him discuss some empirical work that has tested the theory. He noted the mix support for the theory, and he nicely offered possible explanations for the contradictory findings. Overall, I was impressed with his presentation of the theory.

The remainder of the lecture was dedicated to a discussion of different types of deviance. Mr. Lloyd introduced the concept of "elite deviance," and he noted specific forms of it. He covered the basic definitions of white collar crime, corporate crime, state-corporate crime, and state crime. He then provided examples of these crimes and explanations as to why we as a society do not focus on them as much as we focus on traditional street crimes. I thought his use of coal mine disasters was particularly effective given the industry's history in the region. He was able to demonstrate the tremendous harms that can result from corporate crime, and he focused

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attention on how these acts frequently go unpunished (and indeed not even defined as crime). Overall, I was impressed with this section of the lecture as well.

In general, I found Mr. Lloyd's lecture to be well organized and well delivered. His coverage of the topic was sufficiently detailed for the level of the course, and his explanations of the fundamental concepts were clear and detailed. His presentation style is relaxed and it is clear that he has a good understanding of the material he is discussing. He was able to explain relatively nuanced material in a manner that should be easy to understand. Mr. Lloyd's use of PowerPoint and visual materials was also effective and provided richness to the lecture. The effective use of visual materials was especially noticeable when he was discussing the mining disasters.

My only advice to Mr. Lloyd would be to try to engage the students more. While he asked students if they had questions and made sure they were understanding the material before moving on, he could have tried to get students to engage with the material by asking them to provide examples of the concepts he was discussing. I do recognize that the context of the course (i.e. online over Zoom) makes doing this more difficult than if the course was in person. I also recognize that the majority of the lecture was devoted to introducing a new concept (elite deviance) and he may engage the students more after they have a better understanding of the concepts. I am unsure if he did this in later lectures, as he very well might have. It seemed from student reactions at the end of the lecture that Mr. Lloyd does have a good rapport with his students. Thus, this comment should be taken with these contexts in mind. The comment is really only a suggestion for him to consider for the future, especially when we return to face-to-face instruction.

In conclusion, I enjoyed the lecture. I commend Mr. Lloyd for teaching the class in a manner that is well organized, easy to follow and understand, and effectively allows students to learn the material.

Sincerely,

James Hawdon