In this course, students will be introduced to the key explanations of crime and theories in the sociology of deviance, crime and social control. Students will be encouraged to think critically about what deviance is, who defines it, and whether this definition changes over time. We will cover a wide range of topics including portrayals of crime in the media, racism and crime, women and crime, crimes of the powerful, and violence. We will also consider criminal justice system responses to crime: incarceration, restorative justice, rehabilitation etc. and how the way that crime and deviance is measured impacts both official and public responses to crime.

By the end of this course, students will be able to identify the differences between various theoretical approaches to crime and deviance and explain the main assumptions of each approach. This course will provide students with critical thinking skills that allow them to evaluate and discuss the official and unofficial responses to crime as well identify the key challenges of current responses to crime.

Given the university’s announcement regarding the switch to online courses in Fall 2020, Sociology 206 will be taught using CourseSpaces and Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate (this will be confirmed in the summer). All course content will be accessible via CourseSpaces including links to the appropriate online platforms necessary for lecture content. Resources for learning how to use Zoom and/or Blackboard Collaborate will be included – we are all in this together!

Course material will include a list of assigned readings (and possibly links to the readings for some of our topics), links to other online resources, and a combination of possible pre-recorded (asynchronous) lecture videos and live content. The combination of materials for any given week will vary. Some of this content will include podcast style conversations with guest speakers such as members of the police, social workers, and other experts in the field. Each week, you will be responsible for accessing any material that is posted prior to each scheduled class on Monday and Thursday. We will also hold live sessions (which likely won’t last the entire duration of our scheduled time), where I may assign you to discussion groups, where I will

1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
present content, and you will have opportunities to ask questions. These live sessions will be recorded and posted to CourseSpaces.

Office hours will be held via Zoom 2-3 times each week in the late afternoon. Additional times are also available to accommodate various time zones and schedules.

**Required Resources May Include:**