New Sociology Course
Spring, 2010
Sociology 327: Crime, Deviance, and the Mass Media

Are you interested in spending a semester watching movies and doing a little sociology at the same time? Then consider taking Sociology 327: Crime, Deviance, and the Mass Media. We’ll use these movies to illustrate a number of topics in the sociology of crime and deviance. Each semester, the class will have some input on the topics and movies. The list of possible topics and movies – is almost endless including: corporate crime (Wall Street), mental illness and social control (One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest), hate crime (American History X), and anti-drug crusades (Reefer Madness). Television shows are another possibility – from reality crime shows like Cops or America’s Most Wanted, crime dramas such as NYPD Blue or Law and Order or comedies like Will and Grace.

During the semester you’ll take a series of short quizzes on lecture and readings. You’ll also write a series of short 3-5 page papers where you’ll apply the lecture and readings to each film. There’s a final project and paper that is announced at the beginning of the semester.

If you’re interested and want to know more, contact Jack Spencer at jspencer@purdue.edu