1 – THE NATURE OF DEVIANCE
The Nature of Deviance

- **Deviance** – behavior that departs from the social norm.
- **Deviant** – person who significantly departs from the social norm.
The Nature of Deviance

- What are examples of behavior considered deviant in one group or culture but not another?
- What are some examples of deviant behavior that is found in all groups or cultures?
- What causes a person to be deviant?
Social Control

- **Social controls** – ways to encourage or enforce conformity
- **Social sanctions** – rewards and punishments to encourage conformity
Competing explanations of Deviance

- **Biological** — a physical illness
- **Psychological** — personality disorder
- **Sociological** — socialization into deviance
Negative Deviance - Based on ignoring or rejecting social norms - Extreme cases lead to anarchy

Conformity - Normally Accepted Range of Behavior

Positive Deviance - based on unquestioned acceptance of norms - extreme cases leads to fascism
Functionalism and Deviance

BASIC VIEWS
NEGATIVE EFFECTS
BENEFITS
STRAIN THEORY
CONTROL THEORY
Inconsistency leads to trust issues
- Ex. If people randomly decide not to come to work

Can cause more non-conforming behavior in others
- Ex. Teachers not coming to work could lead students to not coming to school, which leads to more kids on the street, which leads to more gang activity, etc...

Deviant behavior is expensive
- The more deviation there is, the more police is needed, the more jails must be built, etc...
Functionalism and Deviance – Positive Effects

- **Clarifies existing social norms**
  - If a high school player curses at an official during a game, society will punish that athlete (penalty, suspension, etc...) in order to show to everyone the normative behavior.

- **Relieves pressure to conform**
  - Teenagers have pressure from many authority figures and by listening to “deviant” music or dressing differently can reduce that pressure.

- **Can increase unity in the group**
  - Traitors can inspire feelings of nationalism, patriotism, etc...

- **Promotes social change**
  - Ending women’s suffrage
  - Civil Rights Movement
Imagine you must move (without researching) to live in Japan...

Would you exhibit deviant behavior? Why or why not?

**Anomie** – social condition when norms are weak, conflicting, or absent.
Functionalism and Deviance

- **Robert Merton’s Strain Theory**
  - Deviance is more likely when there is a gap between cultural goals and the ability to achieve those goals.
    - Examples of our cultural goals?
    - What are legitimate means of attaining those goals?

- **Conformity** is when people accept both the means and the end goal.
Functionalism and Deviance - Strain Theory

- **Innovation** – accepting the goal, but using illegal means to achieve it.
- **Ritualism** – Rejects the goal, but continues using legitimate means.
- **Retreatism** – Rejects both the goal and the means.
- **Rebellion** – rejects both success and the approved means to achieve it. Substitute new goals and means.
### Functionalism and Deviance - Strain Theory

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Functionalism and Deviance

- **Travis Hirschi’s Control Theory**
  - Deviance correlates to the strength of the bond between the individual and society
    - The stronger the bond is, the more conformity there is
    - People conform in order to “save face”
Elements of Social Bonds

- **Attachment**
  - Conformity strength of ties to things like family, school, friends, churches etc...
  - How strong are your ties?

- **Commitment**
  - A stronger commitment to the goal will lead to stronger conformity
  - Do you believe your hard work will pay off?
Elements of Social Bonds

- **Involvement**
  - Participation in approved activities leads to more conformity
  - Is there a relationship between kids who participate in extra-curricular activities and conformity?

- **Belief**
  - The stronger the belief in the norms and values of the culture, the stronger the conformity
  - What incentives do people have to conform if these four elements of social bonds don’t exist?
How does this transaction relate to Control Theory and Anomie?
Symbolic Interactionism and Deviance
Symbolic Interactionism and Deviance

**Differential Association Theory**
- Focuses on how deviance is learned
  - Some groups teach members to deviate from social norms while others teach conformity.
  - (1) Can you think of any such organizations?
- **Factors:**
  - Ratio of deviant to non-deviant people you are in contact with
  - Are significant others deviant?
  - Age of exposure to deviance

(2) Is this deviant behavior? Why/why not?
Symbolic Interactionism and Deviance

- **Labeling Theory**
  - Society creates deviance by calling people ‘deviant’
    - (3) Which direction would a label of “scholar” or “smart” propel you?
    - (4) How about the label of “delinquent”? 
  - Labels open and close doors of opportunity
  - How does this connect to Cooley’s “Looking Glass Self”?
In each of the cases below:

- **Identify a label**, which may be attached to the person as a result of their deviant behaviour.
- **Outline how a deviant career may develop** by describing the possible consequences of the labelling for the person’s future life and relationships.
- Suggest ways in which that person **might avoid being labelled** even after they have committed the deviant act.

(5) A young woman who is caught shoplifting in Wal-Mart.

(6) A teacher who publicly declares himself/herself to be gay.

(7) A person who is temporarily admitted to a mental hospital as a result of a nervous breakdown.

(8) An 18-year-old man who gets arrested during a fight at a football match.
Symbolic Interactionism and Deviance

(9) With an unmarried pregnancy, who is usually labeled the deviant? Why do you think this is the case?
What are the degrees of deviance?

- **Primary deviance**
  - Deviant behaviors occur, but it does not affect the person’s label for themselves or their lifestyle.
  - (10) How often do you violate a cultural norm? Do you view yourself as a deviant?
  - (11) Do prisoners view themselves as deviants? Why?/Why not?

- **Secondary Deviance**
  - Deviance as a lifestyle, way of life, or career; people primarily view themselves as deviant
  - (12) Examples?
Consequences of Labeling

- **Social stigma**
- Undesirable label used by others that deny full social acceptance
  - (13) How would a person freed from prison have a stigma?
  - (14) Unemployed?
  - (15) Handicapped?
  - (16) Immigrant?
Conflict Theory and Deviance

VICTIM DISCOUNTING
WHITE COLLAR CRIME
Race, Ethnicity, and Crime

- Minorities are given unequal treatment in the justice system.
  - 43% of death row inmates are black.
    - In interracial murders, Blacks are 13X more likely to be put on death row than white who murder Blacks.
- Blacks make up 12% of the total US population
  - of those arrested:
    - 72% white
    - 25% black

Does this reflect the TV image?
Race, Ethnicity, and Crime

- **Victim discounting** – seeing minority interests are less valuable as the majority (or power) group.
  - If the victim is less valuable, the crime is less serious, and the punishment is less severe.
White-Collar Crime

- **White-collar crime** – job related crime committed by high status people.
- Enron
- Freddie Mac
White-Collar Crime

• More than $100 million each year is laundered through banks by white-collar criminals.
  ○ 10X more than robberies, larcenies, burglaries, and auto thefts combined.

• For every murder:
  ○ 2 people die from unsafe working conditions
Crime and Punishment

MEASUREMENT OF CRIME
JUVENILE CRIME
APPROACHES TO CRIME CONTROL
Measurement of Crime

- What is crime?
- How is crime data collected and measured?
- Uniform Crime Reports

CRIME BY THE NUMBERS
According to preliminary UCR statistics, reported violent crimes and property crimes in the U.S. were down for 2011.

- Murder: -1.9%
- Forcible Rape: -4.0%
- Robbery: -4.0%
- Aggravated assault: -4.0%
- Burglary: +0.3%
- Larceny-theft: -0.9%
- Motor vehicle theft: -3.3%
- Arson: -5.0%
Approaches to Crime Control

- **Criminal justice system**
  - The institutions responsible for enforcing formal social sanctions for crimes.

- **Deterrence**
  - Punishing so others will not commit the same crime
  - i.e. The death penalty
Approaches to Crime Control

- **Retribution** –
  - criminals pay compensation for their crime
  - ‘eye for eye’ or revenge
- **Incarceration** –
  - Going to jail
Approaches to Crime Control

- **Rehabilitation** –
  - Resocializing people who have committed crimes to socially acceptable behavior

- **Recidivism** –
  - Cycle of repeating criminal behavior
  - Why?
    - Stigma, influence of other prisoners, biological influences
An Example of Overconformity in Sports

The Norms of the Sport Ethic

- An athlete makes sacrifices for “the game”
- An athlete strives for distinction
- An athlete accepts risks and plays through pain
- An athlete accepts no limits in the pursuit of possibilities
Why Do Athletes Engage in Deviant Overconformity?

- Sports are so exhilarating and thrilling that athletes want to play, and they will do almost anything to continue to do so.
- Being selected by coaches and managers is more likely when athletes over conform to the sport ethic.
Athletes Most Likely to Over-Conform to the Sport Ethic

- Those who have low self-esteem or are so eager to be accepted by their peers in sport that they will make whatever sacrifices they think others want them to make
- Those who see achievements in sport as their only way to get ahead, make themselves a name, and become important to the world
• Bond athletes in ways that normalize over conformity to the sport ethic
• Separate athletes from the rest of the community while inspiring awe and admiration among community members
• Lead athletes to develop **HUBRIS – that is**, a sense of arrogance, separateness, and superiority