

**SociologicalYOU - Chapter 7 PPT Audio Lecture Transcript**

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This is Next-Gen Introductory Sociology.

Welcome to Chapter 7: Crime and Deviance

There are 5 modules in this chapter. They include:

Module 1: a sociological perspective on deviance

Module 2: big picture explanations of deviance and crime

Module 3: problems of justice in America

Module 4: the sociology of capital punishment

Module 5: Global issues of crime and social change

This PowerPoint does not cover every key term in chapter 7. Please read your textbook to see what is not covered in the PowerPoint.

As we review the contents of this chapter, I would encourage you to consider the following

**Points to Ponder**. These should help you think critically about crime and deviance.

Number 1 - how is the concept of deviance socially constructed?

Number 2 - how can sociology help us understand why crime occurs and who is more likely to engage in crime?

Number 3 - is our criminal justice system broken and what are some of these structural problems?

**Module 1: The Sociological Perspective**

Let's consider the social construction of deviance beginning with key terms.

For our purposes, deviance is defined as the violation of social norms.

Agents of social control are informal and formal groups that control the behavior of members of society.

Informal social control consists of individuals and groups that unofficially reinforce social norms.

On the other hand, formal social control consists of groups and organizations whose specific function is to control the behavior of members of societies and reinforce social norms.

Finally, social stigma is a negative label characterized by one or more personal traits that form a stereotype about the individual.

Deviance involves the violation of social norms and is defined when members of society assign meanings to behaviors.

The definition of deviance varies by time in history, location, and social context resulting in the social construction of the concept.

For example, it was deviant to divorce in the \_\_ century but has become a norm

in contemporary society. Groups, communities, and even nations define what is considered deviant behavior and can vary significantly.

Labeling Theory is important to understanding deviance. Labeling Theory contends that individuals are labeled as deviant and are more likely to act upon the label.

There are three types of deviants under labeling theory;

First, there's primary deviance. Primary deviance is violation of a norm that does not result in being labeled as deviant.

Secondary deviance consists of norm violations that result in being publicly labeled as deviant and an outsider.

Tertiary deviance involves normalizing deviant behavior by labeling it as non-deviant.

The Labeling Theory was developed by Lammert and Becker and focuses on how

individuals are labeled as deviant.

Everyone engages in primary deviance in which a rule might be broken, but not everyone is labeled as deviant.

Continued engagement in deviant acts, or secondary deviance, normally results in people of authority labeling the individual as deviant.

To understand tertiary deviance, let's consider the story of Maurice.

Maurice forgot he had an exam and he arrived early to class and panicked. As a pre-med student he could not afford to fail the midterm biology class, so he quickly wrote some key terms on his hand. The professor noticed him cheating on the exam and called him into the office. Maurice explained the situation and, since it was his first time engaging in academic dishonesty, he pleaded for lenience.

From that point on though, the professor and seemingly all of his other professors treated him as if he was a habitual cheater. He thought his essays were graded unfairly from that point on and lost respect for his professors. Eventually he resorted to frequent cheating and justified it because becoming a doctor was more important than making the grades honestly in his opinion.

This is an example of tertiary deviance.

According to Edwin Sutherland, crime is a learned behavior.

Let's consider his Differential Association Theory.

This theory states that individuals learn deviant and criminal behavior from associating with deviants and criminals.

Let's also consider the concept of crime.

Crime is defined as an offense and violation of public law.

The Differential Association Theory, developed by Sutherland, indicates that deviance and criminal behavior is learned through association with individuals who are engaging in this type of activity.

The more frequent the association, the more likely the individual is to become deviant.

Consider for example a young girl who grows up in a high crime neighborhood and comes home from school while her parent is still at work.

Most of the girls who live in her apartment complex are older teens, but they all hang out after school several times a week. The older girls go shoplifting. Her older friends wear the latest fashion due to their theft of clothing at numerous department stores throughout the city. Soon, she is participating in the shoplifting excursions with her friends.

According to Sutherland, her deviant behavior was learned through her association with the older teen girls. Social Control Theory states that individuals who do not have strong social bonds are more likely to feel disconnected from society and engage in deviance or crime.

The Social Control Theory indicates that social bonds serve to control the behaviors of individuals within society. The elements of the social bonds according to this theory, are attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief.

When any of the elements are deficient, the social bonds are likely to weaken and increase the odds of deviance.

What are some limitations of micro level theories of deviance?

Beginning with Labeling Theory, we find that it does not focus on the individual process of deviance but rather on the labeling by others. It does not explain why some individuals accept and some reject the labels.

Differential Association Theory does not stress the individuality and rationality of people and how some can resist the temptation to choose deviant behavior even after repeated exposures to a deviant setting.

Finally, Social Control Theory does not provide an explanation for deviants and criminals who have close ties to family and friends.

**Module 2: Social Structures**

Robert Merton gave us structural Strain Theory. This theory states that social structures can promote crime and deviance among individuals within society.

Figure 7.2.1 illustrates Merton's theory.

Beginning with conformity in the upper left, the conformist accepts the culturally defined goals and the means by which to achieve them.

As a student, you are an example of a conformist because you are working toward a college degree which is highly regarded as a means to achieve a successful career.

An innovator (in the upper right) accepts goals but may not have the means to achieve them. Therefore, alternative means are developed as in the case of an adolescent who breaks into cars to steal electronics.

A retreatist (lower right in yellow) rejects both the culturally defined goals and the institutional means of achieving the goals. A drug addict who quits his job and is content begging at a busy street corner is an example of a retreatist.

Ritualists (lower left in green) accept the goal but give up on striving to achieve the goal. The elderly often discontinue striving toward their goals and are examples of

retreatists.

Lastly, rebels reject the goals and the means and replace them with their own goals and means.

Let's consider the big picture explanations of deviance and crime.

According to Conflict Theory, crime can be described as being perpetuated among the poor.

Due to economic and social forces, the dominant class controls the resources and creates and administers the laws which can advantage the wealthy by maintaining the majority of resources.

The wealthy can control the circumstances of the poor in regard to entry into elite schools and jobs.

This results in structural disadvantages and discrimination and a struggle for limited resources.

One strategy to acquire more of the resources is to turn to illegitimate means (i.e crime).

**Module 3: Social Problems**

This module examines the criminal justice system and the different types of crime.

Beginning with the criminal justice system, for our purposes, it is defined as formal institutions designed to enforce, arbitrate, and carry out the laws of the society.

The criminal justice system is made up of law enforcement, the courts, and the prison or penal system.

Table 7.3.1 presents the categories of crime.

The 7 categories of crime historically enforced by the criminal justice system include violent crime, property crime, public order crime, white collar crime, corporate crime, organized crime, and political crime.

Additional categories of crime include cyber crime, which is crime that targets the computer systems of an individual or group, hate crime, which is criminal behavior directed at, individuals or groups based on their race, ethnicity, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion, and terrorism, which is the use of

violence or the threat of violence to influence the political process.

The incidents of crime in a given community are known as the crime rate. Specifically it is defined as a statistical count of different categories of crime compiled by federal, state, and local agencies.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI, maintains a database of the crime rates

across the United States, but the accuracy of the statistics has been called into question because collection methods vary across communities.

Let's consider two issues associated with policing in America: differential justice and police brutality.

Differential justice refers to differences in how groups are treated in the criminal justice system.

Police brutality is when officers violate an individual's rights, often in a manner that involves the excessive use of violence.

The police are on the front lines of the criminal justice system. They have the discretion to stop, search, arrest, and charge individuals for their behavior, when that behavior violates social norms.

Misconduct occurs when police officers improperly apply their discretion such that it becomes abuse of power or police brutality.

The larger implications of problems with policing are that innocent people may be impacted by the deviance of the officers and thus wrongly ensnared in the criminal justice system.

There are 3 parts to the criminal justice system: prosecution, defense, and the courts.

A prosecution lawyer's job is to provide evidence and witnesses that will support the state's charge against the accused criminal.

The defense lawyer's job is to provide evidence and witnesses that will support the accused criminal's innocence.

The court run by judges oversees the trial process with juries weighing the arguments of the prosecution and defense to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused criminal.

Statistics call into question the fairness of the court system and the decisions of the jury.

Evidence indicates that sentences are often affected by the race of the juror and the accused with African Americans receiving harsher sentences from white juries.

The penal or correctional system is designed to house individuals who have been arrested, detained, or sentenced.

Jails are local community facilities that typically hold an accused while awaiting trial or after receiving a sentence that lasts less than one year.

Prisons are state or federal facilities that house defendants found guilty of a felony and whose sentence is longer than a year.

Let's consider the experience of minorities and women in prison.

Minorities make up \_0 % of the prison population although they are only \_ % of the general population.

Research indicates that African Americans, Hispanics, and whites do not experience the criminal justice system in the same way.

Although fewer women are in prison than men, African Americans and Hispanics are also over-represented in correctional facilities for women.

Women in prison are often the victims of past abuse and frequently suffer from mental illness.

Research indicates that women often receive lighter sentences than men for identical crimes. Reasons for the lighter sentences include society assuming that women's deviant behavior is a result of playing a supporting role in their partner's actions or concern about the familial disruption that would result from incarceration.

How does collective consciousness impact sentencing? Well let's consider that key

term.

Collective consciousness is a set of shared attitudes, beliefs, and ideas about how things should be in society. Arguably, our collective consciousness or attitudes and beliefs about women, make it difficult for society to reconcile women's roles as caregivers with that of criminals.

**Module 4: The Sociological Imagination**

Capital punishment is defined as a penalty for criminal behavior that results in the death of the perpetrator. Capital punishment involves taking the life of someone who's been convicted of a crime.

Research indicates that racial bias and discrimination are broadly present in the application of capital punishment. Minorities are more likely to receive the death penalty for killing whites and white juries are more likely to impose the death penalty on minority defendants.

**Module 5: Social Change**

Deviance is a global issue.

The concepts of transnational crime and counterfeiting help illustrate this point.

Transnational crime is crime that crosses interstate or international borders.

Counterfeiting is the manufacturing and selling of illegally copied products.

Deviance in the future will increasingly involve transnational crimes or crimes that cross national and international borders.

While human trafficking, drug smuggling, and terrorism are all examples of this form of deviance, the issue of counterfeiting is used to illustrate how transnational crime impacts us all on a regular basis.

Forged goods, in this multi-billion-dollar industry, run the gamut, from purses to toothpaste, with many items being illegally manufactured to be sold specifically in the U.S. and Middle east.

The impact of counterfeiting includes loss of revenue to the real product. Manufacturer

inferior items purchased by the consumer and possibly even serious health risks to users of some of the items.

Privacy is important to consider when discussing the topic of deviance.

Beginning with the key term surveillance, surveillance is the use of technology to monitor the action and behavior of others.

The Patriot Act was a piece of legislation that impacted surveillance. Specifically, the Patriot Act lifted some of the restrictions on law enforcement to conduct surveillance and gather information on American citizens.

It included the right for law enforcement to search your:

* financial, medical, internet, and academic records without having to show evidence of criminal activity.
* the right for law enforcement to enter your home, office, or property and conduct a search without notifying you they were there.
* the right for law enforcement to wiretap your telephone conversations anywhere in the country without having to show reasonable suspicion of a crime or get permission from a judge in different jurisdictions.

Social responses to deviance in the future will probably involve surveillance or the use of technology to monitor the action and behavior of others.

Many different forms of surveillance are common in society, with Britain having the highest number of monitoring cameras in the western world.

The reasons given for using surveillance technology include the deterrence effect and an effort to reduce the likelihood of deviance.

Concerns about excessive surveillance include worries over the invasion of privacy and uncertainty about how gathered information would be used.

The Patriot Act of 2001 illustrates some of the more recent changes to the laws governing citizens.

Surveillance of even relatively benign items, like smartphone apps, have been found to be tracking and storing information about users.

The future of surveillance will probably include greater use of technology to monitor citizens.

This concludes the PowerPoint for **SociologicalYOU** Chapter 7, where we strive to “connect sociology and YOU!”

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