

DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

Sociology 242
Fall, 2006
MWF 1:00-2:05 ARH 120

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Although deviant behavior is often considered a residual and unimportant category of social phenomena, "deviance" in fact includes a wide range of socially important behaviors. What we learn about these behaviors can teach us much concerning non-deviant behavior and the "normal" social processes in which we are all involved.

We will attend particularly to three sets of questions about deviance:

First, why do people commit deviant acts? Why do some types of people (for instance, young men) seem to commit so many more acts of deviance than do other people (for instance, young women)? Relatedly, why are some acts and some actors considered deviant, and others are not? To answer such questions, we will review the major social structural and social psychological theories of deviance and suggest how such sociological explanations differ from more individualistic explanations. We will try to see how apparently competing explanations of deviance can be combined into a unified explanation or, at least, into a few behaviorally-specific explanations.

Second, how are the lives of deviant actors organized? How are deviant transactions themselves organized? To explicate the social organization of specific deviant careers and of specific forms of deviance, we will examine some forms of deviance more closely. ***[Some students in the past have found some of these topics difficult to discuss. Please look ahead at the syllabus, and if you anticipate that you will find it difficult to discuss any of these topics, please talk to me beforehand.]***

Third, how does our society react to deviance? Which societal reactions affect the incidence of deviance and the likelihood that people will offend? To answer these questions, we will look more closely at the criminal justice system, with particular concern for that system's major elements and their effectiveness.

Because the dominant theories of deviance (and the "facts" about deviance) have been based on studies of male deviants and have assumed those experiences to be universal, the literature on deviance may need to be rethought. So, one of the continuing themes of this course will be to consider how thinking explicitly about gender (and race and social class) will improve our knowledge of all forms of deviance and of all deviants.

Graded, written work in this course consists of two short papers (30%), one longer paper (30%), and a final exam (20%). The longer paper (10 to 12 pages) will be shared with others in the class, who will provide feedback. In addition, everyone will write a short reading memo (which will be distributed to the class) on one of the articles in the Kelly reader or on reserve (15%). Finally, I expect everyone to contribute to class discussion (5%). Please note that I will not accept unexcused late work and that I evaluate papers in terms of both content and style. If you are concerned about your writing, I recommend that you see me about each paper and that you go to the Writing Lab.

You must abide by the rules on plagiarism, outlined in the *Student Handbook* (pp. 11-14), which require that you "acknowledge explicitly any expressions, ideas, or observations that are not" your own. In the case of cooperatively produced work, you must indicate who produced which part of the data or product. I take these rules very seriously. If you are unsure of your obligations, please see me. In any event, please use the ASA reference style described on the sheet attached to this syllabus.

Much of the course readings come from the books listed immediately below and from the two **Course Packets**. Other material is on reserve in Burling. I strongly recommend that you read ahead and that you finish each set of readings before we discuss the topic in class.

Required Texts: **Kelly & Clarke (Reader)** (ed.), *Deviant Behavior* (2003)
Lowe, *Women of Steel...* (1998)
Walker, *Sense and Nonsense about Crime* (2005)
Wright, *Armed Robbers in Action* (1997)
Course Packets (1 and 2)
 Recommended readings are indicated by * and are **not** on Reserve.

8/25 **Introduction**

8/28

UNGRADED PARAGRAPH DUE MONDAY [email to me at Hunter@grinnell.edu]: What is your definition of "deviance"? Why? What behaviors illustrate this definition well? What behaviors don't?

Approaches to Understanding Deviance

Week 1
8/28

- A. Creating Deviance: What Is deviant?**
(Reader) 1-3:1-40 [Conceptions; Positive Deviance; Moral Entrepreneurs]
- B. Methods for Studying Deviance:** Observing Acts, Counting Behaviors, Imputing Meaning
Packet One, Set #1
(Reader) 28-29:358-401 [Epistemological Challenge; Gang Statistics]

8/30 & 9/1

- *Orcutt & Turner, "Shocking numbers and graphic accounts: Quantified images of drug problems in the print media." *Social Problems* 40(1993):190-204
 *Beckett "Setting the public agenda: 'Street crime' and drug use in American politics." *Social Problems* 41(1994):425-447
 *Koss "The underdetection of rape." *J. of Social Issues* 48(1992):61-75

Week 2
9/4

- C. The "Big Picture": Social Structural Approaches**
1. Functionalist Arguments: What does it accomplish?
(Reader) 7&8:78-91 [*Durkheim; Erikson*]
 2. Conflict Arguments: Whose rules do we use? Who decides?
(Reader) 9-11:93-119, 4-6:443-74 [Conduct Norms; Radical Perspective; Differential Punishing; Status Politics; Production of Deviance; Hyperkinesis]

9/6

9/8 &
Week 3
9/11

3. Demography, Inequality, and Crime: Age & Gender, Race & Class
Packet One, Set #2 [Read "Highlights" and skim rest]
 *Steffensmeier & Streifel "Age, gender, and crime across three historical periods: 1935, 1960, & 1985." *Social Forces* 69(1991):869-894
 *Harer & Steffensmeier "The differing effects of economic inequality on black and white rates of violence" *Social Forces* 70(1992):1035-54
 *Peterson & Krivo "Racial segregation and Black urban homicide" *Social Forces* 71(1993):1001-1026

- 9/13 **D. Micro-Social and Processual Approaches**
1. "Bad Apples? Bad Barrels?": Control and Strain
(Reader) 14&15:137-167, 16&17:170-198 [Anomie; Homeboys; Control Theory; Decision Making]

*Horney et al. "Criminal careers in the short-term." *ASR* 60(1995):655-673
- 9/15
2. "Do Birds of a Feather Flock Together?": Social Learning and Subcultural Support
(Reader) 12&13:121-136, 22:246-261 [Techniques of Neutralization; Situational Ethics; Tinydopers]

*Hagan "Destiny and drift..." *ASR* 56(1991):567-582
*Felson et al. "The subculture of violence and delinquency..." *Social Forces* 73(1995):155-173
- Week 4**
- 9/18
3. "Bad Names?": Labeling [and Integrated Approaches]
(Reader) 18:200-204, 21:237-245 [Career Deviance; Discreditable]
- 9/20
- (Reader) 20:212-231 [Commitment]
Packet One, Set #3: "Serious & Violent Juvenile Offenders." & "Predictors of Youth Violence."
Agnew, *Why Do Criminals Offend?* [Selection as Class **Handout**]

Case Studies of Deviants and Deviance

- 9/22
- A. The Social Organization of Deviants and of Deviance: a heuristic framework**
(Reader) 35&36:484-524 [Social Organization; Bookmakers]
Adler & Adler, "Self-injurers as loners: the social organization of solitary deviance." *Deviant Behavior* 26.4(2005):345-378.
[Burling E-reserve & IngentaConnect]
- 9/22
- SHORT PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS FRIDAY:
[Your evaluation of the implications of demographics for crime **or** of the micro-social and processual explanations of deviance.]

- Week 5**
9/25 & 27 & 29
- B. Individual Deviance:** body modification through bodybuilding & tattooing
Lowe *Women of Steel* 1-73, 74-161
Irwin, "Legitimizing the first tattoo: moral passage through informal interaction." *Symbolic Interaction* 24.1(2001):49-73. [Burling E-reserve & CALIBER]
- [IN CLASS] Short Selection from Documentary on Bodybuilding

Week 6 10/2	C. Individual Deviance: Living with STDs, HIV/AIDs (Reader) 23:263-281, 38:550-564, 30:402-405, 42:610-630 [Stigma Management; Drama; Medicalization; Damaged Goods]
10/4 & 6	D. Deviant Exchange (Sales & Trades) 1. impersonal sex Maier , "Hidden in the light: Occupational norms among crack-using street-level sex workers." <i>Journal of Drug Issues</i> 26.1(1996):143-173 [Burling E-reserve & EBCO] *Weinberg & Williams "Gay baths and the social organization of impersonal sex." <i>Social Problems</i> 23(1975):124-136 *Krol "Restroom to tearoom, a cultural conversion..." <i>Deviant Behavior</i> 11(1990):273-280 *Prus & Irini <i>Hookers, Rounders, & Desk Clerks</i> (1980)
Week 7 10/9 & 11	2. power and the process of stripping or exotic dancing Pasko , "Naked power: Stripping as a confidence game." <i>Sexualities</i> 5(2002):49-66. [Burling E-reserve & Sage Publications] Deshotels & Forsyth , "Strategic flirting and the emotional tab of exotic dancing." <i>Deviant Behavior</i> 27(2006):223-241. [Burling E-reserve & IngentaConnect]
10/13	NO CLASS: HAVE A GOOD BREAK!
10/11	PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION OF FINAL PAPER TOPIC, WITH INITIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY, DUE ON WEDNESDAY
10/14 -22	FALL BREAK!!
Week 8 10/23 10/25	E. Deviant Exploitation 1. sexual aggression in the home, in the suites, and on the streets (Reader) 39:565-582 [Rape on Campus] Monahan, Marolla, & Bromley , "Constructing coercion: The organization of sexual assault." <i>J. of Contemporary Ethnography</i> 34(2005):284-316. [Burling E-reserve & Sage Publications] Packet Two, Set #1 ["Cycle of Violence," "Later Criminal Consequences"] *Scully "'Riding the Bull at Gilley's': Convicted rapists describe the rewards of rape." <i>Social Problems</i> 32(1985):251-263 *South and Felson "The racial patterning of rape." <i>Social Forces</i> 69(1990):71-93 *Gilbert "Realities and mythologies of rape." <i>Society</i> (May 1992): 4-10
10/27	[IN CLASS] Documentary Film on Homophobic Murder: <i>Licensed to Kill</i> [53 min]

Week 9
 10/30

- *Berger & Searles "Victim-offender interaction in rape: Victimological, situational, and feminist perspectives." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 8(1985):9-15
- *Bart and O'Brien "Stopping rape: effective avoidance strategies." *Signs* 10(1984):83-101
- *Stets & Pirog-Good "Violence in dating relationships." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 50(1987):237-246
- *Kleck & Sayles "Rape and resistance." *Social Problems* 37(1990):149-62
- *Lonsway & Fitzgerald "Rape myths." *Psychology of Women Quarterly* 18(1994):133-164

11/6

SHORT PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS MONDAY:
 [The paper will focus on deviant exploitation.]

 11/1 & 3
Week 10
 11/6

2. predatory crime on the streets: and the situational perspective
Wright & Decker *Armed Robbers in Action* 1-60, 61-139
Packet Two, Set #2 ["Revictimization" & "Crime Hot Spots"
selection; skim third item]

- *Miethe & Meier *Crime in its Social Context* 5:75-100
- *Pinderhughes "The anatomy of racially motivated violence in NYC." *Social Problems* 40(1993):478-491
- *Katz *The Seductions of Crime* (1988)
- *Shover *Great Pretenders: Careers of Persistent Thieves* (1996)

11/8 & 10

3. on the streets: organized crime
(Reader) 37:526-547 [Drifting into Dealing]
Mohamed & Fritswold, "Damn, it feels good to be a gangsta: The social organization of the illicit drug trade servicing a private college campus." *Deviant Behavior* 27(2006):97-125. **[Burling E-reserve]**
- *Wiegand "Black money in Belize..." *Social Forces* 73(1995):135-148
 - *Steffensmeier & Terry "Institutional sexism in the underworld: a view from the inside." *Sociological Inquiry* 56(1986):304-322

Week 11
 11/13 & 15

4. in the suites: organizational crime
(Reader) 40:583-595 [Criminogenic Regulatory Structure]
Calavita & Pontell, "Other people's money revisited: Collective embezzlement in the S&L and insurance industries." *Social Problems* 38(1991):94-112. **[Burling E-reserve or JSTOR]**
- *Simpson "Cycles of illegality: antitrust violations in corporate America." *Social Forces* 65(1987):943-964
 - *Baker & Faulkner "The social organization of conspiracy." *ASR* 58(1993):837-860

Social Control and the Criminal Justice System

11/17

- A. How do we deal with crime? Who are "we"? With whom do we deal?**
Walker 1-4:1-80

Week 12
 11/20 & 22

- B. Could we significantly improve the criminal justice system?**
 1. What if we arrest more people?
Walker 5:85-105

(Reader) 25:295-312, 27:339-356, 31:412-427

*Bowditch "Getting rid of troublemakers: High school disciplinary procedures and the production of dropouts." *Social Problems* 40(1993):493-507

11/22

FINAL PAPER DUE BEFORE THANKSGIVING

11/23 & 24

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 13

11/27 & 29

2. What if we try to deter more people?

Walker 6,7:109-154

(Reader) 24:282-293, 26:313-338 [Informal Sanctioning; Private Prisons]

***Walker** 8,9:158-191

*Fagan "Cessation of family violence: deterrence and dissuasion." [Pp. 377-425 in Ohlin and Tonry, eds., *Family Violence*, vol 11 of *Crime and Justice* (1989)]

12/1

3. What if we try to rehabilitate more criminals, or raise non-criminals?

Walker 11:217-241

(Reader) 33-34:447-481, 44:647-659, 32:428-446 [Moral Career; Suspended Identity; Exiting the Deviant Career; Medicalizing Homelessness]

Packet Two, Set #3 ["Recidivism" (2 items); "Effective Intervention"]

*Saunders & Azar "Treatment programs for family violence." [Pp. 481-546 in Ohlin and Tonry, eds., *Family Violence*, vol 11 of *Crime and Justice* (1989)]

Week 14

12/4 & 6

4. What if we try to fix criminogenic situations? [contextual crime prevention]

Walker 10:193-211, 14:293-314

Packet Two, Set #4 ["Visibility and Vigilance"]

*Sampson & Raudenbush, "Seeing disorder: Neighborhood stigma and the social construction of 'broken windows.'" *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67(2004):319-342. [JSTOR]

12/8

5. What if we reform the law, the legal system, and/or society?

Walker 12-13:244-291

Packet Two, Set #4 ["Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising." (Selection)]

12/14

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION is due at 10 am on Dec 14. [I'll give you the exam about a week ahead.]

Recommended Reference Works:*reviews [books] in Burling:*

Annual Review of Psychology
Annual Review of Sex Research
Annual Review of Sociology
Criminology Review Yearbook
Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice
Crime and Justice

recent statistics on crime and criminals:

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics

*useful journals **not** in Burling:*

Child Abuse & Neglect
Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior
Victimology
Violence and Victims

useful journals at circulation desk:

Journal of Homosexuality
Journal of Sex Research
Sex Roles

useful journals in Burling:

American Journal of Sociology (AJS)
American Sociological Review (ASR)
British Journal of Criminology
Crime and Delinquency
Crime, Law, and Social Change
Criminology
Deviant Behavior
Gender and Society
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Journal of Research in Crime &
Delinquency
Journal of Social Issues
Journal of Studies on Alcoholism
Law and Society Review
Psychology of Women Quarterly
Sex and Gender
Signs
Social Forces
Social Problems

useful Web sites:

Criminology Links:

<http://www.hsu.edu/dept/soc/criminology.html>

Justice Information Center:

<http://www.ncjrs.org>

Bureau of Justice Statistics:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Federal Bureau of Investigation:

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics
ONLINE:

<http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook>