I. Riots

A. Definition: spontaneous crowd violence

1. arbitrary violence to property (destruction) or person (harm)

2. size

3. relatively spontaneous and unplanned

4. out of control (disrupt social order)

5. not purposeful

B. Classical theory and riots: Contagion Theory

1. medical model

2. social strain is initial cause:

a. industrialization: farm to factories

b. urbanization: rural to urban

c. mass society: gemeinshcaft to geselleshaft

3. social psychology: anomie, alienation, anxiety

4. they gather

a. irrational

b. heightened emotions

c. excitable

4. “infect” each other with mood of excitement

5. infection turns crowd into herd

6. herd: disruptive, and irrational, not purposeful

7. Psychological: “Acting Out”

8. assumption: pluralistic concept of power

C. Classical Theory: Circular Reaction (A variation)

1. Herbert Blumer (symbolic interactionist)

2. Assumptions: the same as Contagion

3. argument:

a. social strain

b. like minded

i. milling: moving about among others in aimless and random fashion

ii. collective excitement: symbolic cues

iii. social contagion: circular reaction that

heightens excitement

c. creates: restless crowd: that needs to act

d. action

i. irrational

ii. no purpose

D. Riots

1. In what ways does the Tulsa riot firt, not fit classical theory?

2. Media role in the riot?

3. Social order riots

a. definition

i. violence to property and person (targeted)

ii. not spontaneous

iii. disrupts social order

iv. purpose: maintain or reestablish status quo

v. officials compliant

b. Civil war draft riots

i. NYC center of Confederate support

ii. July 1863 Emancipation Proclamation

iii. July Conscription lottery

iv. Murdered, beat, burned blacks, Republicans, and women and children, and abolitionists

v. One crowd 50,000, 10,000, and 5,000

vi. 5 days, several thousand killed,1/3 of black population forced out

c. White riots: 1919-1921

i. E. St. Louis

ii. Chicago

iii. Tulsa

d. White riots (WWII): 47 cities

i. LA: Zoot Suit riots

ii Detroit

5. Why does classical theory fail to include social order riots in

its theoretical constructs?