**What is Deviant Behavior?**

* **Deviance**: Any attitude, behavior, or condition that violates social norms, and that results in disapproval, hostility, sanction if becomes known
* **Crime**: An act, usually deviant, that is punishable by law
* **Pluralistic Societies**: Societies made up of many diverse groups with different norms and values
* **Capital Offenses**: Crimes considered so heinous that are punishable by death

**How do Sociologists Explain Deviance?**

* **Biological perspectives**
  + Phrenology: A theory that the skull configurations of deviant individuals differ from those of nondeviants.
  + Atavisms: Throwbacks to primitive humans
  + Early theories were disproven, but research persists on brain function, physiology, and response
  + Modern approaches: Product of an interaction between biological and environmental factors
    - Parent -> Child studies
    - Alcoholism, mental illness, and convictions
    - Possibility that these are learned coping strategies
    - Twin studies: May be attributed to similar or shared socialization
* **Functionalist Perspectives**
  + Deviance and social solidarity
    - Deviance is an abnormality that society seeks to eliminate, but a certain amount is functional
    - Emile Durkheim
      * Deviance contributes to social solidarity by enhancing the sense of what is right and wrong
      * Prevents anomie, the state of confusion that occurs when people lose sight of the shared rules and values that give order to the meaning to their lives
  + Structural Strain theory
    - Structural Strain: In Merton’s reformulation of Durkheim’s functionalist theory, a form of anomie that occurs when a gap exists between society’s culturally defined goals and the means society makes available to achieve those goals.
    - Strain Theory: The theory that when there is a discrepancy between the cultural goals for success and the means available to achieve these goals, rates of deviance will be high
  + Robert Merton: People Share a common understanding of goals and legitimate means for achieving goals
  + (Chart on next page)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Response** | **Cultural Goals** | **Legitimacy of Means** |
| Conformity | Accept | Accept |
| Innovation | Accept | Reject |
| Ritualism | Reject | Accept |
| Retreatism | Reject | Reject |
| Rebellion | Reject/Substitute | Reject/Substitute |

* + Opportunity theory: The theory that people differ not only in their motivations to engage in deviant acts, but also in their opportunities to do so
  + Control Theory: The theory that the cause of deviance is rooted in social control and, specifically, the life experiences and relationships that people form
    - Strong social bonds with those who disapprove of deviance prevents deviant behaviors – stronger willingness to conform
    - Those who lack strong social bonds do not fear social consequences of deviance
* **Conflict Perspectives**
  + Subcultures and deviance
    - Subcultural theories: Theories that explain deviance in terms of the conflicting interests of more and less powerful segments of a population
      * What is criminal or deviant for some is the norm of others
  + Class-dominant theory
    - Theories that propose that what is labeled deviant or criminal—and therefore who gets punished—is determined by the interests of the dominant class in a particular culture or society
      * Example: Capitalism requires labor, private property, and regulated marketplace
* **Interactionist Perspectives**
  + Labeling Theory
    - Primary Deviance: The first step in labeling of deviance, it occurs at the moment an activity is labeled as deviant
    - Secondary deviance: It occurs when a person labeled deviant accepts the label as part of his or her identity and, as a result, begins to act in conformity with the label

**Types of Deviance**

* **Everyday Deviance**
  + Ordinary activities many people engage in at least once
* **Sexual Deviance**
  + Sex, sexual orientations, and sexual practices
* **Deviance of the Powerful**
  + Ubiquitous and wide ranging, but often escape punishment
* **Crime**
  + Violent and property crimes
  + White collar crime
  + Police corruption and police brutality
  + State crimes

**Social Control of Deviance**

* **Social Control**
  + The attempts by certain people or groups in society to control the behaviors of other individuals and groups to increase the likelihood that they will conform to established norms or laws
* **Social Power**
  + The ability to exercise social control
* **Informal Social Control**
  + The unofficial mechanism through w

**6.1 Homework**

Question 1: Most of the attitudes, practices, and conditions that are considered deviant by society…

* Are not criminal

Question 2: Which is NOT an aspect of deviance?

* I forgor

Question 3:

* Pluralistic Society

Question 4: Which deviances are relative to mainstream society

* Murder, robbery, the friend one, the tattoo one

**6.2 Homework**

Question 1: Match

* Deviance srves a function: Functionalist
* We see ourselves through eyes of others: Symbolic
* Groups with power use it to keep advantage: Conflict

Question 2: Match again

* Deviance and Solidarity: