Deviance and Crime

Similarities & Differences
Quiz #4

1. What is a social norm?
2. What is social define?
3. Explain the difference between informal and formal deviance.
4. What is a subculture and give an example?
Social deviance is any transgression of socially established norms.

- Minor transgressions of these norms can be described as informal deviance.
- Formal deviance or crime involves the violation of laws.
Deviance in the Rejection of Social Control

- **Social control** is the set of mechanisms that create normative compliance in individuals.

- **Normative compliance** is the act of abiding by society’s norms or simply following the rules of group life.

  - [Ashe Experiment](4)
Informal Deviance

Deviant Bodies
- Some people are considered deviant based on ascribed characteristic
  - Racism
  - Homophobia
  - Sexism/Misogyny
  - Classism

Subcultures
- Some people are born into or choose to join groups that are considered deviant
  - Mysticism
  - Star Trek Fans
  - Goths
  - ????
Theories of Deviance

- **Labeling Theory**
  - People unconsciously notice how others see or label them, and over time they internalize these labels and come to accept them as “truth.”
  - People then behave in accordance to expectations surrounding the label they’ve been assigned or that’s been assigned to another — in this way deviance is a social construct.
Formal Deviance

- Occurs when formal or official social rules are broken.
  - Rule Breaking occurs when an individual or group breaks the formal rules of an organization, such as a company, team or club.
  - Crime is formal deviance that occurs when an individual or group breaks a law of a nation or other governmental body.
Crime

- **Street crime** — refers to crime committed in public and is often associated with violence, gangs, and poverty.

- **White-collar crime** — committed by a professional against a corporation, agency, or other business.

- **Corporate crime** — type of white-collar crime committed by the officers or executives of a company.
Cost of Crime in the U.S.

Cost (in Billions)

Street Crime

White Collar Crime

Cost (in Billions)
Causes of Crime

- **Labeling Theory**
  - Recidivism

- **Differential Opportunity Theory**
  - States that in addition to the legitimate economic structure, there is an illegitimate opportunity structure that is unequally distributed across social classes
    - Black market/Grey market

- In order to reduce participation in the illegitimate economy, you have to:
  - increase access and benefit of the legitimate market
  - Minimize poverty and inequality
  - raise the costs of participating in illegal activities
Dealing with Deviance

- **Punitive justice** is focused on making the violator suffer and thus defining the boundaries of acceptable behavior.

- **Rehabilitative justice** examines the specific circumstances of an individual transgressor and attempts to find ways to rehabilitate him.
Crime Reduction, is it working?

- A report released Feb. 28, 2008 indicates that more than 1 in 100 adults in the United States are in prison.
- The United States has 5% of the world's population and 23.6% of the world's prison population.
Global Incarceration Rates

International Rates of Incarceration, 2012/2013

- U.S.: 716
- Rwanda: 492
- Russia: 475
- Brazil: 274
- Spain: 147
- Australia: 130
- China: 121
- Canada: 118
- Austria: 98
- France: 98
- Germany: 79
- Denmark: 73
- Sweden: 67
- India: 30

Imprisonment Rate Per 100,000 People

Recidivism Rates

- First Release
- Re-release
- Total

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>First Release</th>
<th>Re-release</th>
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<td>Three Years</td>
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So… Why isn’t it working

- Ex-prisoners are...
  - Not allowed to vote in 10 US States
  - Not eligible for financial aid if convicted of a drug offence
  - Often unable to find work due to their records
  - Likely to be employed in low wage jobs or unemployed.

- Thus high recidivism is good for business...
  - A permanent underclass is created
    - A pool of available low wage workers are available if needed
    - Little or no business cost if they are fired
  - Prisons and related industry are profitable
Socio-Historical Factors

- Racism - In 1998, nearly one out of three Black men between the ages of 20-29 were in prison or jail, on probation or parole on any given day.

- Over Half of all Crime in the US is committed by offenders who are categorized by their victims as “white” but approximately 70% of those incarcerated are “non-White”
Medical issues

- 112 million Americans age 12 or older (45% of the population) reported illicit drug use at least once in their lifetime, 15% reported use of a drug within the past year, 8% reported use of a drug within the past month.
- Drug crimes make up about 20% of the prison population
- Prisons rarely have the capacity or ability to treat drug addiction and are widely available in prisons
- Untreated drug users are likely to reuse when released
The War on Drugs

% of Illicit Drug Users in America*
% of Drug War Prisoners in America**

*Source: SAMHSA 2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse
**Source: The Sentencing Project
Discussion

- What suggestions do you have for dealing with crime in the US?
- How can understanding the role of deviance in society help us deal with this social problem?
- What is the difference between formal and informal deviance and why does it matter?