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Sociology 562, Fall 2010
Faner 3410, Tues. 6:00-8:30

Office Hours: Mon 8:30-9:30, 11:30-2:30, Wed 8:30-9:30, Fri 8:30-9:30
(and by appointment)

Sociology of Deviance and Social Control

Course Description and Objectives:

This course takes a sociological approach toward deviance as a consequential definitional process. That is, we examine how people come to be defined as "deviant" and what happens to them as a result. Included in societal reactions to these phenomena are the definitions of social scientists; thus, we will cover a broad range of objectivist theories of deviance as well as take a social constructionist approach that focuses on how groups of people have the power to shape social definitions and apply them to others. By the end of the semester, students will have a strong sense of the contribution sociologists have made to understanding deviance and will have acquired some facility with a conceptual framework that includes: definitions of deviance, non-sociological and sociological explanations of deviance, social order, social power, deviant identity construction, and deviant identity management. Students will also develop their ability to create a succinct précis of a reading, present and discuss complex theoretical perspectives and their application, and analyze topics of their choice.

Texts:

- Conrad, Peter. (2007). The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders. New York: Johns Hopkins.
- Erikson, Kai T. (1966 [2005]). Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Fox, Richard. (2000). Tabloid Justice: Criminal Justice in an Age of Media Frenzy. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Garland, David. (2002). The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Nack, Adina. (2008). Damaged Goods: Women Living with Incurable Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Temple University Press.
- Pfohl, Stephen. (2009). Images of Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological History. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.
- Wilkins, Amy. (2008). Wannabe's, Goths, and Christians: The Boundaries of Sex, Style, and Status. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Readings available at through full-text electronic databases at Morris Library and on electronic reserve (**ER**)

Seminar Requirements

1. Regular attendance and active participation in discussion.
2. Completion of all readings on schedule.
3. Serving as discussion leader(s) as assigned.
4. Oral presentation of seminar paper.
5. Seminar paper (due by midnight December 7th, SUBMIT ELECTRONICALLY).

SEMINAR PAPER

The paper (of **potential** journal quality and length—5000-6250 words) may be one of two types: {1} an analysis of empirical material (if you are currently engaged in research which is yielding data on deviance and/or social control) or {2} a literature review of significant theoretical and or empirical work beyond what is assigned in seminar.

(1) Data analysis: Character and format are to be worked out with me. Do not proceed until we have discussed focus (e.g., type of phenomena), question to be addressed, relevant literature, tentative outline, etc.

(2) Literature review: The goal here is the demonstration of your mastery and synthesis of a significant body of work within the sociology (or social scientific study) of deviance (beyond materials covered in the seminar itself). The organizing frame may be a *perspective* (e.g., conflict theory, labeling theory, control theory), a *specific form of deviance or social control* (e.g., drug use, young republicans, mandatory sentencing), a *specific type of deviance-related phenomena* (e.g., primary deviance, societal reaction, managing spoiled identities) or a *specialized concern* emerging out of your own research interests (e.g., the role of normative expectations in young women's sexual decision making, the amplification of deviance in athletes ordered to undergo psychological evaluation following racist remarks). Do not proceed, however, until you have discussed the organizing frame with me and I have approved it.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1 (August 24): Orientation and Introduction

Week 2—(August 31)

Pfohl: Ch. 1-3, 5

Garland: Ch. 1

Week 3 (September 7): Objectivist Theory: Functionalism

Durkheim: "The Normal and the Pathological" in Rules of the Sociological Method (on ER)

Merton: "Social Structure and Anomie" in American Sociological Review Vol. 3, No. 5

Parnaby and Sacco: "fame and strain: the contributions of mertonian deviance theory to an understanding of the relationship between celebrity and deviant behavior" in Deviant Behavior 25(1)

Pfohl: Ch. 6-7

Week 4 (September 14): Functionalism, cont.

Erikson, Kai T. (1966 [2005]). Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

Week 5: (September 21): Objectivist Theory: Critical Theory

Spitzer: "Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance" in Social Problems 22(5)

Chambliss: "Toward a Political Economy of Crime" in Theory and Society 2(2)

Anderson: "The Police and the Black Male" in Streetwise (ER)

Pfohl: Ch. 10

Week 6: (September 28): Critical Theory, cont.

Wilkins, Amy. (2008). Wannabe's, Goths, and Christians: The Boundaries of Sex, Style, and Status. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 7: (October 5): Interactionist Theory: Dramaturgical, Subcultural and Learning Theories

Luckenbill: "Homicide as a Situated Transaction" in Social Problems 25 (JSTOR)

Sutherland: "Differential Association" in On Analyzing Crime (on electronic reserve)

Becker: "Becoming a Marihuana User" in American Journal of Sociology 59 (JSTOR)

Fox: "Real Punks and Pretenders: in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 16(3) (Sage Publications)

Muir and Seitz: " machismo, misogyny, and homophobia in a male athletic subculture : a participant-observation study of deviant rituals in collegiate rugby" in Deviant Behavior 25(4)

Pfohl: Ch. 8

Week 8: (October 12): Social Constructionist Theory: Labeling and Societal Reaction

- Becker, H.S. (1963). "Outsiders," in Outsiders and "Introduction" in The Other Side," on ER
- Kitsuse: "Societal Reaction to Deviant Behavior" in Social Problems 9(3)
- Lemert, E. "Paranoia and the Dynamics of Exclusion" in Sociometry 25(1)
- Li and Moore: "disability and illicit drug use: an application of labeling theory" in Deviant Behavior 22(1)

- Dunn, Jennifer L. "Vocabularies of Victimization: Toward Explaining the Deviant Victim." Deviant Behavior 31(2):159-183.
- Pfohl: Ch. 9

Week 9: (October 19): Media and the Social Construction of Deviance

- Fox, Richard. (2000). Tabloid Justice: Criminal Justice in an Age of Media Frenzy. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Week 10: (October 26): Identity Management

- Mills, C. (1940). "Situating Actions and Vocabularies of Motive" In American Sociological Review 5(6)
- Scott, M., & Lyman, S. (1968). "Accounts." American Sociological Review 33(1)
- Stokes, R., & Hewitt, J. P. (1976). "Aligning Actions." In American Sociological Review 41
- Sykes and Matza: "Techniques of Neutralization" in American Sociological Review 22 (6)
- Copes and Williams: Techniques of Affirmation: Deviant Behavior, Moral Commitment, and Subcultural Identity in Deviant Behavior 28(3)
- Dunn, Jennifer L. "'Victims' and 'Survivors': Emerging Vocabularies of Motive for 'Battered Women Who Stay'." Sociological Inquiry 75(1):1-30.

Week 11: (November 2): Identity Management, cont.

- **Nack**, Adina. (2008). Damaged Goods: Women Living with Incurable Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

RECOMMENDED: Goffman, Erving. (1963). Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity. New York: Touchstone.

Dunn: "Defining Women" in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 26(4)

Week 12: (November 9): Social Control: Modernist Versions

- Sudnow: "Normal Crimes" in Social Problems 12
- Marx: "Ironies of Social Control" in Social Problems 28(3)
- Garland: Ch. 2-4

Week 13: (November 16): Social Control: Medicalization

Pfohl: Ch. 4

Conrad, Peter. (2007). The Medicalization of Society: On the Transformation of Human Conditions into Treatable Disorders. New York: Johns Hopkins Press.

Week 14: (November 30): Social Control: Late and Post-Modernist Versions

- Foucault: "the Discovery of the Asylum" in Madness and Civilization on ER
- McCorkel: "Embodied Surveillance" in Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 32(1)
(Sage Publications)

- Garland: Ch. 4-8
- Pfohl: Ch. 11

Week 15 (December 7): Seminar Paper Presentations