CHAPTER 7: CONFORMITY, DEVIANCE AND CRIME

I. The Sociological Perspective on Deviance

II. Who Defines Deviant Behavior?

III. How Do People Become Deviants?

IV. What Happens To Deviants?

V. Extra Credit Opportunity

I. SOCILOGICAL PERSPECTIVE: DEVIANCE

A. What is Deviance?

1. _____________________: modes of action that do not conform to the norms or values held by most members of a group or society

2. Why are we so concerned with deviance?

a. because of consequences ___________________________________, e.g. victims of crime

3. _____________________ commits deviant acts

a. _____________________

B. Deviance is __________________________

1. deviance is defined differently in ___________________________

a. personal ________________

b. waiting your ________________________

2. deviance is defined differently in ___________________________

a. ___________________________________________ on the street in a small town vs. a big city

B.3. definitions of deviance ___________________________ in the same society

a. living together ___________________________

C. What is Social Control?

1. _____________________: the formal and informal means of enforcing norms in society

2. _____________: rules of behavior established by a political authority and backed by state power

3. _____________: any actions that contravene the laws established by a political authority

C.4. _____________________: police, courts, schools teaching conformity to rules
5. __________________________: peer groups sanctioning members who don’t fit in, media portrayals of gender stereotypes

6. _____________________: a mode of reward or punishment that reinforces socially expected forms of behavior

D. Three Questions About Deviance:

1. Who _____________________ Deviance?
2. How Do People _____________________ Deviants?
3. What _____________________ To Deviants?

II. WHO DEFINES DEVIANT BEHAVIOR?

A. Functionalist Theory: _____________________

1. Anomie results from the undermining of traditional values and norms in modern society, leaving people without clear _____________________________________

   a. ______________________________________ and willingness to kill others for fun

2. Society _____________________ Defines What Is Deviant

A.3. The Three _____________________ of Deviance

   a. defining what is deviant also defines what is _____________________: values and norms about living together without being married

   b. unites the society in opposition to the deviant and increases _____________________: in-groups (law abiding citizens) and _____________________ (criminals)

A.3.c. deviance can be a catalyst for _____________________ that improves society: Rosa Parks’ refusal to follow norms of segregation on buses was a deviant act that contributed to the civil rights movement and increased equality in U.S. society

B. _____________________ Theory

1. _____________________ groups define what is deviant using their political and economic power

2. Laws are not _____________________ on the wealthy and the poor: street crime and low level drug dealers punished severely, but bankers who launder millions in drug money are rarely caught

B.3. _____________________: criminal activities by those in white-collar or professional jobs; crimes committed by people of respectable and high social status in the course of their occupations

   a. _____________________ who caused the 2008-09 financial crisis have gone to jail

4. _____________________: offenses committed by large corporations; pollution, false advertising, violations of health and safety regulations
that do not maintain sanitary conditions and sell tainted meat that sickens and kills consumers

III. HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME DEVIANTS?

A. Labeling Theory: Howard Becker

1. ___________________________: people become “deviant” because certain labels are attached to their behavior by political authorities and others

2. People commit acts of ___________________________ (violate norms) frequently: jaywalking, speeding, being rude to others

A.3. Some severe forms of primary deviance lead to ___________________________ and labeling of a person as deviant: violent assault, murder

4. when people accept this labeling, it leads them to commit acts of ___________________________: violations of norms that are part of a person’s everyday life

5. Labeling theory is a theory of self-fulfilling prophecy and of Cooley’s ___________________________: these labels become part of a person’s identity and people live up to these labels

A.6. Saints & Roughnecks (William Chambliss): the same acts labeled differently for ___________________________

7. e.g. enforcement of laws like speeding, trespassing, reckless operation in a small town depends on ___________________________

B. ____________________________ Characteristics: inborn tendencies cause people to commit crimes

1. ____________________________ factors do play a role in some forms of deviance (e.g. mental illness)

2. most forms of deviance are not directly linked to biological characteristics (e.g. ____________________________)

3. early ____________________________ : measure head size, height, shape of ears, race and ethnicity

C. Learned Deviance: ____________________________: Edwin Sutherland

1. criminal behavior is learned through association with others who regularly ____________________________

2. People who behave deviantly tend to form ____________________________ with other deviants, from whom they learn more deviant norms and behaviors (“hanging around with a bad crowd”)

a. socialization into ____________________________

b. socialization into a ____________________________ with norms labeled as deviant

D. ____________________________: Robert Merton

1. Everyone Is Socialized into Culturally Accepted ____________________________: legitimate objectives held out to members of society; in U.S. society, ____________________________
2. Some lack ______________________________: approved ways of reaching cultural goals; e.g. extreme poverty, poor educational facilities

D.2. Five Options If Facing This Gap:

a. __________________: use socially accepted means to achieve goals (not deviant)

b. ________________ : accept goals, but use illegitimate means (e.g. criminals)

c. _______________: follow rules, but give up on reaching goals (burnouts)

d. _____________: give up goals and means

e. _______________: try to replace goals

E. _________________ Theory: Travis Hirschi

1. crime is the outcome of an imbalance between impulses toward criminal activity and ____________ that deter it

2. ___________________________ keep most people from becoming criminals

E.3. criminals are ___________________________ who will act to maximize their own reward unless they are rendered unable to do so through either social or physical controls

4. based on this theory, crime control efforts often focus on ______________________________: making it more difficult to commit crimes through using alarms, guard dogs, private security, gated communities

F. _________________: Philip Zimbardo

1. __________________________ with no license plates and hoods up in Palo Alto, CA and the Bronx

2. people _________________ in both places

3. any sign of __________________________ means that no one cares about vandalism and crime

4. one “broken window” encourages a spiral of more serious acts of ____________________________

F.5. this opportunity leads people to __________________ to commit acts of deviance and crime

6. __________________________ to control this broken window-induced opportunity for deviance is to aggressively enforce laws against minor crimes such as traffic violations and drinking and drug use in public

7. often leads to profiling and labeling of minor offenders as ____________________________, particularly young black males

IV. WHAT HAPPENS TO DEVIANTS?

A. Negative Sanctions: ____________________________

B. How many violators get caught?
1. Problems with official __________________________
   a. differential __________________________ to different groups, e.g. Saints and Roughnecks
   b. __________________________ not included; especially common for domestic violence and rape
   c. half of serious crimes and most less serious crimes probably are __________________________

C. Life __________________________ (Alice Goffman)
   1. aggressive enforcement of minor crimes and large number of people on probation/parole leads to many people being subject to __________________________
   2. to avoid arrest, people begin “ __________________________”, staying away from family, changing residences, avoiding hospitals, not opening bank accounts, not holding steady jobs
   3. warrants are both a constraint on normal life and sometimes used as an __________________________ that might have happened for other reasons

D. Life in a __________________________ (Sudhir Venkatesh)
   1. deviant subculture: subculture whose members __________________________ that differ substantially from those of the majority
   2. studied street gangs in Chicago that operated with a __________________________ like a legitimate business
   3. the gang’s books showed that most drug dealers made little money and often __________________________
   4. gang members had the __________________________ as middle class people but lacked legitimate means to achieve them (Merton’s __________________________)

E. If a Violator is Caught:
   1. Degradation Ceremony: A __________________________
   2. __________________________: remove people from society; 2.2 million people are in jail in the U.S. and 4.6 million on probation/parole

   a. strip people of their __________________________ as a member of society (e.g. cannot vote)
   b. __________________________ them as inmates: strip searches, uniforms, numbers

F. Why Do People Keep Committing Crimes?
   1. recidivism rate: 85-90% of inmates _______________
   2. One reason: lack of agreement on the __________________________

   a. __________________________: punishment to restore the moral balance upset by the offense
   b. __________________________: create fear
c. __________________________: resocialization

d. __________________________: lock them up to prevent more crimes

G. The __________________________ as a Punishment for Serious Acts of Deviance

1. Which purpose(s) is the death penalty intended to accomplish?

   a. _________________________________

2. most Americans ______________________ the death penalty

3. little evidence of being an ____________________________

4. sentencing and enforcement often __________________________: the poor and members of minority groups more likely to receive a death sentence than middle class and upper class and whites

H. “Billy Austin” by Steve Earle

   My name is Billy Austin

   I’m twenty-nine years old

   I was born in Oklahoma

   Quarter Cherokee I’m told

   Don’t remember Oklahoma

   Been so long since I left home

   Seems like I’ve always been in prison

   Like I’ve always been alone

   Didn’t mean to hurt nobody

   Never thought I’d cross that line

   I held up a filling station

   Like I’d done a hundred times

   The kid done like I told him

   He lay face down on the floor

   Guess I’ll never know what made me

   Turn and walk back through that door

   The shot rang out like thunder

   My ears rang like a bell
No one came runnin’
So I called the cops myself
Took their time to get there
And I guess I coulda run
I knew I should be feeling something
But I never shed tear one
I didn’t even make the papers
Cause I only killed one man
But my trial was over quickly
And then the long hard wait began
Court appointed lawyer
Couldn’t look me in the eye
He just stood up and closed his briefcase
When they sentenced me to die
Now my waitin’s over
As the final hour drags by
I ain’t about to tell you
That I don’t deserve to die
But there’s twenty-seven men here
Mostly black, brown and poor
Most of ‘em are guilty
Who are you to say for sure?
So when the preacher comes to get me
And they shave off all my hair
Could you take that long walk with me?
Knowing hell is waitin’ there
Could you pull that switch yourself sir?
With a sure and steady hand?
Could you still tell yourself
That you’re better than I am?

My name is Billy Austin
I’m twenty-nine years old
I was born in Oklahoma
Quarter Cherokee I’m told

H.3. How would you answer his questions?

4. Is the death penalty the appropriate penalty for Billy Austin? Why or why not?

V. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

A. See a movie involving deviant behavior

B. Write a 2 page paper analyzing:

1. What deviant behavior was portrayed?

2. Were the deviants portrayed in a positive or negative light?

3. How did the deviants perceive themselves?

4. What happened to the deviants at the end? (e.g. did they live happily ever after or were they punished?)

5. What theory or theories about deviance help explain why the characters became deviants?

Due in one week: worth up to 10 points