

Sociology 211: Criminology

11/10/09





Fall Food Drive

Sponsored by the
UM Criminology Club

Leave donations of canned or other non-perishable food in the box just inside the Sociology Department.

Proceeds will benefit our local Missoula Food Bank.



Movie Night

Sponsored by the UM Criminology Club

After Innocence:

An Examination of Life After Exoneration

Thursday, November 19th

SS356, 7pm

Popcorn provided,

Everyone welcome!



*Thinking about going to graduate school?
Come to a presentation on:*

Graduate Studies in Sociology

Thursday, Nov. 19th, 3:45 PM
University Center, Room 330



2008 M.A. Graduates

Topics to be covered:

- ❖ Why go to grad school?
- ❖ The admissions process
- ❖ Financial aid available
- ❖ Graduate curriculum

*The Sociology Department offers the
M.A. Degree with options in:*

- ❖ **General Sociology**
- ❖ **Criminology**
- ❖ **Rural & Environmental Change**
- ❖ **Inequality & Social Justice**

Refreshments will be served!

EXAM #3

Thursday, November 19th

**Covers Unit III lecture
material plus**

**Chapters 5, 6, and 7 in the
textbook**

EXAM #3

REVIEW SESSIONS

Tuesday, November 17th

4 PM

Wednesday, November 18th

5 PM

- III. Sociological Theories of Crime (Part 1)
 - A. An overview and introduction
 - B. Learning theories
 - 1. Differential association theory
 - a. Sutherland's nine propositions
 - b. criticisms of differential association theory
 - 2. The effect of TV and other mass media on crime
 - 3. Burgess and Akers' social learning theory
 - 4. Criminal subculture theories
 - a. the cycle of violence
 - b. subcultures of violence
 - 5. Policy implications of learning theories
 - C. Anomie/Strain Theory
 - 1. Merton's anomie theory
 - 2. Other anomie theories
 - a. middle class measuring rod
 - b. differential opportunity theory
 - c. general strain theory
 - 3. Policy implications
 - D. Conclusions Regarding Sociological Theories (Part I)

III.B.2. Mass Media and Crime

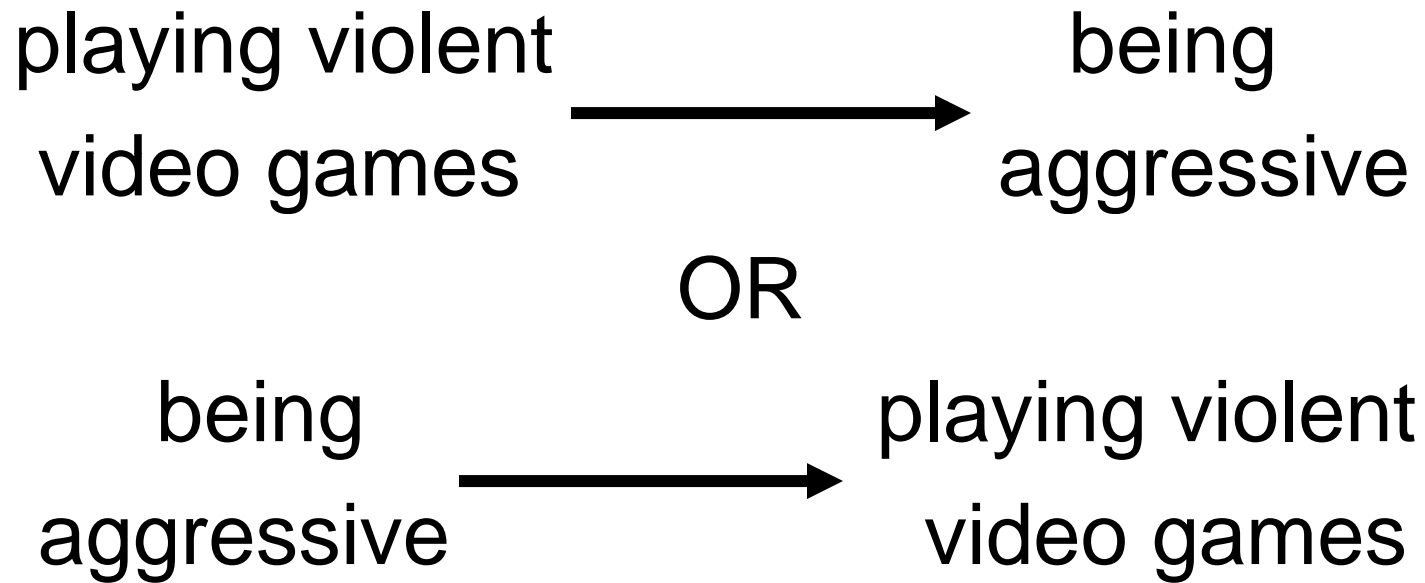
Empirical evidence regarding the effect of TV viewing:

- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Anecdotal evidence of imitative effects
- Other evidence of short-term effects
- Evidence regarding long-term effects

III.B.2. Mass Media and Crime

Empirical evidence regarding the effects of violent video games

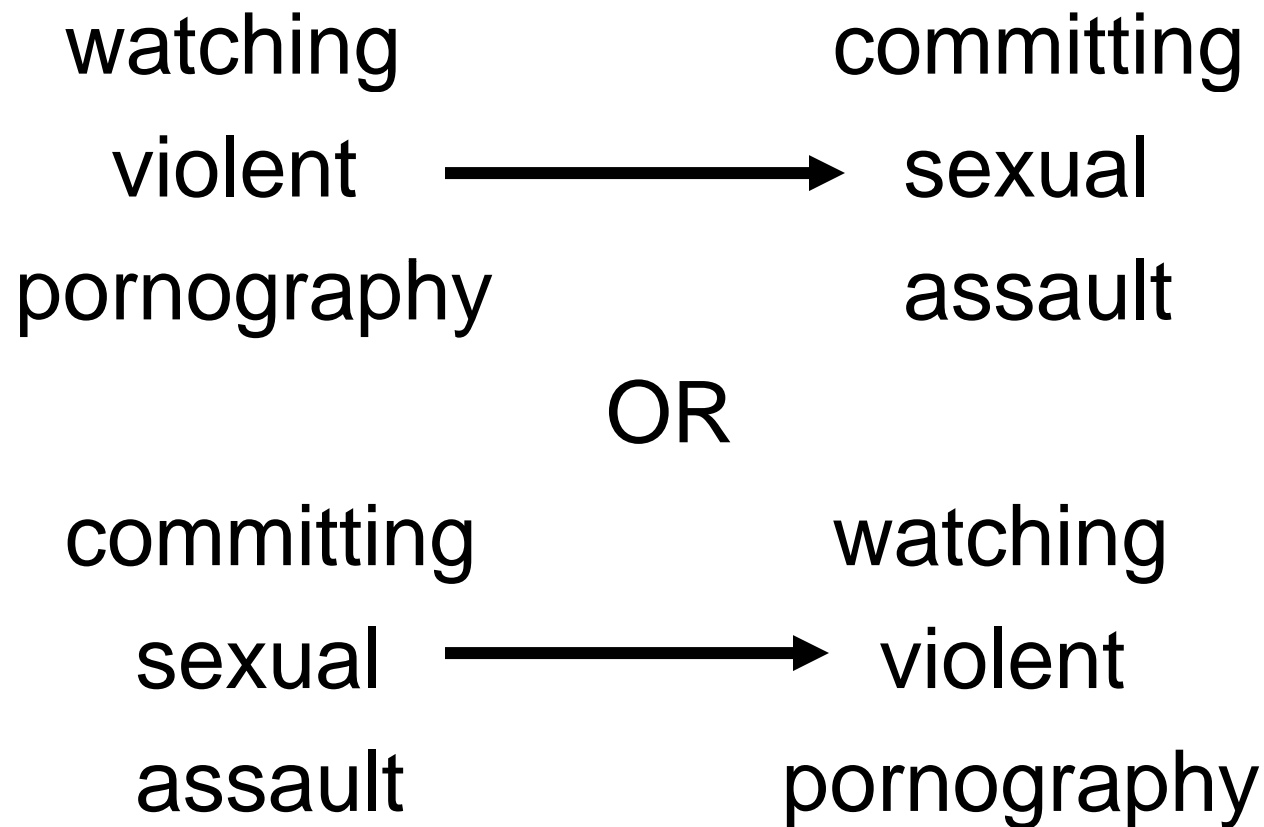
III.B.2. Mass Media and Crime



III.B.2. Mass Media and Crime

- music videos
- violent video games
- **violent pornography**

III.B.2. Mass Media and Crime



III.B.3. Social Learning Theory

- Devised by Burgess and Akers to try to update and improve upon Differential Association Theory
- Integrates concepts from learning theories in psychology:
 - operant conditioning
 - modeling

III.B.3. Social Learning Theory

- A basic principle of **operant conditioning** is that behaviors that are rewarded are likely to be repeated while behaviors that are punished are not likely to be repeated.
- Behaviors that are rewarded are said to be **reinforced**.
- Those things that cause behavior to be repeated are called **reinforcers**.

III.B.3. Social Learning Theory

According to Burgess and Akers:

A person will be criminal to the extent that criminal behavior patterns and attitudes (rather than noncriminal behavior patterns and attitudes) are rewarded (reinforced) more than punished.

III.B.3. Social Learning Theory

Akers and his associates studied over 3000 adolescents in grades 7 through 12.

Respondents were asked about their drug and alcohol abuse and also about drug and alcohol abuse by their friends and family.

There was a positive correlation between self-reported drug and alcohol abuse and having peers or parents that abuse these substances, or allow or encourage such abuse, and having enjoyed the physiological effect of such abuse.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

This type of theory focuses on how individuals may learn criminal behavior and attitudes in the context of a subculture that encourages or tolerates criminal behavior and attitudes.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

A **subculture** is a set of values, rules, and attitudes held by some subgroup of society that are different than the norms of society as a whole.

A **criminal subculture** is one that encourages or tolerates criminal behavior and attitudes among its members.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

a. The **cycle of violence** refers to the intergenerational transmission of a subculture of violence.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

- Cathy Widom studied the relationship between childhood abuse and neglect and later criminality.
- Child **abuse** refers to actively trying to harm the child.
- Child **neglect** refers to harming a child more indirectly by not taking care of the child's basic needs.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

Widom did a longitudinal panel study of 908 children who had been abused or neglected and a matched control group of 667 other children who had not been abused or neglected.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

Table 1: Percent with an Arrest Record

Type of Arrest	Abused & Neglected Group (n = 908)	Control Group (n = 667)
Juvenile	27.4%	17.2%
Adult	41.6%	32.5%
Violent Crime	18.1%	13.9%

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

Table 2a: Percent with an Arrest Record

Type of Arrest	Abused & Neglected Group (n = 908)	Control Group (n = 667)
Any Arrest		
Male	62.1%	54.8%
Female	37.6%	21.9%
Property Crimes		
Male	43.2%	29.3%
Female	17.8%	11.1%

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

Table 2b: Percent with an Arrest Record

Type of Arrest	Abused & Neglected Group (n = 908)	Control Group (n = 667)
Public Order		
Male	35.9%	29.0%
Female	16.3%	7.2%
Violent Crimes		
Male	28.4%	24.2%
Female	8.2%	3.6%

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

Table 2c: Percent with an Arrest Record

Type of Arrest	Abused & Neglected Group (n = 908)	Control Group (n = 667)
Alcohol		
Male	27.1%	26.0%
Female	9.9%	6.0%
Drugs		
Male	22.8%	17.1%
Female	6.9%	2.1%

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

**Table 3: Percent with an Arrest Record for a
Violent Offense**

Type of Abuse		Percentage Arrested for a Violent Offense
Physical Abuse Only	(n = 76)	21.1%
Neglect Only	(n = 609)	20.2%
Sexual Abuse Only	(n = 125)	8.8%
Mixed	(n = 98)	14.3%
Control group	(n = 667)	13.9%

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

- The Rochester Youth Development Study was a longitudinal panel study of 1000 students in Rochester, N.Y. public schools.
- They were interviewed every six months from about age 13 to age 17.
- Researchers measured delinquency and crime using both official statistics and self-reports.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

According to the Rochester Youth Development Study:

Kids who were abused or neglected when young were significantly more likely be delinquent, and especially more likely to be involved in serious delinquency.