

Sociology 211: Criminology

11/12/09





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

4:10 PM, LA 304

Wednesday, November 18th

5:10 PM, LA 304

- 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.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

b. The **subculture of violence** is one in which violence is tolerated or even encouraged.

Wolfgang and Ferracuti are the major proponents of the idea of the subculture of violence.

III.B.4. Criminal Subculture Theory

The subculture of violence has two major components:

- A low threshold of insult
- Challenges require an immediate, violent response.

III.B.5. Policy Implications of the Learning Theories of Crime

Differential Association and Social Learning Theories imply that we should:

- Limit exposure of kids to criminal role models.
- Punish criminal and delinquent behavior and reward noncriminal and nondelinquent behavior.
- Encourage the mass media to provide positive role models.

III.B.5. Policy Implications of the Learning Theories of Crime

Differential Association and Social Learning Theories imply that we should:

- Consider censorship.
- Pressure media outlets and their advertisers.
- Encourage parents to take responsibility for what their kids are exposed to.

III.B.5. Policy Implications of the Learning Theories of Crime

To stop the cycle of violence, we should:

- Work aggressively to stop child abuse and neglect.
- Train parents to be better parents.
- Enforce mandatory reporting laws.

III.C. Anomie or Strain Theory

- Has its origins in the work of the French Sociologist Emile Durkheim.
- **Anomie** is the state of normlessness, a lack of restraint or regulation.



III.C.1. Merton's Anomie Theory



Robert K. Merton
1910-2003

Merton tried to specify the mechanisms through which anomie comes about and how it encourages crime.

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Merton tried to specify the mechanisms through which anomie comes about and how it encourages crime.

According to Merton, the American social structure has two important elements:

1. The culturally defined success goals and
2. The legitimate, institutionalized means of achieving those goals.

III.C.1. Merton's Anomie Theory

Merton's Typology of Modes of Individual Adaptation

		Cultural Goals		
		Accepted	Rejected	Challenged
Institutionalized Means	Accepted	Conformity	Ritualism	
	Rejected	Innovation	Retreatism	
	Challenged			Rebellion

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III.C.2. Other Anomie or Strain Theories

- a. Cohen's theory of gang delinquency as a form of innovation

- b. Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity Theory

- c. Agnew's General Strain Theory

III.C.2. Other Anomie or Strain Theories

a. Cohen's theory of gang delinquency as a form of innovation combines anomie and subculture theories.

Gang delinquency is a collective solution to a particular problem faced by lower class youth.

middle class measuring rod
reaction formation

III.C.2. Other Anomie or Strain Theories

b. Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity Theory says that opportunities to use illegitimate means are not evenly distributed across society.