

Sociology 211: Criminology

11/17/09





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

Today, Tues., November 17th

4:10 PM, LA 304

Tomorrow, Wed., 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.C.2. Other Anomie or Strain Theories

c. Agnew's General Strain Theory says that there are a variety of sources of strain that can produce delinquency or criminality:

1. Failure to achieve positively valued goals
2. Removal of positively valued stimuli
3. Confrontation with negative stimuli

III.C.3. Policy Implications of Anomie and Strain Theories

If strain theory is correct, we should:

- Strive for equality of opportunities for all.
- Deemphasize material success.
- Increase access to high-quality education.
- Increase access to effective job training.
- Change the minimum wage.
 - Lower or eliminate the minimum wage or
 - Increase the minimum wage to a “living wage”

- IV. Sociological Theories of Crime (Part 2)
 - A. Social bonding and control theories
 - 1. Social control theory
 - 2. Self-control theory
 - 3. Policy implications of control theories
 - B. Labeling theory
 - 1. Content of labeling theory
 - 2. Policy implications of labeling theory
 - 3. Assessing labeling theory
 - C. Radical/Critical/Conflict/Marxist Perspectives on Crime
 - 1. Definitions and assumptions
 - 2. Development of the perspective
 - 3. Major propositions of radical theory
 - 4. Assessing radical criminology
 - D. Feminist Perspectives on Crime
 - 1. Key concerns of feminist criminology
 - 2. The impact of women's liberation on the crime gender ratio
 - 3. Patriarchy & power explanations of crime
 - 4. Assessing feminist perspectives
 - E. Conclusions Regarding Sociological Theories of Crime (Part 2)

IV.A. Social Bonding & Control Theories

- Focuses on why most people are not criminals.
- Why don't people commit crime?

IV.A. Social Bonding & Control Theories

- Reiss hypothesized that delinquency results from a failure of personal and social controls.
- Three major sources of personal and social controls:
 - Family controls
 - Community and institutional controls
 - Personal controls

IV.A. Social Bonding & Control Theories

Research on the impact of family stability on delinquency and crime:

- Growing up in a single-parent home is a significant risk factor for delinquency.
- But kids are not always better off growing up in a two-parent home.

IV.A. Social Bonding & Control Theories

Research on the impact of family stability on delinquency and crime:

- Researchers studied the impact of changes in family structure using a longitudinal panel study of about 4000 kids in three cities.
- The more family disruptions, the greater the likelihood of drug use or delinquency.

IV.A. Social Bonding & Control Theories

- **Deterrence** is idea that criminality can be prevented through the use of punishment.
- Two kinds of deterrence:
 - General deterrence
 - Specific (special) deterrence

IV.A.1.b. Hirschi's Social Control Theory

- Social bonds keep people from committing crime.
- Social bonds are the ties that link individuals to each other and to society as a whole.
- When an individual's social bonds are weak or broken, that individual is freed up to commit delinquency or crime.

IV.A.1.b. Hirschi's Social Control Theory

Elements of the bond:

- Attachment
- Commitment
- Involvement
- Belief