

# Deviance, Crime and Social Control



# Learning Objectives

## **Deviance and Control**

- Define deviance and explain the nature of deviant behavior
- Differentiate between methods of social control

## **Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance**

- Describe the functionalist view of deviance in society through two sociologist's theories
- Explain how conflict theory understands deviance and crime in society
- Describe the symbolic interactionist approach to deviance, including labeling and other theories

## **Crime and the Law**

- Identify and differentiate between different types of crimes

# Deviance and Control

## **Deviance** (отклонение от принятых норм и правил)

William Graham Sumner: **deviance** - a violation of established contextual, cultural, or social norms, whether folkways (народные обычаи), or state laws (систематизированный закон) (1906).

-From picking one's nose in public to committing murder

## **Deviance behavior is... ?**

Depends on:

-Location + Audience + Individual committing the act (Becker 1963).

## **Listening to your iPod...**

-on the way to class: acceptable

-during your lecture: rude.

-on the witness stand (место для дачи свидетельских показаний в суде) before a judge - may cause you to be held in contempt of court (неуважение к суду), and consequently fined (оштрафовать).

Norms vary (различаются) across culture&time □ notions of deviance change also. E.g.: taking the life of another (отнимать жизнь у другого)

- *Peace*: reprehensible (предосудительно)

- *War*: ok + may actually be rewarded (вознаграждаться).

# Deviance Behavior?



**Whether an act is deviant or not depends on society's response (реакция общества) to that act.**



# Deviance Behavior: Experiment



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# Social Control

*What happens when a person violates (нарушает) a social norm?*

- A driver caught speeding (превышение скорости) can receive a speeding ticket (штраф)
- A student who wears a bathrobe (банный халат) to class gets a warning (предупреждение) from a professor
- An adult belching loudly (взрослый человек, к. громко рыгает) is avoided (избегается).

- All societies practice **social control** - the regulation and enforcement (соблюдение) of norms.
- The goal of social control is to maintain **social order** (общественный порядок), an arrangement of practices and behaviors on which society's members base their daily lives (ежедневная жизнь).

# Social Control

The means (средства) of enforcing rules (усиления правил) – **sanctions**: positive and negative.

- **Positive sanctions** are rewards given for conforming (соответствие) to norms. A promotion at work is a positive sanction for working hard.
- **Negative sanctions** are punishments for violating norms. Being arrested is a punishment for shoplifting (кража в магазине).



# Social Control

Sanctions, also: **formal** or **informal**:

**Informal sanctions** emerge in face-to-face social interactions

- wearing flip-flops (шлепки) to an opera may draw disapproving looks (неодобрительные взгляды)
- + helping an old man carry grocery bags (сумки с продуктами) across the street—may receive positive informal reactions, such as a smile or pat on the back (похлопывание по спине).

**Formal sanctions** - officially recognize and enforce norm violations.

- If a student violates his/her university's rules, s/he might be expelled.
- + A soldier who saves a life may receive an official commendation (благодарность).

	Informal	Formal
Positive	An expression of thanks	A promotion at work
Negative	An angry comment	A parking fine



# Functionalist perspectives on deviance

Functionalist approach: how the different elements of a society contribute (вносить вклад) to the whole. Deviance - a key (ключевой) component of a functioning society.

## Émile Durkheim: The Essential Nature of Deviance

- Deviance - a necessary part of a successful society. One way deviance is functional, is that it challenges (ставить под сомнение) people's present (текущие) views (1893).
- When deviance is punished, it reaffirms (вновь подтверждать) current (настоящие) social norms, which also contributes to society (1893).
- Seeing a student given detention (оставление после уроков) for skipping class (за пропуск занятия) reminds other students that playing hooky (прогуливание) isn't allowed and that they, too, could get detention.

# Functionalist perspectives on deviance

## Robert Merton: Strain Theory

- **Strain theory** - access (доступ к) to socially acceptable goals (общественно желаемым целям) plays a part in determining (играет роль в определении) whether a person conforms (соответствовать, приспособливаться) or deviates (отклоняться).
- From birth, we're encouraged to achieve the financial success. However, a person may have the socially acceptable goal of financial success but lack a socially acceptable way to reach that goal.

5 ways that people respond to this gap between having a socially accepted goal but no socially accepted way to pursue (достичь) it:

1. *Conformity*: conform to the socially accepted means and not deviate.
2. *Innovation*: using of criminal or deviant means.
3. *Ritualism*: people lower their goals until they can reach them through socially acceptable ways.
4. *Retreatism*: retreat (отступать) and reject society's goals and means. Some beggars (попрошайки) have withdrawn (отказываться) from society's goal of financial success.
5. *Rebellion*: rebel (протестовать), replacing (заменяя) a society's goals and means with their own. Terrorists or freedom fighters look to overthrow a society's goals through socially unacceptable means.

# Conflict theory on deviance

**Conflict theory:** social and economic factors as the causes of crime and deviance. Unlike functionalists, conflict theorists don't see these factors as positive functions of society, but as evidence of inequality in the system.

## Karl Marx: An Unequal System

- Marx: two rigid (неподвижно закреплённый) social groups: the proletariat and the bourgeois.
- *Bourgeois* - a small and wealthy segment of society who controls the means of production. *Proletariat* is composed of the workers who rely on those means of production for employment and survival.
- Though Marx spoke little of deviance, his ideas created the foundation (основу) for conflict theorists who study the intersection (точка пересечения) of deviance and crime (отклонение от общ. норм и преступления) with wealth and power (богатство и власть).

# Conflict theory on deviance

## C. Wright Mills: The Power Elite

In his book *The Power Elite* (1956), sociologist C. Wright Mills: **power elite** (правлящая элита) - a small group of wealthy and influential people at the top of society who hold the power and resources.

- Wealthy executives, politicians, celebrities, and military leaders often have access to national and international power, and in some cases, their decisions affect everyone (оказывают влияние на каждого) in society.
- Because of this, the rules of society work in favor (в пользу) of a privileged few (небольшого кол-ва привилегированных лиц) who manipulate them to stay on top (манипулируют правилами, чтобы сохранить свое положение).
- Power elites decide what is criminal and what is not, and the effects are often felt most by those who have little power.
- Mills' theories explain why celebrities such as Chris Brown and Paris Hilton can commit crimes with little or no legal retribution.

# Symbolic Interactionism on deviance

Symbolic interactionism - can be used to explain how societies and/or social groups come to view behaviors as deviant or conventional.

## Labeling Theory

**Labeling theory** examines the ascribing (приписывание) of a deviant behavior to another person by members of society.

Sociologist Edwin Lemert: 2 types of deviance that affect (к-ые влияют) identity formation (на формирование личности).

**Primary deviance** - violation of norms that does not result in any long-term effects on the individual's self-image or interactions with others. Ex.: speeding – deviant, but receiving a speeding ticket generally does not make others view you as a bad person.

**Secondary deviance:** a person's behavior begin to change after his or her actions are labeled as deviant by members of society. Ex.: a high school student who often cuts class and gets into fights. The student gets a reputation as a “troublemaker.” As a result, the student starts breaking more rules; he has adopted the “troublemaker” label and embraced this deviant identity.

# Symbolic Interactionism on deviance

## Edwin Sutherland: Differential Association

In the early 1900s, sociologist Edwin Sutherland sought to understand how deviant behavior developed among people. Since criminology was a young field, he drew on other aspects of sociology including social interactions and group learning (Laub 2006).

- **Differential association theory** - individuals learn deviant behavior from those close to them who provide models of and opportunities for deviance.
- Sutherland: deviance is less a personal choice and more a result of differential socialization processes.



# Crime and the Law

Deviance - a violation of social norms, but not always punishable, and it's not necessarily bad.

Deviance ≠ **Crime** - a behavior that violates official law and is punishable (наказуемо) through formal sanctions.

## Types of Crimes

**Violent crimes** (жестокое преступление, aka “crimes against a person”) are based on the use of force or the threat of force (применение силы или угроза применения силы).

- Rape (изнасилование), murder (убийство), and armed robbery (вооруженная кража)

**Nonviolent crimes** involve the destruction or theft of property (разрушение или кража собственности), but do not use force or the threat of force (без применения силы) □ “property crimes.”

- Larceny (воровство), car theft (угон), and vandalism (порча имущества)

**Other:** street crime, corporate crime.