

21A.218
Anthropology: Identity and Difference
Class #1

Handouts

Course Syllabus
Student Information Sheet
Outline first class
"Prozac deefense"
Goode, on Sheldon

Outline for today

I. What is deviance?

. Definition: Deviance is violation of a *social* norm.

\ *A social* norm can be distinguished from a *statistical* norm. A *statistical* norm is what most people do, the central tendency of a distribution; here, difference or deviance means variation from the average.

A social norm is a standard of conduct, what people are expected to do or should do, rather than what people actually do.

Definition (2): Deviance is a violation of a social norm that is negatively sanctioned; behavior that receives a negative response.

Deviance is recognized by the response it generates; seriousness of violation is measured by the seriousness of the response.

II. What are we going to study about deviance and identity?

Go over syllabus, assignments, class format, style.

III. Questions for introductory reading assignment:

In reading the introductory assignments, canonical texts by Smith, Mills, Bentham, and Jefferson, consider:

What conception of human nature is being assumed or propounded by each author?

What is the relationship between a person and society?

IV. Overview of Theories of Deviance:

A. Etiology of Deviance (causes or origins of deviance).

Why do some people violate norms, why are some people deviant?

Three categories of explanation:

(1) focus on actor (pathological theories)

(2) focus on situation (structural theories)

(3) focus on interaction (constructivist, conflict theories):
changes the questions

Why are certain behaviors considered deviant?

Who designates behaviors (and thus persons) as deviant?

B. Pictogram enhanced/ representation of varieties of theories of deviance.

V. Pathological Theories of Deviance.

A. Cesare Lombroso, Italian (1835-1909)

criminal = atavist, throwback, genetically distinct

identifiable by visual stigmata

quality of data, analysis of data

developed via scientific method, received as authoritative science

influence of Lombroso's work (trials, literature, popular culture)

problems and criticisms of Lombroso's work

B. William Sheldon, American (1899-1963)

relationship between body type, personality, delinquency

quality of data, methodological errors

criticisms of data, absence of explanation