

Lecture 9

Social Structural Theories: Anomie (and Individual Strain)

11/2/2020 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 1

Nice job!

- **Business**
 - Exams and Evals
 - Papers!
- **Social Structural Theories**
 - Social Disorganization
 - Anomie and “Strain”
 - Critical and Feminist
- **Careers in JJS**

11/2/2020 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 2

Approximate Letter Grades

Grade	Score	Number	Percentage	Cumulative
A+	100	1	3%	3%
A	93-99	15	47%	50%
A-	90-92	8	25%	75%
B+	88-89	2	6%	81%
B	80-87	3	9%	90%
B-				
C+	78-79	2	6%	96%
C	70-77	1	3%	99%
C-				
D	60-69	0	0%	99%
F	<60	0	0%	99%
		32		

11/2/2020 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 3

On to the papers!

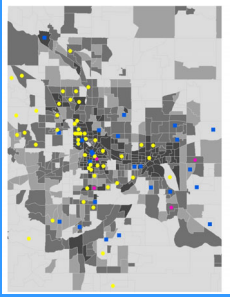
- **Options: Syllabus pages 11-12.**
 - (1) Uggen's 8-10-page paper assignment or
 - (2) a shorter paper based on service learning experiences, (research helps here too, though)
 - (3) an article-length research paper or grant proposal on a topic negotiated with Uggen and teaching assistant
- **11/17 – paper draft due (could move to 11/19?)**
 - Even notes are ok – something to exchange
 - Clarity, specificity, appropriateness criteria
 - 5 academic sources; ASA citation style preferred
- **11/24 – papers due, upload to canvas, save a copy on your own computer or drive**

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 4

Poverty & MSP Reentry

(N. Side of Minneapolis; Frogtown in St. Paul)

- Corrections (Adult Prison, Work House, Juvenile Corrections)**
- Social Services (Foster Care, Chemical Dependency, Mental Health)**
- National Guard**



11/2/2020 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 5

evals

- **MORE: theory in practice;** Giving examples for the different theories - examples help me make more sense of the theoretical content!; explaining the most important parts of the readings and what we should be taking away from it and why that is the important part; Summarizing the key take away points from different theories or articles. I feel like sometimes I am a little unsure of specific attributes or theories because we talk a lot about their application but less about the theory itself; discussions/breakout
- **LESS: graphs; breakouts; weird videos; nothing – doing well currently**
- **CHANGE: dad jokes; groups; review of basics; note time exam is due on canvas**
- **ANNOY: keep slides up; tangents; hair-care**
- **Prefer essays; short answer; IDs**

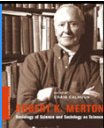
Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 6

quotes

- **appreciated the discussion on mask-wearing and its relation to our theories of delinquency, it helped put current issues into conversation with our course material.**
- **I enjoy it when you lecture about the readings because it helps me understand them better.**
- **Yes, the midterm really helped me with applications of the terms.**
- **Grades fair, midterm format, wanting feedback**
- **Good to engage with each other more.**
- **Celeb: Snape, Thor, Owen, Garth, Chris**

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 7

B. Merton's *Social Structure & Anomie*



- **Background: Durkheim and Anomie (1938)**
 - focus groups & concepts like "role model," "unintended consequence," "self-fulfilling prophecy," "reference group"
- **Assumptions**
 - The disadvantaged are motivated to commit crime
 - This motivation stems from a poor balance between social structure and cultural definitions of success
- **Conceptual tools**
 - Anomie (vs. Strain)
 - Common success goals but not opportunity (why?)
 - Reference groups and relative deprivation
 - Typology of balanced, ritualistic, anomic societies
 - Typology of individual adaptations to strain

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 8

individual adaptations

	Success Goals	Legitimized Means/Norms	Image?
Conformist	+	+	
Innovation	+	-	
Ritualism	-	+	
Retreatism	-	-	
Rebellion	+/-	+/-	

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 9

critique of anomie

1. **No social-psychological theory**
 - which adaptation?
 - substance use?
2. **Universality assumption**
 - subcultures?
3. **Empirical support weak (self-report data?)**
4. **Overemphasizes economic goals**
5. **Class bias (street crime)**
 - » Not radical enough
6. **Reach high with low blows?**
 - » money can't override honesty in dominant culture

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 10

extension I: Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity Theory (1960)

- **Variation in Illegitimate opportunity**
- **Typology of Delinquent "Gangs"**
 - **Criminal/Theft:** Stable and integrated conventional and criminal system
 - **Conflict:** Instability, lack of integration
 - **Retreatist:** "Double failures" in any system

Limited legitimate economic opportunity → Frustration, deprivation, gang formation →

- Stable integrated convention/criminal = theft gang
- Nonintegrated, no crime = conflict gang
- Double failure = retreatist "gang"

- **Policy: Mobilization for Youth**

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 11

Extension II: Cohen's Status Frustration Theory

- **Reaction formation**
- **Middle class measuring rod**
 - **Ambition, individual responsibility, skills & achievement, postponing gratification, rationality & planning, manners & courtesy, control of violence, constructive recreation, respect for property**
- **"Malicious, negativistic, nonutilitarian delinquency"**

Working class socialization → School failure → Loss of esteem, rejection → Reaction formation → Delinquency

11/2/2020 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141 12

Messner & Rosenfeld's Institutional Anomie Theory

- **Cultural imbalance of *American Dream***
 - Value system of achievement, universalism, individualism, and "pecuniary materialism"
- **US institutions:**
 - dominance of economy & market logic (over schools, family, and polity)
 - Anomie -> weak internal controls
- **Some support comparing nations (WVS) and states;**
 - Americans exceptional in valuing competition; private business

13

Agnew's General Strain Theory [social-psychological]

- **crime due to strain & stress**
 - Expands Merton to include **many strains**
 - parental rejection; abuse; unemployment; bad jobs; victimization; homelessness; discrimination
 - Strain-> **negative emotions (e.g., anger, fear) -> crime**
 - Strain also affects controls & peers
 - GST also applies to rates, life course, gender differences, situations, climate...
 - Policy: reduce strains (e.g., poverty) and enhance coping (e.g., anger management)

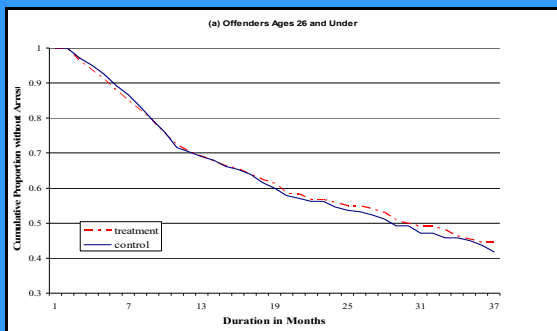
11/2/2020 Chris Uggen - Soc 4141 14

Policy Implications of Anomie & Opportunity: Mobilization for Youth (NYC)

- "War on Poverty" & "Great Society" era (2020s future?)
- **NYC: reduce delinquency by**
 - Improve education (teacher training, preschool)
 - Create work opportunity (vocational training, jobs center)
 - Organize lower-class communities (neighborhood councils)
 - Adolescent services (gang workers, hangouts)
 - Neighborhood service centers (counseling and aid to families)
- **Results unimpressive**
 - Bad press, Gang workers, Conflicting goals
 - Life course problem? [Uggen 2000]

Chris Uggen - Soc 4141 15

among younger group...



The Strain of COVID-19

- **Racine, Cooke, Eirich, Korczak, McArthur & Madigan. 2020**
 - increase in depressive and anxiety symptoms in children & adolescents
- **BREAKOUT: COVID effects on JD**
 - Theory & Mechanisms (e.g., school & family controls; associations; labels)
 - Which crimes up, which crimes down? For whom?
 - High school versus college crime

11/2/2020

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141

20

Rios Ch. 5 “Dummy Smart”

- **Low social & cultural capital -> “misrecognition”**
 - “organic capital” didn’t help with jobs (Ronnie p.100 @ steakhouse; handshake w/ white woman), but OK for selling pirate DVDs
- **Crimes of resistance (Quinney)**
 - “irrational” - breaking small rules
 - respect: Flaco’s chips (p.106), police (p. 111), chess
 - resistance -> crisis of control (success!)
- **Dummy smart (Darius p.113), code-switching**
 - Infrapolitics-> empowerment; “deviant politics” of “hyphy” (hyperactive, dumb, crazy), yellow bus
 - **Oppositional consciousness -> activism (9 of 40)**

11/2/2020

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141

21

Next: Critical Marxian and Feminist Theories

Social Structural Theories: Marxian and Conflict Theories

- **Wacquant, Loic. 2012. "The Punitive Regulation of Poverty in the Neoliberal Era." *Criminal Justice Matters* 89:38-40.**
- **(Honors), Tracie R. Porter. 2015 "The School-to-Prison Pipeline: The Business Side of Incarcerating, Not Educating, Students in Public Schools." *Arkansas Law Review* 68: 55-81.**

Gender, Social Structure, and Feminist Criminology

- **Rios, Chapter 6. "Proving Manhood: Masculinity as a Rehabilitative Tool." Pp. 124-41.**
- **Panfil, Vanessa R. 2018. "Young and Unafraid: Queer Criminology's Unbounded Potential." *Palgrave Communications* 4:110: 1-5.**
- **(Honors), Chapter 8. Jody Miller and Christopher W. Mullins. "The Status of Feminist Theories in Criminology." Pp. 217-50.**

11/2/2020

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141

22
