



## Lecture 9: Social Structural Theories: Anomie (and Individual Strain)

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## Nice job!

- Business
  - Exams and Evals
  - Papers (next week's class?)
- Social Structural Theories
  - Social Disorganization
  - Anomie and "Strain"
  - Critical and Feminist
- Careers in JJS

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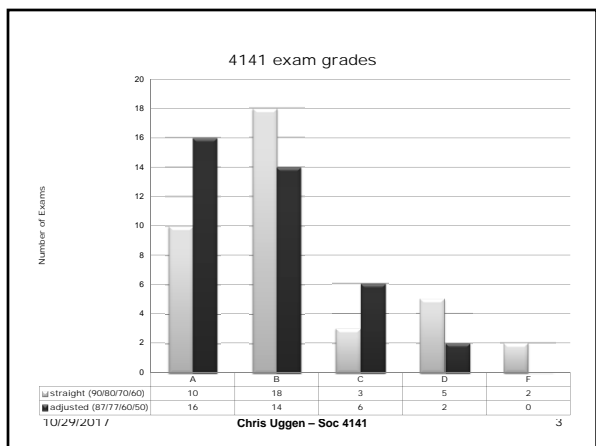
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## approximate letter-grade equivalents

Grade	Score	number	percent	total	Score	number	percent	total
A+NA					100+	3	8%	8%
A	90+	10	26%	26%	89-99	8	21%	29%
A-			0%		86-88	5	13%	42%
B+			0%		84-85	5	13%	55%
B	80-89.5	18	47%	74%	78-83	8	21%	76%
B-			0%		76-77	1	3%	79%
C+			0%		74-75	0	0%	79%
C	70-79.5	3	8%	82%	67-74	2	5%	84%
C-			0%		60-66	4	11%	95%
D	60-69.5	5	13%	95%	50-59	2	5%	100%
F	<60	2	5%	100%	<50	0	0%	100%
		38	100%			38	100%	

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## On to the papers!

- Options: Syllabus pages 9-10.
  - (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
- 11/15 – paper draft due
  - Bring hard/paper copy to class; draft is fine
  - Clarity, specificity, appropriateness criteria
  - 5 academic sources; ASA citation style preferred
- 11/22 – papers due, bring hard copy (but \*keep an electronic copy\* for yourself)

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## 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



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### 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

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### individual adaptations

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

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### 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

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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

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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

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Messner & Rosenfeld's Institutional Anomie Theory CWB 4

- Cultural imbalance of *American Dream*
  - p. 129: 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 (p. 137) comparing nations (WVS) and states;
  - Americans exceptional in valuing competition; private business

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### CWB 3: 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 applies to rates, life course, gender differences, situations, climate...
  - Policy: reduce strains (e.g., poverty) and enhance coping (e.g., anger management)

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

- "War on Poverty" and "Great Society" era
- 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]

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#### Fast 'First Aid' is Aim of Neighborhood Centers

After several months of scouting the project area, Mobilization for Youth (MFY) has opened its first neighborhood service center in the Bronx. The center, located at 211 St. Nicholas Ave., is the first of a series of centers to be opened in the project area. The new centers, opened in February and March at 211 St. Nicholas Ave. and 211 St. Nicholas Ave., are the first of a series of centers to be opened in the project area. The new centers, opened in February and March at 211 St. Nicholas Ave. and 211 St. Nicholas Ave., are the first of a series of centers to be opened in the project area.

#### IGWU Joins Teenage Registrants Top Estimates For Full Year in MFY Work Program

Mobilization for Youth (MFY) announced today that its full-year work program, set to start next fall, will include more than 100,000 teenagers. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (IGWU) has agreed to supply equipment, the maintenance of some of its social centers and financial aid for the full-year program. The program, which will be a full-year program, will include more than 100,000 teenagers. The program, which will be a full-year program, will include more than 100,000 teenagers.



Members of the staff and the board of directors of Mobilization for Youth (MFY) are seen in this photograph. From left to right: Albert Doring, MFY director; and other staff members.

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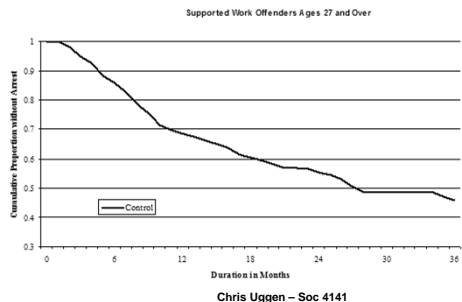
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[Uggen 2000: do jobs reduce crime?]  
time to new arrest: controls



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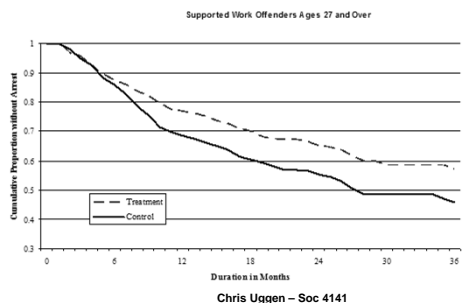
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time to new arrest: treatment



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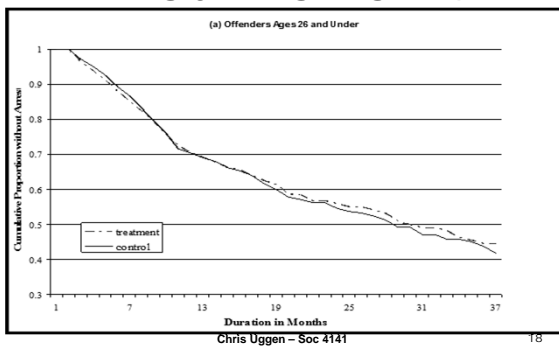
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among younger group...



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## Rios Ch. 5 "Dummy Smart"

- Low social & cultural capital -> "misrecognition"
  - "organic capital" didn't help with jobs (Ronnie @ 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)

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## Next: Critical Marxian and Feminist Theories

- A. 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.
  - CWB, Chapter 7, Michael J. Lynch, Herman Schwendinger, and Julia Schwendinger. "The Status of Empirical Research in Radical Criminology." Pp. 191-217.
- B. Gender, Social Structure, and Feminist Criminology
  - CWB, Chapter 8. Jody Miller and Christopher W. Mullins. "The Status of Feminist Theories in Criminology." Pp. 217-50.
  - Rios, Chapter 6. "Proving Manhood: Masculinity as a Rehabilitative Tool." Pp. 124-41.

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