Our Social World Condensed 4th edition

Learning Objectives

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES – Chapter 6**

6.1 Describe who is deviant and why.

**Video Link:** [What is deviance?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwWj7OUwFhc)

*This video is a summary of deviance through video examples of various forms of positive and negative deviance.*

1. Describe two forms of social deviance seen in the video.
2. Explain a positive form of deviance shown in the video.

**Audio Link:** [Bad Baby](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/521/bad-baby)

*This audio focuses on the deviance that sometimes exemplifies itself through young children.*

1. How young is it possible for deviance to present itself in a child?
2. Do you think young children known when they are being bad on purpose?

**Web Resource:** [What is deviance?](http://www.sparknotes.com/sociology/deviance/section1.rhtml)

*This source explains in detail the concept of deviance.*

1. Explain the concept of deviance as it is applied in sociology.
2. Why does the definition of deviance differ widely between societies?

6.2 Compare key ideas in the differential association, labeling, rational choice, structural functional, and conflict perspectives on deviance.

**Video Link:** [Perspectives on Deviance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSucylf4KhY)

*This video helps to explain the concept of deviance and appreciate 3 common theories that serve to explain it: Theory of Differential Association, Labeling Theory, and Strain Theory.*

1. What happens when a norm is violated?
2. What classic theoretical paradigm is often used by sociologists when studying deviance?

**Audio Link:** [Except for that One Thing](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/518/except-for-that-one-thing)

*This audio provides examples of one particular thing standing out in the middle of a seemingly otherwise normal situation.*

1. Provide one example of negative deviance exemplified in the audio.
2. Provide one example of positive deviance exemplified in the audio.

**Web Resource:** [Theories of Deviance](http://www.d.umn.edu/~bmork/2306/Theories/BAMClassificationofdevianttheories.htm)

*This source provides theories of deviance of sociology as viewed through various theoretical paradigms.*

1. Which theory differentiates itself by not focusing on the individual?
2. Which theory incorporates the concept of labels?

6.3 Provide possible explanations for why the crime rate has fallen in recent years.

**Video Link:** [Crime Rate Fall, Private Prisons still make Millions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bcmVoOh8Sc)

*This video explains the phenomenon of falling crime rates and profit making prisons.*

1. Is there a conflict of interest between private prisons and legal policies?
2. How has the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) been able to increase its profits by 500% over the last 20 years?

**Audio Link:** [Violent Crime Drops to lowest level since 1978](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9i8qBWGH7g)

*This audio explains the violent crime rate drop in the United States since 1978.*

1. How much has the violent crime rate dropped since 1978?
2. Since what year has the violent crime rate continued to drop?

**Web Resource:** [Perceptions haven’t caught up to Decline in Crime](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/17/upshot/perceptions-havent-caught-up-to-decline-in-crime.html?_r=0&abt=0002&abg=0)

*This source helps to explain that our perception on crime does not reflect reality.*

1. Why do people perceive crime rates rising although the rates are actually falling?
2. Which city has the biggest gap between perception and reality when it comes to violent crime rates?

6.4 Describe types of organized crime prevalent today.

**Video Link:** [Top 5 Most Powerful Criminal Organizations](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyrEAhMU8Gg)

*This video explains which criminal organizations are the most powerful worldwide.*

1. What are the names of each of the top five most powerful criminal organizations in the world?
2. Provide the details of the criminal organization explained in the video you find most interesting and explain why.

**Audio Link:** [Dead Men Tell No Tales](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/519/dead-men-tell-no-tales)

*This audio highlights the story of the Florida man who was loosely linked to the Boston Marathon Bombings.*

1. How is Ibragim Todashev connected to the Boston Marathon Bombings?
2. What theory of deviance would you apply to the story in the audio?

**Web Resource:** [FBI-Organized Crime](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime)

*This source provides detailed information regarding the organized crime the FBI deals with on a regular basis.*

1. What type of statues help take down entire organized crime enterprises?
2. Name two types of tools the FBI uses to fight organized crime.

6.5 Give examples of crimes committed at the national and global level today.

**Video Link:** [How Globalization affects Transnational Crime](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ipmpv0R1D0s)

*This video highlights the fact that as world leaders increasingly debate drug legalization, there is an explosion of transnational crime in a globalized world.*

1. What do criminals attempt to do with the proceeds of crime?
2. Explain how criminal activity can occur in a cooperative form between different criminal organizations.

**Audio Link:** [I was so High](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/524/i-was-so-high)

*This audio highlights the deviant behavior of drug abuse, and its prevalence throughout society.*

1. Does it seem as though society views certain illegal drugs as more deviant than others?
2. Does the legality or illegality of a substance effect society’s viewpoint of the level of deviance of its use?

**Web Resource:** [The Global Regime for Transnational Crime](http://www.cfr.org/transnational-crime/global-regime-transnational-crime/p28656)

*This source highlights the issue of transnational crime, including human trafficking.*

1. Is today’s forced labor market as serious as the African slave trade?
2. Why is transnational crime so unique?

6.6 Discuss why you think either the structural functional or conflict perspective would be more useful in explaining the function of prisons in U.S. society today.

**Video Link:** [Gangs in Control of American Prisons](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqLYMngQV9w)

*This video explores the need to improve the American prison system by making them smaller.*

1. How did prisons run before there were prison gangs?
2. During what years did the conduct code in prison change and why did it change?

**Audio Link:** [Cops See it Differently – Part I](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/547/cops-see-it-differently-part-one)

*This audio focuses on racial profiling by police.*

1. Do you think that racial profiling by police is deviant behavior?
2. If police are deviant, are they able to judge other people’s deviance?

**Web Resource:** [Using Social Theory to Analyze the Private Prison Industry](http://www.slideshare.net/iheartsoc/using-social-theory-to-analyze-the-private-prison-industry)

*This source provides some insight into America’s Private Prison Industry and social theory.*

1. Are private prisons a positive structure of American society?
2. Should prisons be profit driven?