

Deviance Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010

MINOR: Two questions; you must answer both.

Theory

1. How has the sociological understanding of deviance changed over time, in other words why do different historical eras produce distinct approaches to studying deviance? What social changes are related to these shifting conceptions of deviance? In your answer be sure to describe how social context shapes the study of deviance.

Methods

2. Choose two qualitative data-driven readings from the minor reading list. Discuss the methodological strengths and weakness of each chosen work. Next, choose two quantitative data-driven readings from the minor reading list. Discuss the methodological strengths and weaknesses of each chosen work. Be sure to abide by the canons of qualitative and quantitative research methods when appropriate in your critique. Finally, engage in a discussion of how you would methodologically improve ONE of your four chosen pieces discussed above. In your discussion, be sure to defend why your suggested improvement is appropriate and worthwhile.

MAJOR: Choose and answer **only two** of the following four questions.

1. Scholars have developed a number of individual-level theories of deviance but these explanations do not fully capture the supra-individual complexities involved in organizational deviance. How has organizational deviance been explained at the organization and network levels? In answering this question, include illustrative theories, concepts, and empirical examples.

2. Compare and contrast research on deviance among the powerful and powerless. How does such an analytic comparison contribute to our understanding of social control?

3. Deviance and crime are often conflated. Using the reading list, discuss some of the primary theoretical pieces in the deviance tradition that help to place crime in the broader context of deviance.

4. Trace the historical trajectory of criminal legislation prohibiting drug use. In answering this question, be sure to include how status politics and conceptualizations of morality affected this process.