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Criminology
Teaching Classical Theories
Course Information

There are myriad criminological theories. The following videos provide an in depth look at three of these important theories: labeling, subcultural, and Marxist theories. This video series by Dr. Weide will allow students to get more familiar with a variety of theories, fostering classroom discussions on topics such as the economy and recidivism.

Classical Labeling Theories of Crime and Deviance

Professor Robert Weide discusses labeling theory and deviance in society. He traces the roots of labeling theory and explains its evolution from one theorist to another.

Classical Subcultural Theories of Crime and Deviance

Professor Robert Weide presents an analysis of criminal subculture theories. He discusses the key points of each theory and explains how one differs from the other.

Classical Theories of Marxist Criminology
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/classical-theories-of-marxist-criminology

Professor Weide outlines three Marxist theories that attempt to explain how capitalist societies create and define criminal behavior. His discussion focuses on the ideas of one theorist at a time and demonstrates the contrasts between them.

Suggested Courses or Topics

These videos can be used in a variety of criminology courses, which might include:

- criminological theory,
- survey of criminal justice, or
- entry-level criminology courses.

Classroom Clips

- Classical Labeling Theories of Crime and Deviance: This clip describes the history of classical labeling theory. Clip 0:10 – 5:01.
- Classical Subcultural Theories of Crime and Deviance: This clip covers key subcultural theorists. Clip 0:10 – 8:08.
- Classical Theories of Marxist Criminology
  - This clip discusses William Chambliss’s political economy of crime. Clip 1:02 – 2:07.
  - This clip discusses Steven Spitzer’s Marxian theory of crime and deviance. Clip 2:09 – 6:55.

Research Assignment

Dr. Weide discusses classical labeling theory (Clip 0:10 – 5:01). Find and summarize five studies examining how labeling affects deviance. Generally, what do these studies find? Given these results, how should the justice system adjust its policies?

Classroom Discussion

Dr. Weide discusses Marxist criminology. After watching these videos, how does the economy affect crime? Does capitalism have a positive or negative impact on society according to Marxist criminologists? Is America uniquely different from other industrialized nations regarding crime and the economy?