Criminology
Teaching Strain Theory
Course Information

Strain theory is one of the most prolific criminological theories to date. To better understand strain theory, its origins, and its policy implications, these videos provide a detailed overview of the theory. Exposing students to information directly from the creator of general strain theory, as well as from other key criminologists, will allow students to better understand strain theory and its real-life implications.

An Overview of General Strain Theory
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/an-overview-of-general-strain-theory

Professor Robert Agnew explains the principles of general strain theory, which he pioneered. His analysis includes the types of strain that influence criminal behavior and the personality types most motivated by strain to engage in criminal activity.

Jon Heidt Discusses Criminological Theory

Dr. Jonathon Heidt discusses criminological theory and the study of theory. Criminological theory tries to explain criminal behavior through interdisciplinary methods. Heidt discusses the value of learning criminological theory, developments in the field, and key research in the field.

Crime-Consumerism Nexus
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/crime-consumerism-nexus

Professor Keith Hayward explains the crime-consumer nexus, including how crime and consumerism have many similar properties. He offers evidence in the emotion of crime and how crime is portrayed in the media.

Suggested Courses or Topics

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

- criminological theory,
- juvenile justice, or
- at-risk youth and crime.

Classroom Clips

- An Overview of General Strain Theory:
  - This clip provides a brief introduction on Dr. Robert Agnew and his work on general strain theory. Clip 0:11 – 1:44.
  - This clip discusses strains most likely to cause crime. Clip 1:45 – 8:59.
  - This clip discusses why strains lead to crime. Clip 9:00 – 13:51.

- Jon Heidt Discusses Criminological Theory:
  - This clip discusses how strain theory affected policy in the 1950s and 1960s. Clip 23:36 – 35:05.

- Crime-Consumerism Nexus:
  - This clip discusses how consumerism and crime are related, especially with regard to stealing for acquisition of property. Clip 2:18 – 4:04.

Research Assignment

Dr. Hayward discusses how consumerism and crime are related (Clip 2:18 – 4:04). Research how crime and the economy are related. For example, are capitalistic societies prone to more crime? Find five studies that have examined crime and the economy and discuss the findings.

Classroom Discussion

Dr. Agnew discusses how strain differs by gender (Clip 13:54 – 15:52). Given such gender differences, how should programming be developed to reduce strain and subsequent criminal coping by gender? What types of strains differently affect girls compared to boys? How can those strains be reduced? How can male-specific strains be reduced?