

Module Outline: 2008

| |
|---|
| <p>SO869 Theories of Crime and Deviance Monday 17 – 19hrs GS6 Office Hours: Mondays</p> |
|---|

| |
|---|
| <p>Module Convenor: Professor David Downes Office: SSPSSR Room CNE 113 Office Hours: 3-5pm Mondays; other times by appointment</p> |
|---|

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Level: Postgraduate (M) | Teaching Period: Autumn Term |
| Credits: 20 | ECTS Credits: 10 |
| Pre-requisite and co-requisite modules: NA | |
| Assessment: | 100% coursework |

| | |
|---|--|
| Lecturer and Seminar leader: Professor David Downes | E-mail: d.downes@dsl.pipex.com |
|---|--|

Module Summary

Rationale for Course

In the late modern period we are presented with an extraordinary wealth of criminological theory. Past and present paradigms proliferate and undergo change, from the cosmetic to the fundamental. This course examines these theories, placing them in the context of the massive social transformations that have taken place since the Second World War. Theories and schools of thought are presented in broadly chronological fashion, and in their most developed form, with the main critiques and counter-critiques to which they led. It allows students to utilize fully theoretical insights in their criminological work. In particular we will introduce current developments and debates surrounding cultural criminology, the changing politics of crime control, and the growing importance of comparative, cross-national studies of crime, deviance and control.

Teaching Strategy

The course is taught by lecture, seminar and tutorial. Lectures and seminars will be weekly; the seminars involve a student presentation and a discussion centring around the suggested points of debate.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this module successful students will:

- Have an advanced knowledge of contemporary debates in theoretical criminology and criminal justice;
- Analyse and critique the notions of crime and justice in a variety of different social contexts;
- Critically evaluate the social, political and cultural dimensions of crime from both a contemporary and a historical perspective;
- Understanding current debates surrounding critical ethnography;
- Understand at an advanced level the relationship between social exclusion and crime;
- Have gained a detailed knowledge of the key historical and contemporary theories of violence;
- Explore the theoretical foundations and most recent interpretations associated with 'cultural criminology'

Key Skills:

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to show:

- Demonstrate skills commensurate with postgraduate study in presentation and debate, both verbal and written, and in utilization of research and empirical data (in relation to Key Skills 1 and 4);
- Be able to synthesis complex theoretical items of knowledge from different schools and disciplines of enquiry (in relation to Key Skills 5 and 6);
- Be able to gather library and web-based resources appropriate for postgraduate study; make critical judgments about their merits and use the available evidence to construct a developed argument to be presented orally or in writing (in relation to Key Skills 1, 3 and 6);

Coursework deadlines:

Assessment is by essay. Your essay should be approximately 4,500- 5,000 words in length and will be worth 100% of the course assessment.

The deadline for handing in your essay TBA

See below for more specific details about handing in the essay

PROVISIONAL LECTURE SEQUENCE

1. AIMS, METHODS AND TRENDS
2. THE 'CHICAGO SCHOOL' AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY
3. FUNCTIONALISM AND ANOMIE
4. CULTURE AND SUBCULTURE
5. LABELLING THEORY AND MORAL PANICS
6. THEORIES OF SITUATIONAL AND SOCIAL CONTROL
7. RADICAL CRIMINOLOGY
8. FEMINIST CRIMINOLOGY
9. DEVIANCE THEORIES AND SOCIAL POLICY
10. THE 'PUNITIVE TURN'?
11. CURRENT ISSUES

Module assessment

The module is assessed on the basis of 100% coursework.

Each **coursework essay** is worth 100% of the assessment and should be approximately 4,500 - 5000 words in length.

Essays should be submitted to the Reception Desk, SSPSSR by 4:30pm on or before the due date. Students are required to submit hard copies of their essays: electronic submission is not permitted. **2** copies of your essay should be submitted with your name, year and module clearly marked on both copies. An essay front sheet (available outside the SSPSSR Office) should be completed and the plagiarism statement signed and handed in with your essay.

Essays which are not received on time will not be marked unless an extension has been granted. Coursework essays count towards your final mark for the module, and, as such, should be taken seriously.

The grounds on which extensions are granted can include any material, medical, personal or accidental factors that make it difficult for the deadline to be met. Please note, lack of time, or other deadlines will **not** be considered grounds on which to grant an extension. The reason deadlines will only be granted in exceptional circumstances is out of fairness to all students.

The request for an extension must be submitted to the appropriate seminar leader (preferably by e-mail) on or before the deadline explaining briefly but clearly why it is not possible to meet the deadline. Requests will be treated on a case-by-case basis, but the seminar leader may either ask to see you in person, speak to your personal tutor or ask for other evidence of your circumstances. Seminar leaders will respond to requests for extensions by e-

mail. **Where permission is granted students must attach a copy of the e-mailed permission to the essay when it is handed in.**

It is a requirement that students attend seminars. **Attendance will be monitored.** If you have good reasons for missing a seminar, it is polite to let your seminar leader know.

Tips for handing in your essay

There are dozens of students handing essays at SSPSSR on deadline days. So, to minimise queues please:

- Try to come in the morning, and avoid coming after 3:30pm.
- Make sure you know the name of your essay marker i.e. seminar leader
- Remember to bring 2 copies of your essay.
- If you have an extension you must attach a copy of the e-mailed permission to the essay when it is handed in. Please do not embarrass office staff by arriving without a copy of the e-mailed permission: they have been asked not to take in overdue essays which do not have any permission attached.

You should also bear in mind that the SSPSSR office shuts at 4:30pm and there is likely to be a queue in front of you, so you must leave yourself enough time if you are planning to come in the late afternoon.

You must, must keep your yellow receipt. Essays have been known to go astray.

Tips for collecting your marked essay

- Once your mark is on the student data system, then this indicates that it is ready for collection.
- Essays are usually marked within 3 weeks.

Supplementary Materials

Electronic support: Some course material is available through the server "Ward". You will need a login in order to access the folder. The folder can be accessed through the following procedure: On a public PC, after the login, you should see an icon labelled "My Computer" on your screen (normally the upper left corner). Double click on "My Computer" and then on "Courses on Ward (V)". Double click on "Courses". You will see a great many folders – the folder for this module is **MODULE CODE SO869**. There is a copy of this course outline on "Ward" from which you can click on the internet links to be taken directly to the website. Students are also expected to check their emails accounts regularly.

Suggested Readings

An extensive list of readings is included in order to provide students with a guide to the literature. The essential readings are indicated by an asterisk (*).

Readers/Journals

The most useful reader in criminology theory is:

Muncie, J; McLaughlin, E and Langan, M (eds), 2002, *Criminological Perspectives: A Reader*, (2nd ed.) London: Sage. The two most relevant journals are *Theoretical Criminology* and *Punishment and Society*.

USEFUL THEORY OVERVIEWS

- * Downes D and Rock P (2007) *Understanding Deviance* (5th ed.). Clarendon Press
- * Young, J, *Thinking Seriously About Crime*. (website) www.jockyoung.org.uk
- Maguire, M, Morgan, R and Reiner, R (eds) (2007) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, (4th ed.), and 2002, (3rd ed.), Oxford: Clarendon.
But see also earlier editions where relevant, 2nd ed. (1997) and 3rd ed. (2002)
- Hale, C., Hayward, K., Wahidin, A. and Wincup, E (2005) *Criminology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Mooney, J. (2000) *Gender, Violence and the Social Order*. London: Macmillan
- * Muncie J, McLaughlin E and Langan M, eds, 1996, 2002, *Criminological Perspectives: A Reader*. London: Sage
- Lea J and Young J, 1993, *What is to be Done About Law and Order?*, London: Pluto
- Walklate S. (1995) *Gender and Crime*. Harvester Wheatsheaf
- Taylor I, Walton P and Young J, 1973, *The New Criminology*, Routledge and Kegan Paul
- Vold G.B., T. Bernard and J. Snipes (2002) *Theoretical Criminology*. Oxford University Press
- Currie E. (1985) *Confronting Crime*. Pantheon.
- Lilly, J., F. Cullen and R. Ball (1989) *Criminological Theory*. Sage

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME Sequence to be negotiated

1. Introduction: Aims, methods and trends

The scope of the field, problems of definition and methods of ascertaining the facts any theory should fit.

Reading

Downes D. and Rock P. (2007) *Understanding Deviance* (5th. ed.) Oxford University Press. Chs. 1 and 2.

Hale C, Hayward K, Wahidin A and Wincup E (eds.) 2005 *Criminology* Oxford University Press. Chs. 1-4.

Newburn T (2007) *Criminology* Cullompton: Willan. Chs. 1 and 3.

Reiner R (2007) *Law and Order: An Honest Citizen's Guide to Crime and Control* Cambridge: Polity. Ch. 3.

Maguire M (2007) "Crime, data and statistics" in Maguire M et al (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (4th. ed.).

Becker H (1963) *Outsiders* London: Macmillan.

Beckett, K (1997) *Making Crime Pay* New York: Oxford University Press.

Cohen S (ed.) (1971) *Images of Deviance* Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Liebow E (1967) *Tally's Corner: Negro Streetcorner Men in Washington DC* London: Routledge.

Ditton J (1979) *Controlology* London: Macmillan

Garland D (2001) *The Culture of Control* Oxford University Press.

Questions

1. What was at stake in the attempt to re-define 'criminology' as the 'sociology of deviance'?
2. What makes crime rates so notoriously problematic?

2. The 'Chicago School' and the social ecology of crime

The University of Chicago Sociology Department as a criminological seminary. Its members' work in the 1920s and 30s was the basis for a continuing influence on the sociology of crime and deviance of the past fifty years.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 3.

Newburn T. (2007) Ch. 9.

Morris T (1957) *The Criminal Area* London: Routledge

Matza D (1969) *Becoming Deviant* Part 1.

*Park R and Burgess E (1925) *The City* University of Chicago Press

*Shaw C and McKay H (1942) *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas* University of Chicago Press

*Thrasher F (1927) *The Gang: A Study of 1,313 Gangs in Chicago* University of Chicago Press

*Zorbaugh H (1929) *The Gold Coast and the Slum* University of Chicago Press

*reissued in the 1960s with new introductions.

Sutherland E (1924, many revised eds., with eds. from c 1960 revised by D. Cressey) *Principles of Criminology* Philadelphia: Lippincott

Whyte, W (1943) *Street Corner Society* University of Chicago Press

Bottoms A et al (1989) "A tale of two estates" in D. Downes (ed.) *Crime and the City* London: Macmillan.

Hayward K (2004) *City Limits: Crime, Consumer Culture and Urban Experience* London: Glasshouse.

Questions

1. Discuss the view that the achievements of the 'Chicago School' were to do with method rather than theory.
2. What, if anything, is the lasting significance of the work of the 'Chicago School'?

3. Functionalism and anomie

From its origins in the functionalist approach of Durkheim, anomie theory has taken diverse forms, in the work of Merton, and Cloward and Ohlin, in the USA, and 'Left Realism' in Britain.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Chs. 4-5.

Newburn T (2007) 8-9.

Reiner R (2007) Ch. 4.

Durkheim E (1897, English trans. 1951) *Suicide* London: Routledge

Merton R (1938) "Social structure and anomie" *American Sociological Review*, 3: 672-82; revised in his *Social Theory and Social Structure* (1949 and subsequent eds.) New York: The Free Press.

James O (1997) *Britain on the Couch: Why We Are Less Happy than in 1950, though Richer* London: Century.

Lea J and Young J (1984) *What Is To Be Done About Law and Order ?* London: Penguin.

Messner S and Rosenfeld R (2007) *Crime and the American Dream* 4th. ed. Belmont: Wadsworth.

Sennett R (2006) *The Culture of the New Capitalism* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Young J (1999) *The Exclusive Society* London: Sage.

Questions

1. Is a crime-free society possible?
2. "Theories of anomie can account for rising crime in modern societies but not its decline". Discuss.

4. Culture and subculture

Explaining crime and deviance, especially delinquency and youth crime, in terms of a 'way of life' and the search for excitement generated theories from the 1950s to the 1970s in the USA and Britain whose relevance and validity remain hotly contested.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 6.

Hale C et al (eds.) (2005) Ch. 7 (Ferrell) and Ch. 16 (Hale)

Newburn T. (2007) Ch. 9.

Cohen A K (1955) *Delinquent Boys: The Culture of the Gang* Glencoe: Free Press.

Cloward R and Ohlin L (1960) *Delinquency and Opportunity* London: Routledge

Downes D (1966) *The Delinquent Solution* London: Routledge

James O (1995) *Juvenile Violence in a Winner-Loser Culture* London: Free Association.

Matza D (1964) *Delinquency and Drift* New York: Wiley.

Parker H (1974) *The View from the Boys* Newton Abbott: David and Charles.

Cohen P (1972) "Working Class Youth Cultures in East London" *Working Papers in Cultural Studies*, No. 2, Birmingham University And in Hall S et al (eds.) (1976) below, and in Cohen P. (1997) *Rethinking the Youth Question* London:

Hall S et al (eds.) (1976) *Resistance Through Rituals* London: Macmillan.

Hebdige D (1978) *Subculture: The Meaning of Style* London: Routledge.

Willis P (1978) *Learning to Labour* Farnborough: Saxon House.

Katz J (1988) *Seductions of Crime* New York: Basic Books.

Ferrell J et al (eds.) (2004) *Cultural Criminology Unleashed* London: Glasshouse.

Hall S, Winlow S and Ancrum C (2008) *Criminal Identities and Consumer Culture* Cullompton: Willan.

Questions

1. "New subcultural theories may be very imaginative, but they may also be imaginary" (Stan Cohen). Discuss.
2. Have subcultural theories outlived their usefulness?

5 Labelling Theory and Moral Panics

The relatively late discovery that social reactions to deviance were a set of diverse variables rather than automatic and uniform responses led to a substantial reconfiguration of the field via the emergence of the sociology of deviance in the 1960s, notably in the American work of Becker, Cicourel, Lemert and Matza, and the British work of Stan Cohen and Jock Young.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Chs. 7-8

Newburn T (2007) Ch. 10

Becker H (1963) *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* London: Macmillan

Cicourel A (1968) *The Social Organisation of Juvenile Justice* New York: Wiley.

Lemert E (1967) *Human Deviance, Social Problems and Social Control* Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall.

Matza D (1969) *Becoming Deviant* Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall. Esp. ch. on 'signification'.

Rock P (1979) *The Making of Symbolic Interactionism* London: Macmillan.

Cohen S (1972) *Folk Devils and Moral Panics* London: MacGibbon and Kee. See also the introductions to the 2nd (1980) and 30th Anniversary eds (2002) London: Routledge

Young J (1971) *The Drugtakers* London: MacGibbon and Kee.

Wilkins, L (1964) *Social Deviance* London: Tavistock

Pearson G (1983) *Hooligan: A History of Respectable Fears* London: Macmillan.

Downes D et al (eds.) (2007) *Crime, Social Control and Human Rights: From moral panics to states of denial – Essays in honour of Stanley Cohen* Cullompton: Willan. [esp.chs by Feeley and Simon, Shalev, and Young]

Questions

1. "Moral panics are in the eye of the beholder." Discuss.
2. 'Round up the usual suspects'. Is this the sum total of policing strategy?

6 Theories of situational and social control

Historically, social control theories have a long pedigree, but emerged in modern form with the work of Travis Hirschi in the late 1960s. Gottfredson and Hirschi's theory of crime has become the most cited in current criminology. Situational control theories move furthest away from any interest in motivation and focus almost entirely on variations in controls against crime in the immediate environment, though 'routine activities' theory combines the social and the situational.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch.9.

Newburn T (2007) Chs. 11 and 14.

Box S (1971) *Deviance, Reality and Society* New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Hirschi T (1969) *Causes of Delinquency* Berkeley: University of California Press.

Gottfredson M and Hirschi T (1990) *A General Theory of Crime* Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Wilson H and Herbert G (1978) *Parents and Children in the Inner City* London: Routledge

Wilson J.Q. (1975) *Thinking About Crime* New York: Basic Books.

Clarke, R (1980) "Situational crime prevention: theory and practice" *British Journal of Criminology*, 20, 136-47.

Cornish D and Clarke R (1986) *The Reasoning Criminal* New York: Springer Verlag.

Felson M (2002) *Crime and Everyday Life* Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

Kelling G and Coles C (1996) *Fixing Broken Windows* New York: Touchstone.

Questions

1. Assess the adequacy of Gottfredson and Hirschi's 'general theory of crime'.
2. "As most crime is opportunistic, technical measures offer the best basis for crime prevention policies." Discuss..

7 Radical criminology

Neo-marxist theories of crime and deviance emerged in the early 1970s in the wake of student revolt, more in Britain and Western Europe than in the USA. Drawing especially on the work of Gramsci, Habermas and the 'Frankfurt School', existing theories were criticized for want of a 'critical' dimension. Taylor, Walton and Young's 'new criminology' and 'critical criminology', along with work by members of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at Birmingham University led by Stuart Hall were the foremost British exponents. By contrast, the 'Left realism' of the 1980s, an auto-critique by Jock Young, with John Lea, was in many respects a retrieval and synthesis of earlier approaches.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 10.

Newburn T (2007) Chs. 12-13.

Taylor I, Walton P and Young J (1973) *The New Criminology: For a Social Theory of Deviance* London: Routledge.

Hall S et al (1978) *Policing the Crisis* London: Macmillan.

Chambliss, W (1978) *On The Take: From Petty Crooks to Presidents* Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Scruton P (2000)(rev. ed.) *Hillsborough: The Truth* Edinburgh: Mainstream

Mathiesen T (1974) *The Politics of Abolition* London: Martyn Robertson

Ruggiero V (2000) *Crime and Markets* Oxford University Press

Lea J and Young J (1984) *What is to be Done about Law and Order?* London: Penguin

Matthews R and Young J (eds.) 1992 *Rethinking Criminology: The Realist Debate* London: Sage.

Questions

1. What chiefly differentiated the 'new criminology' from its predecessors?
2. How realistic is 'left Realism'?

8 Feminist approaches

The longstanding neglect of female criminality and the gender variable more generally became the focus for a substantial stream of work, largely by feminist criminologists, from the mid-1970s onwards. The extent to which theorization derived from studies of male offending can be generalized to girls and women remains a hotly contested issue.

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 11.

Hale C et al (eds.) (2005) Ch. 17 (Smith).

Newburn T (2007) Ch. 15.

Smart C (1976) *Women, Crime and Criminology* London: Routledge

Carlen P and Worrall A (eds.) (1987) *Gender, Crime and Justice* Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Gelsthorpe L and Morris A (eds.) (1990) *Feminist Perspectives in Criminology* Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Hagan J et al (1979) "The sexual stratification of social control" *British Journal of Sociology* 30,

Heidensohn F (1968) "The deviance of women: a critique and an inquiry" *British Journal of Sociology* 19, 160-73.

Heidensohn F and Gelsthorpe L (2007) "Gender and crime" in Maguire et al (eds.) *Oxford Handbook of Criminology* Oxford University Press.

Mooney J (2000) *Gender, Violence and the Social Order* London: Macmillan.

Questions

1. What has feminist criminology contributed to criminological theory?
2. "If men behaved like women, the courts would be idle and the prisons empty". (Barbara Wootton) Discuss.

9 Deviance theories and social policy

How have theories of and research into crime and deviance influenced criminal justice and social policy-making, and vice versa – how have the politics of crime control influenced theorization and research?

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 12.

Cohen S (1985) *Visions of Social Control* Cambridge: Polity

Marris P and Rein M (1974) *Dilemmas of Social Reform* London: Penguin.

Braithwaite J (1989) *Crime, Shame and Reintegration* Cambridge University Press.

Currie E (1985) *Confronting Crime: An American Challenge* New York: Pantheon

Crawford A (1997) *The Local Governance of Crime* Oxford University Press.

Foster J and Hope T (1993) *Housing, Community and Crime* London:

Pease K (2002) "Crime reduction" in M. Maguire et al (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (3rd. ed.) Oxford University Press.

Taylor, I, Walton P and Young J (1975) *Critical Criminology* London: Routledge.

Downes D and Rock P (eds.) *Deviant Interpretations* Oxford: Martin Robertson.

Lea J and Young P (1984) *What is to be Done about Law and Order?* London: Penguin.

Questions

1. In what ways have criminal justice and social policies been influenced by theories of crime and deviance?
2. Discuss the view that social policies have been increasingly subject to 'criminalisation'.

10 The 'punitive turn' ?

Mass imprisonment in the United States is only the most extreme example of what many criminologists have termed the 'new punitiveness' and the 'punitive turn'. What is the comparative evidence on penal trends and how far do the data support the theory of David Garland that late modernity is inherently productive of a punitive 'culture of control'?

Reading

Cavadino M and Dignan J (2006) *Penal Systems: A Comparative Approach* London: Sage.

Downes D and Van Swaaningen R (2007) "The road to dystopia? Changes in the penal climate of the Netherlands" in M. Tonry and E Bijleveld (eds.) *Crime and Justice in the Netherlands* University of Chicago Press.

Tonry M (ed.) (2007) *Crime, Punishment and Politics in Comparative Perspective* University of Chicago Press. Chs. by Tonry, Downes, Lappi-Seppala, Webster and Doob, Newburn and Green.

Garland D (2001) *The Culture of Control* Oxford University Press.

Garland D (ed.) (2001) *Mass Imprisonment: Social Causes and Consequences* London: Sage

Lacey N (2008) *The Prisoners' Dilemma: Political Economy and Punishment in Contemporary Democracies* Cambridge University Press.

Pratt J et al (eds.) (2005) *The New Punitiveness: Trends, Theories, Perspectives* Cullompton: Willan. [esp. chs. by Nelken; Meyer and O'Malley; and Ryan].

Pratt J (2007) *Penal Populism* London: Routledge

Western B (2006) *Punishment and Inequality in America* New York: Russell Sage

Questions

1. Examine the evidence for the view that modern democracies are increasingly subject to a 'new punitiveness'.
2. "Penal moderation reflects high levels of trust and tolerance in a society". Discuss.

11 Current issues

The sociology of deviance has been recently viewed by some as an outmoded framework for the analysis of the postmodern world of 'transgressive' phenomena and their control. How well founded are such critiques, and is there now a presumption by both governments and 'administrative criminologists' that theories of crime and deviance are redundant?

Reading

Downes and Rock (2007) Ch. 13.

Hale C et al (2005) Ch 23 (R. Jones)

Newburn T (2007) Ch. 16.

Cohen S (2001) *States of Denial: Knowing about Atrocities and Suffering* Cambridge: Polity.

Simon J (2007) *Governing Through Crime: How the War on Crime Transformed American Democracy and Created a Culture of Fear* New York: Oxford University Press.

Newburn T and Rock P (eds.) (2006) *The Politics of Crime Control* Oxford University Press.

Sumner C (1994) *The Sociology of Deviance: An Obituary* Buckingham

Downes D et al (eds.) (2007) *Crime, Social Control and Human Rights* Willan [Chs. 10 [Shalev]; 14 [Blomberg and Hay]; 29 [Reiner] and 30 [Jamieson and McEvoy]]

Questions

1. Is theorizing about crime and deviance now outstripped by events?
2. "The politics of crime control now sets the criminological agenda". Discuss.