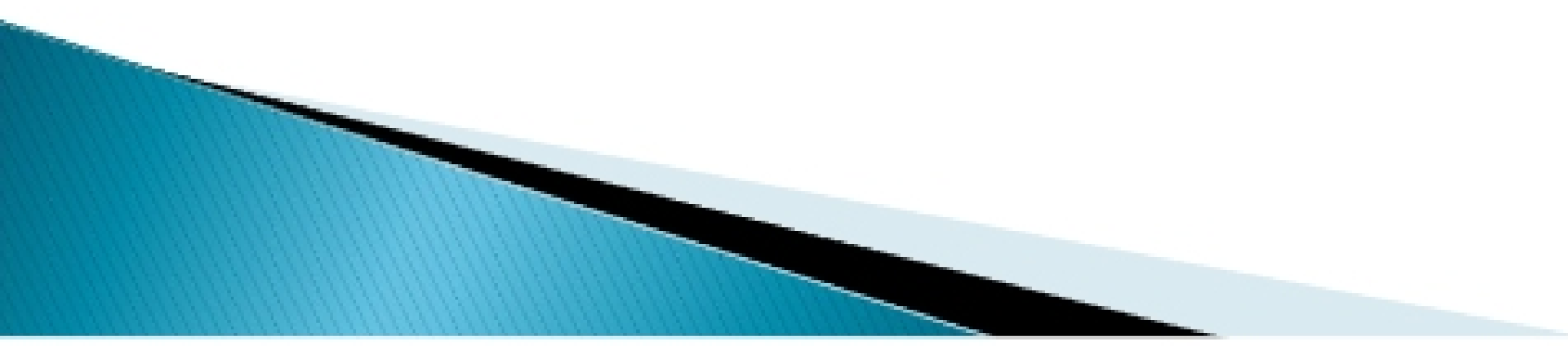


SOCI 1080
Deviant Behavior

Positivist Theories of
Deviance



Positivist Approaches to Explaining Deviance and Crime

The roots of the positivist school of deviance and crime grew out of positive philosophy and the logic and methodology of experimental science. These theories are mostly geared toward explaining *high-consensus* (criminal) deviance.

The Positivist School of Thought

The key assumptions of the positivist school of thought are:

1. Deviants are discernibly *fundamentally different* from non-deviants.
2. Social scientists can be *objective* in their work.
3. Human behavior is *determined* by biological or environmental influences (the latter being the focal point of this class) and not a matter of free will.