

01/23/14

- 1.6 million people in jail/prison
- average sentence length: 4.5 years actual sentence; time served: 2.5 years prison/6 mo jail
- laws that regulate behavior on sundays: blue laws

next class: know the 8 mechanisms that support norms

skim or skip the "norms game" section, 1098-1100

skim the conclusion

Axelrod: 8 mechanisms that support norms

- metanorms- forcing a norm by punishing those that don't follow it
 - establishing a norm that one must punish those who do not punish a defection
 - used in denunciation in communism
 - imposing sanctions as punishment (US)
- dominance- political or economic power (not population number)
 - dominance of one group over another
- internalization
 - violating an established norm is psychologically painful even if the direct material benefits are positive.
 - temptation to defect is negative
- deterrence
 - looking ahead, punishing a defection now in order to benefit the future
- social proof- imitation
 - what people decide is appropriate behavior
 - how a population has adapted to something
- membership in groups
 - voluntary membership in a group working together for a common end.
- law- state has more enforcing power than any individual
 - norms precede laws but are then supported, maintained, and extended by laws
- reputation-
 - violating a norm would provide a signal about the type of person you are.

definitions are based upon expectations, values, and behavior.

01/28

- norms

- like rules, norms are behaviors that are generally expected; they conform to what a particular society or group considers appropriate
- examples of norms include brushing your teeth, attending your class, driving your car safely
- norms reflect social order and the need for social control
- Axelrod's definition, 1097
 - punished if you act a different way from the norm
 - this definition acknowledges that norms vary in degree, and it allows us to discuss specific norms as becoming stronger or weaker over time
- four kinds of norms
 - folkways
 - simple customs; these are followed for tradition and convenience
 - mores
 - distinguish between right and wrong. they offer moral guidance, and breaking these rules may result in serious social sanctions
 - taboos
 - these are extremely inappropriate behaviors that often result in ostracism from in-groups or even the larger community of society
 - laws
 - these have two key parts: they are written down and they are enforced and crafted by a formal body, such as a government
 - taboos may overlap with laws
 - sanctions
 - a penalty for violating a norm (or failing to follow a norm)
 - sanctions may be formal, such as a criminal sentence or a fine determined by a judge or jury, or informal, such as a "time-out" or a rebuke or a revocation of some allowance
 - informal sanctions often involve social consequences, such as being kicked out of class or being un-friended on Facebook
 - informal sanctions may also be physical in nature, as when a parent spanks a child or some rule violation
- Axelrod's mechanisms
 - refer to top
- social control
 - essential for a society to function
 - without rules/norms, a society (a group of people) would not exist because no mechanism or system would hold the group together

- able to keep members in and non members out
- creates group solidarity and leads to roles and organization
- deviance
 - deviant behavior violates a norm
 - concerns conditions, beliefs, general behaviors that break or violate the norms of a society or a particular social group
 - need to distinguish between:
 - deviance
 - violates a norm (Refer to top)
 - crime
 - specifically violates a law, also known as a formal rule
 - delinquency
 - associated with juvenile deviance and crime. some laws only apply to juveniles (Ex. alcohol)
 - in general use, delinquency and crime are often interchangeable
 - most criminal/delinquent behaviors are also deviant (there are exceptions)
 - examples of criminal but not deviant: marijuana use, prostitution, pirating movies
- norms vary
 - over time: some behaviors are no longer deviant, some are newly deviant, some more deviant
 - between cultures: comparing nations, ex. il/legalized prostitution
 - across subcultures: different norms for different groups in one particular society;
 - ex. Catholic Church doesn't approve of contraception, while most Protestant Churches don't condemn its use
- norms are both:
 - prescriptive: means they tell individuals what they should or ought to do
 - proscriptive: tell individuals what they shouldn't do
 - subcultures are groups that have norms that are different or distinguishable from those of the "dominant" culture
 - ex. gangs
- deviance varies
 - norms vary over time and place, so too does deviance
 - a society's rules and expectations change or evolve with time, but changes may also occur in cycles
 - new kinds of deviance may arise due to changing technologies. ex. sexting
- constructing deviance
 - absolutist position concerning deviance argues that particular deviant acts violate universal norms