

SOCI 1080
Deviant Behavior

Introduction



What is Deviance?

▶ In Sociological Terms:

- Deviance is violation of any social rule (or norm)
- Deviance may reference physical traits or beliefs as well as behavior
- As in this course, most analysts focus on deviance that provokes disapproval, anger or indignation
- Some, though, study “positive” deviance (eg, geniuses, saints, creative artists and glamorous celebrities)

Ingredients of Deviance (Goode)

- ▶ A social norm (rule) regarding “appropriate” behavior, beliefs, or physical attributes
 - ▶ A person who behaves, thinks, or appears in a way that violates (or is presumed to violate) social norm
 - ▶ A social audience which condemns the norm violation/violator
 - ▶ Enhanced possibility of negative, or punitive, sanctions for the violator
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