Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this unit, students should be able to:

1. List the functions of deviance identified by Emile Durkheim.
2. Identify three social foundations of deviance.
3. Explain Merton’s strain theory of deviance and identify and describe four types of deviant responses.
4. Summarize Edwin Sutherland’s differential association theory.
5. Define white-collar crime, corporate crime, and organized crime.
6. Explain the four basic principles of social stratification.
7. Evaluate the Davis-Moore thesis.
8. Suggest reasons why a Marxist revolution has not occurred in the advanced capitalist societies.
9. Explain the historical significance of Kuznet’s Curve in reference to stratification.
10. Debate the issue of whether poverty is a result of individual or social factors.

Unit Summary

Chapter 7: Deviance

Chapter 7 explores society and how it encourages conformity and deviant behavior. The functions of deviance and the labeling theory are explained and investigated. The chapter concludes with an overview of the criminal justice system.

Chapter 8: Social Stratification

Social stratification refers to a system by which a society ranks categories of people in a hierarchy.

We will be studying caste systems. Sociologists distinguish between “closed” systems, which allow for little change in social position, and “open” systems, which permit some social mobility.

Many societies are highly stratified. According to our textbook, richer people live, on average, seven years longer because they eat more nutritious food, live in safer and less stressful environments, and receive better medical care.