1  Deviance in Sports

2  What is deviance in society?
   ✤ More than a crime
   ✤ Deviance is a social process
      • Not just a legal one
      • Not just an individual characteristic
   ✤ Society creates deviance
      • Society creates deviants

3  What is deviance in sport?
   ✤ Social deviance among athletes
      • Deviance off the field
         • Delinquency rates
         • Alcohol use and binge drinking
         • Felony rates
      • Deviance On the Field
         • Cheating
         • Violence
         • Performance enhancing substances

4  What is deviance in sport?
   ✤ Social deviance around sport
      • Sports as a negative influence
         • Professional wrestling
      • Violence among spectators

5  Structural-functionalism
   ✤ Deviance as social breakdown
      • Durkheim
      • Suicide
         • Not to be explained individually
         • Not to be explained 'racially'
         • Rapid social change
         • Modern individualism
         • Breakdown in social norms
            ◦ Anomie

6  Structural-functionalism
   ✤ 'Anomie'
      • Robert Merton
      • 'Cultural goals'
      • 'Institutionalized means'
      • Conflicts between
         • Conformists
         • Ritualists
         • Innovators
         • Retreatists
7 Structural-functional example

- Performance enhancing substances
  - Doping as example of innovation
    - Accept cultural goals, winning
    - But reject institutionalized means, *fair play*
    - Strain between goals and means
      - Overemphasis on goals
  - Solution
    - Modify values and norms in sports

8 Conflict (Marxist) Theory

- Deviance defined by needs of capital
  - Deviance reaction of those without power
  - Deviance as struggle against exploitation
  - Doping as reactions against exploitation of the athlete's (as worker) body.
  - Solution
    - Change society
    - After the revolution

9 Interactionist theory

- Differential association
  - Different definitions
  - Deviant 'definitions of the situation'
  - Learning deviant definitions in
    - Subcultures
      - Sports
    - A social process
  - E.g., ?

10 Interactionist theory example

- Deviant 'overconformity'
  - Accepting the norms of the sub-culture of sports
    - Role engulfment
    - Athlete as master status
    - Sport as identity
    - Doping as normal
      - A sign that you belong
      - Playing along

11 Critical theories

- Deviance about power and meanings
  - Deviance reflects power in society
  - Deviance can challenge that power
  - Deviance can support that power
  - E.g., Feminism
    - Women as athletes/deviance challenges patriarchy
    - Violence is sport controls women
Feminist theory example

Violence and sport (Ch. 7)
Performance enhancing substances
  - Reproducing gendered bodies
    - Highlighting difference
      - Hyper-masculinized males
        » Body builders
        » Professional wrestlers
      - Hyper-feminized females
        » Gymnasts
        » Figure skaters

Gendered bodies

The relativism of deviance

Performance enhancing substances
  - More deviant in sports than society at large

Violence
  - More deviant in society at large than in sports