## **Chapter** 7 Discussion Questions

### 7.1.1 Social Construction of Deviance

Can you think of examples of behavior that was considered deviant in the past but is not so today? Why is it no longer considered deviant?

Similarly, can you identify examples of behavior that might be considered deviant by one segment of society but not by another? Why is it viewed as deviant by some in society and not others?

### 7.2.1 Structural Strain Scenario

Are some crimes more acceptable than others? Has a mother who steals food for her kids committed a crime?

Which component of Merton’s structural strain theory best explains the mother’s actions? What would the mother’s actions look like if she implemented the other parts of Merton’s structural strain theory?

### 7.3.1 Impact of Imprisonment

Based on what you learned, what results from high imprisonment rates on the individual, community, and nation?

### 7.3.2 Prison and the Family

How might growing up with a parent in prison impact the quality of a child’s life? In your opinion, does it matter if it is the child’s mother or father in prison?

### More Than a Theory

### 7.3.3 Functionalist

Are policies that grant police officers extensive discretion in stop, search, arrest, and charge decisions to the benefit or detriment of society? How might these policies be amended to reduce the incidence of police misconduct?

### 7.3.4 Conflict

What are some ways in which the actions of the powerful result in differential justice between races, men, and women? What policies should be implemented to reduce the incidence of unequal punishment between African Americans, Hispanics, and Whites?

### 7.3.5 Symbolic Interactionist

How would a woman who experienced trauma like Robin Lucas’ perceive the criminal justice system as a whole? What policies and procedures should be initiated to better serve females' mental health and familial needs in prison?

### 7.4.1 Fair Trials

What policies should be implemented to ensure everyone receives a fair trial? Research some past policies and laws within your state or country. Have these measures been enforced in the way you think they should? How could they be improved, and what are the critiques of them?

### 7.5.1 Counterfeit Goods

In 2011, New York became the first state to introduce legislation to punish people who purchase counterfeit goods. The law imposes a 1-year jail sentence or a $1,000 fine on anyone who purchases phony items (VIN News 2011). Such laws already exist in France and Italy, do you think they would stop people from buying counterfeit items in the U.S.?

### 7.5.2 Surveillance Cameras

Do you think surveillance cameras in metropolitan areas have effectively reduced crime? Explain your answer.