Different perspectives on Deviance:

Sociobiologists: look for deviance within individuals. Genetic predisposition.

Psychologists: Again, abnormalities within individuals. Personality Disorders.

Sociologists: Look for factors outside the individual.

1. Symbolic Interactionism
   a. Differential association theory (Edwin Sutherland 1924): deviance is learned because of the different groups we associate with. Families, Friends, Neighborhoods, Subcultures.
   c. Labeling Theory: significance of the labels (names, reputations) we are given. Labels become part of our self-concept and help to set us on paths that either propel us into or divert us from deviance (e.g. whore, pervert, cheat, slob).

2. Functionalism
   a. Strain Theory (Robert Merton 1956): Crime is a natural part of society. Mainstream values generate crime. Society tries to motivate everyone to strive for success. Society does this by creating discontent—making people feel dissatisfied with what they have so that they will want to better themselves. But not all have equal access to institutionalized means of achieving success (e.g. education). Deviants are people who either give up on the goals or used deviant means to achieve them.
      i. Four deviant paths:
         1. Innovators (accept the goal, look for other means)
         2. Ritualism (abandon the goal, but continue to go through the motions)
         3. Retreatism (abandon both goal and ritual)
         4. Rebellion (reject dominant interpretation and strive to create a new system with different goals)

3. Conflict Theory
   a. The group in power (the capitalist class) imposes its definitions of deviance on other groups (the working class and marginal class). The law becomes an instrument of oppression used to maintain power and privilege of the few over the many. Marginal working class commits visible crimes. The criminal justice system (operated by
those in power) becomes a tool of oppression, punishing these crimes while allowing those in power (e.g. corporations, wealthy, etc) to go relatively unpunished.