

Anthropology 21A.218
Identity and Difference
Class #11

The big picture/sequence of topics:

Managing Deviant Identities

Responses to deviant label
by subject/individual; by others (informally, formally)

Individuals can

Reject the label: denial

Strategies for denying the label: accounts (Class #10)

Accept the label

Managing stigma (Goffman)

Exchange/manage the label

Stigma - (Erving Goffman) deeply discrediting, devalued, undesirable differentness

Stigmatized usually accept label, perceive condition and self as less (valuable)
human, experience shame

Manage "spoiled" identities; manage information about selves

Passing: discreditable rather than discredited; tension filled role

Change names

Alter to less stigmatizing trait

Divide world into allies (knowers) and others

Maintain physical and social distance

Covering: no longer manage information, manage situations

Concern over standards incidentally associated with stigma

Restrict displays as much as possible

Produces dual consciousness (cf. W.E.B. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk*)

Hyper-awareness, sensitivity to situations

Ambivalence

Double deviance:

Deviant once because of stigmatizing condition

Deviant twice because do not conform to expectations for

Deviant role

e.g. minority populations; women

Exchanging or Transforming the Deviant Label:

I. People Processing Institutions

	Developmental	Resocialization
Selectivity	selects for shared goals, aptitude	accepts all
entry procedures	resources to devoted to orientation	informal through peers
amount/source of information	account of success	account of failures
fate of role failures	expelled	stay on
time/timing	fixed period	Indeterminate
exit processes	ritualistic celebration	alone, without peers
relationship and career	continued affiliation/prestige	stigma, may be prohibited
Pervasiveness	variable	Total

Developmental institutions have greater success in accomplishing goal of transformation.

II. Attempts to re-enter conventional/conforming society, recapture "normal" identity

- a. Time out of practice
- b. Continued distrust by others
- c. Pressures to return to deviant subculture
- d. Transitional groups help manage identity transformation
 medicalization, exchange label for another form of deviance
 success relatively untested

III. Transform the label rather than the person: politics of difference

- a. Exchange label for a better/less stigmatized/semantics
- b. Change public definition of deviance - change norm (meaning of activity)