### CUES

**What is critical criminology and what does it do?**

- Defines crime in terms of oppression
- Crime is associated with broad processes of political economy

**How do they examine the crimes of the powerful?**

Not a big distinction between big business and white-collar crime

- **Swartz (1975):** big business linked to capitalist values and legitimate goals
- **Mars (1982):** fine line between ‘entrepreneurialism and flair’ and ‘sharp practice and fraud’

Businesses can essentially ‘evade’ the law

- Dump illegal products in underdeveloped countries
- Export illegal behaviour to where it is legal

Critical criminologists argue...

1. Working-class crime is insignificant to those of the powerful
2. Capitalism turns a ‘blind eye’ to some crimes

**Reiman (1979) – “the rich get richer and the poor get prison”**

- **Foucault (1980):** prisons stigmatize offenders
- Police are concerned with maintaining social order, not preventing crime
- The CJS legitimates the status quo

**What about crimes of the less powerful?**

- Weaker and poorer people need agents and the law to protect them
- Left Realists – most working-class crime is committed against other working-class people!

**Criticisms of Reiman?**

- The study of social harm
  - **Constitutive criminology**
    - Harm comes from humans investing energy in power that denies or limits others’ humanity i.e. the powerful denying opportunity for the powerless
  - **Cultural criminology and the seductions of crime**
    - Uses everyday experiences to find out how and why certain cultural forms become criminalised
    - **Katz (1998):** crime is seductive
    - Crime is fun, especially for the powerless

**SUMMARY:**

Critical criminology observes crime for the powerful and powerless groups in society

- Crimes of the powerless are not as significant as those of the powerful
- Zemiology is the study of social harm(s)
- Has created and developed constitutive and cultural criminology

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### Critical Criminology

- Part of the victimised actor model
- Offenders are merely those labelled ‘criminal’
- Young offenders were stigmatized in moral panic
- Criticisms of Reiman?
- Zemiology is the study of social harm(s)
- Has created and developed constitutive and cultural criminology