Lesson 1: Explaining Crime from a comparative perspective

- Please visit the following website and choose China, England, France, and Japan to determine the most serious crime problem associated with each nation and write a one page narrative describing the problem:

  http://www.rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/rinslow/index.html

- After viewing the site and reading chapter 3 from your text please answer the following questions:
  1. What psychological, biological, and sociological theories apply to the crimes you discovered in your research?
  2. Use the internet to research crime rates of several capitalist and noncapitalist countries. Then write a paragraph in which you support or oppose the proposition that capitalist countries have higher crime rates than noncapitalist countries.

Class discussion topics for lesson 1

- What are major criticisms of conflict theory and how can you relate these criticisms to a comparative perspective?
- What are criticisms of the Anomie theory and do the countries listed above have the same issues related to Anomie that the United States has?