Anti-Social Behavior
“Man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn”
-Robert Burns

The 20th Century
• Dubbed the most violent of all time
• WWI (“the war to end all wars”) was promptly followed by WWII
  – 45 million deaths due to WWII alone
• Countless minor wars continue to break out, like hives, all over the world
• “The chief business of 20th century philosophy is to reckon with 20th century history”
  – R. G. Collingwood

In America
• Since 1990, 100,000 Americans per year have died as the result of violent crimes
• The time is ripe for people to learn how to resolve conflict – both international and personal – in nonviolent ways

Definition of Aggression
• “Physical or verbal behavior __________ to harm another”
• Social psychologists make 3 distinctions
• ____________
  – Aggression that is retaliatory, or tries to stave off aggression on the part of another
• ____________
  – Aggression that serves as a “means to an end”
• ____________ (emotional)
  – Aggression that is driven by negative affect

Which type of aggression?
Place a D, I, or H next to each example below
• A soldier shoots and kills a soldier from an opposing army
• A hockey player smashes a player from an opposing team with a stick to prevent him from scoring goal
• A sister angrily calls her brother a “stupid slob”
• A woman shoots mace at a would-be rapist
• The government executes a known murderer
• A man murders his wife’s lover in a jealous rage
• A parent spanks a disobedient child
• Two men kill a third man because he is gay
Hostile Aggression

- Aggression based on negative affect (i.e., that serves no greater purpose) is the most interesting to psychologists.
- What causes it? What factors increase and decrease its likelihood?

Is aggression an instinct?

- Freud argued that we are equal parts ________ (the need to create) and ____________ (the need to destroy).
- “Men are not gentle creatures who want to be loved, and who at the most can defend themselves if they are attacked; they are, on the contrary, creatures among whose instinctual endowments is a powerful share of aggressiveness”

For social psychologists

- Aggression is not an _______________
- Instead, personality, biological, and situational factors are more likely predictors of aggression.
- Personality
- Who is more aggressive? People with high or low self-esteem?

Conventional wisdom regards “_____ self-esteem” as the cause of aggression.
- But Roy Baumeister reviewed the literature and found that, on the contrary, people with _______ SE are more likely to aggress.
- Aggressors view themselves as “superior beings”.
- They often show inflated opinion of self – when they are confronted with evaluations that dispute this, they lash out.
- This is especially true when the challenger is considered an ____________.
- Rapists often choose a particular victim to disabuse her of her sense of superiority – they use rape as a means of proving her wrong.
- Baumeister argues it would be better to instill a sense of humility and modesty in aggressors, as opposed to working on “boosting” their self-esteem.
Biological bases of aggression

- Neurological
- Studies of prisoners convicted of violent crimes suggest the vast majority have suffered brain damage at some point in their lives
- In particular, damage to the _________ can lead to more aggression

“Testosterone poisoning”

- Chemical
- Higher levels of ___________ (T) and lower levels of ___________ (S) have also been linked to violent behavior
- Studies of both male and female prisoners showed an association between T-levels and violence – the higher the T-level, the more violent the crime
- This relationship holds up for juvenile delinquents and military veterans as well

Caution!

- What isn’t known is the direction of the causal link
- Animal studies show that T-levels increase in stressful situations
- So which came first, the prison or the T-level?

Low levels of S are associated with being more aggressive
- It also makes us more ___________ to aversive stimuli, which may explain the link
- Bernhardt (1997) has combined the testosterone and serotonin findings into an integrated model of aggression

Integrated model of aggression

High testosterone leads to more status-seeking behaviors (dominance), which results in more frustrating experiences. Low serotonin makes the frustration more aversive, resulting in higher likelihood for violence.
Situational influences on aggression

• Social psychologists have researched these the most
• Among the situational predictors studied are frustration, discomfort (e.g., heat and crowding), situational cues, cultural effects, and media influences

________________________-Aggression

• You don’t have to be High T or Low S to experience aggression
• The most researched influence on aggression is ________________
• But this alone is not enough to induce aggression – you also have to have thwarted expectations

The goal-interruption hypothesis

• Recall Mandler’s theory of emotion?
• When our goals are ______________ interrupted, the result is negative affect
• Frustation→Anger→Aggression

Frustration-Aggression in the lab:
the telemarketing study

• Researchers hired students to phone up strangers and ask for charity donations
• Hired on commission, students received a fraction of each dollar pledged
• Half of the students were led to expect a ________ rate of contributions
• The other half were told ________ to expect much success
• The experiment was rigged – none of the potential donors agreed to make a contribution

Results

• Students in the “high hopes” condition were angry!
• Students in the “low hopes” condition accepted their fate with relative calm
• Thus, Frustration → Aggression occurred only for students with _____ expectations
• Mandler’s theory also hypothesizes that the _______________________,
the more frustrating an interruption will be

Frustration-Aggression in the field:
The “butt in line” study
• Brave confederates were sent out to “butt in line” at various places (e.g.,
movie theatres)
• When they butted into ______ place, the people behind them protested
more often than if they butted into ______ place
  – People near the front are closer to their goal than people nearer the
back

Discomfort-Aggression
• Frustration is not the only situational factor that increases aggression
• Discomfort of all kinds (heat, noise, crowding) increases the likelihood of
aggression (see your text)
• Given the wide range of stimuli that makes us frustrated, uncomfortable
and angry, we should consider carefully whether “________” anger is a
means of reducing aggression

The ______________ hypothesis
• It comes from Freud’s “hydraulic” model – the more steam you let off, the
less steam there will be available to transform into aggression
• Conversely, if you repress anger, it will eventually boil over into violence
• This idea is so commonly expressed that you might be surprised to find
there is ______________________ to support this hypothesis

  “violence _________ violence”
• Football players report______ aggression after a season than before it
begins
• Sports fans engage in _______ aggression after the event is over,
compared with before
• Cross-culturally, a nation’s murder rate tends to _________ immediately
after a war is over
• Couples who engage in _________ ________ are also more physically
violent toward one another
Catharsis in the lab:
the rubber mallet study

• In each case, the pattern is _______________ to the catharsis hypothesis
• Experimenters (using the teacher-learner paradigm) have also manipulated whether anger is “vented” or not
• Some subjects suffered an insult, and then all were given the chance to administer shocks to an innocent confederate
• Half of the insulted subjects were allowed to beat on the table with rubber mallets before the shocking started; the other half were not

Results
• If the catharsis hypothesis was correct, insulted subjects who banged on the table would have shocked the innocent victim less
• Instead, “venting” had no effect – _______________ was the only thing that predicted how many shocks were delivered

Cue-Aggression hypothesis
• Your text discusses Berkowitz’s research on ______________
• He showed that insulted subjects were more likely to shock innocent confederates if a _______________ (compared with a racquet)
• Why? Because _____ are _______ that prime us to think about violence
• Let’s consider how this might work at the cultural level

Cultural differences
• A broad situational factor concerns the culture we grow up in
• The U.S. is notoriously known as a “violent culture” – because of our media and our love of guns
• In fact, Americans murder one another at a rate that astonishes the rest of the world

Situational cue?
• Americans are more likely to possess hand guns
  – It is estimated that between 65-80 million Americans own between 200-225 million firearms
  – Over the past ten years, the U.S. averaged over ___________ hand-gun homicides per year
  – The U.K. has averaged less than _______
• If you compare Vancouver, B.C. to Seattle, WA (two cities equal on nearly every other factor but guns), Seattle has 10 times the number of murders

Subculture effects
• Americans in the South are substantially more murderous than Northerners
• Interestingly, Southerners don’t __________________ in general more than Northerners
• But they do agree more that a violent response to an insult is ________

“Culture of honor”
• Dov Cohen and Richard Nisbett argue that Southerners are descended from Celtic (Scotch/Welch) immigrants – known for their “culture of honor”
• In a culture of honor, people are quick to take offense at the slightest provocation
• And the response to “offenses” is more violent in nature

Field Study
• They sent a fake resume and cover letter to several companies in the South and North
• In it, the applicant admits to being a felon, but the crime was provoked by someone insulting his __________________
• The response was dramatically different, with Southern companies ___________________________________ substantially more than Northern companies

Lab Experiment
• University of Michigan students were recruited; half hailed from the South, half from the North
• Subjects filled out a bogus survey, and were told to bring it to a table at the end of a long hall
• Planted in the hallway was a confederate standing with a file drawer open, digging through files
• To pass by, the confederate had to shut the file drawer – acting extremely inconvenienced, he insulted subjects as he did so
• He then escaped to a locked office
• In general, Southern subjects showed a lot more __________
• Northerners tended to act more __________
• How did they measure aggression?

• The primary DV was “____________________” in the hallway
• To leave, the subject had to walk down the hallway again – this time, a second confederate approached, coming the other way
• Researchers measured ______________________________________

     Results
• On average, Northern subjects moved out of the way ______________ as did Southern subjects – suggesting that those from the South were more ______________________________________

     Rape
• Contrary to murder, rape is a form of aggression found in all cultures
• Typically, men are the aggressors and women the victims
• More than ______% of college women report some form of sexual aggression (rape, attempted rape, sexual coercion), and _____% of college men admit to having been the perpetrators

     A cognitive sex⇒aggression link
• Because men may behave aggressively in sexual situations (and women know this), both genders might show an automatic link between sex and aggression
• Mussweiler & Forster (2000) used a priming technique and found that, indeed, this was the case
• But which gender should be more likely to behave aggressively after being primed with sex?

     The dart study
• The cover story: S’s were told that researchers were interested in finding out if people do cognitive tasks better with or without music
• S’s then engaged in a “find a word” puzzle task
• Primed subjects found __________ words planted in their puzzle
• Control subjects found neutral words (desk, chair, paper)
• The idea was to prime some subjects with _________ words to see if they would behave more ______________ than controls
The behavioral measure

- After the priming task, S’s engaged in an ostensibly unrelated experiment about the effects of free will on skill performance
- The skill was dart-throwing – S’s were first told where to throw, and then they got to choose where to throw the dart
- Each subject threw 10 darts each time

Hypothesis

- The dartboard contained pictures of male and female faces, as well as inanimate objects
- Men primed with sex should be more ____________ (aim for people), compared with controls
- Women should _________show a behavioral sex→aggression link

Summary

- Men primed to think about sex were_______ likely to exhibit aggression, compared with __________________________
- Women were not affected by the priming manipulation (they were equally aggressive as the control men, and less aggressive than the primed men)
• For men, the situational cue of “________” appears to operate in the same way that the situational cue of “_______” operates – it predisposes them toward aggression
• Perhaps the culturally transmitted link between “sex and violence” (e.g., through the media) is partly responsible for this
• In addition, men are often portrayed as responding aggressively in sexual situations
• By contrast, women are more often portrayed as the victims (rather than perpetrators) of sexual violence

Media and anti-social behavior
• Is violence on TV linked to aggression?
• Do video-games incite violence?
• Is pornography linked to sexual violence?

_____________ relationships?
• According to Myers, the answer seems to be “yes” – although __________relationships are not well established
• It could be that people who are attracted to violent media are predisposed to be anti-social to begin with
• To determine the direction of relationships, we need __________

Milgram’s “Medical Center” study
• Stanley Milgram set up a clever experiment in the 1970’s
• People were invited to view an episode of “Medical Center”
• Afterwards, they were given directions to an office where they could pick up their compensation – a free radio

Method
• In fact, people watched one of 4 versions of the show (N = 400)
  1 Dr. Gannon berates and fires an intern, who later is seen breaking into charity boxes all over the city and stealing the proceeds (unpunished)
  2 The intern steals the proceeds and is _______________________
  3 The intern does something prosocial in response to being fired
  4 Control condition: the episode concerned a romance
Guess the theory

• Which theory was he relying on here?

______________________

Method, cont’d

• Subjects were given different times to show up at the office, but in all cases they were met with a note explaining “all the prizes were gone”
• A charity box was placed in a conspicuous place, and a $1 bill was hanging out of it
• So subjects are frustrated, but would they act in an anti-social way?
• __________________ theory states only if they had watched the intern get away with it
• A camera recorded their reactions (fill in the blanks below)

% of subjects who stole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stealing (no pun)</th>
<th>Stealing (pun)</th>
<th>Pro-social</th>
<th>Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stole 1$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stole the whole box</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stole other items</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

• These findings are __________________ to the hypothesis
• In fact, _____________ subjects often behaved worse than the other groups
Follow-up research

- Maybe subjects were suspicious
- So Milgram tried broadcasting his different episodes in two cities (NY and St. Louis)
- He difference in stealing behaviors
- He tried all kinds of boosters and facilitators, but was able to support the link between media & anti-social acts

Known effects

- There are some other, well-established effects of media on anti-social behavior
- These are not directly linked to violence, but they are serious nonetheless
- Paranoia
- Increased Stereotyping

Desensitization

- People exposed to violent media show less the next time they view violence
- They also engage in more “” after reading about a crime victim
- So exposure to violence decreases our ability to respond appropriately to violent situations

Erotica?

- In the 1970’s, researchers worked hard to prove a link between and
- But they eventually had to admit that erotica was
- The only effects they could find concerned , erotic materials
Paranoia

- People who watch a lot of violence are also more likely to be afraid of a dangerous world, and to ________________
- One of the worst things you can watch is ________________
  - But shows like “COPS” also gives us a terrible view of the world

Stereotyping

- People who watch __________________, period, are more likely to endorse a host of stereotypes
- This is not surprising, considering that _________________ rely on stereotypes to communicate “what groups are like”
- One of the worst offenders is ________________

- From Archie Bunker to Will and Grace, we seem to like our characters to rely on stereotypes when they talk about others, or to come packaged in familiar forms
- So stereotypes may serve a “__________ ___________” function, giving us a way to communicate to one another about ourselves