

Criminology: Foundations and Modern Applications

CRIMINOLOGY: FOUNDATIONS AND MODERN APPLICATIONS

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CONTENTS

CRIMINOLOGY: Foundations and Modern Applications	vii
License & Attributions	viii
Author Bio	ix
How to Use this Material	x
Description	xii
Course Overview	xiv
Introduction	1

Part I. SECTION I – CRIMINOLOGY: FOUNDATIONS AND PARADIGMATIC SHIFTS

Crime, Deviance, and Criminology as a Mainstream Discipline	5
Criminology and Public Policy	15
The Measurement of Crime	27
Social Construction of Crime	37

Part II. SECTION II - THEORIES OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Classical and Rational Choice Theories	55
Psychology of Crime	69
Social Structure and Crime	83
Social Process and Crime	97
Critical Approaches to Law and Crime	108
Crime Over the Life-Course	120

Part III. SECTION III - CORRELATES OF CRIME

Age, Gender, and Crime	131
Families and Crime	141
Mental Illness and Crime	151
Race/Ethnicity and Crime	159
Social Class and Crime	165
Glossary	171

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Eric R Ramirez-Thompson, PhD
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AUTHOR BIO

Eric R. Ramirez-Thompson, PhD, Chair | Professor of Criminal and Justice Studies, College of DuPage <https://www.cod.edu/faculty/websites/thompsons/index.aspx>

Dr. Ramirez-Thompson is a dedicated educator in the field of Criminology, Law, and Justice, holding a doctorate from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) where he was a recipient of the prestigious Lincoln Fellowship. His current research focuses on the impact of technology on crime and deviance, examining both direct and indirect effects, and exploring how computerization has transformed the criminal justice profession over the past decade.

Before his tenure in Chicago, Dr. Ramirez-Thompson earned both a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). During this time, he contributed significantly to the Orange County Adult Drug Court (OCADC), particularly in developing alternative treatment modalities with a focus on exercise.

Dr. Ramirez-Thompson's scholarly contributions include peer-reviewed publications on intellectual property theft, drug court interventions, and the integration of physical fitness in client treatment programs. He has also served as a guest author for books addressing health and wellness for first responders.

For the past twenty years, Dr. Ramirez-Thompson has been a Professor and Chair of the Criminal and Justice Studies (CJS) Department at the College of DuPage, Illinois's second-largest undergraduate education provider. He passionately integrates wellness into his teaching, encouraging future criminal justice professionals to prioritize physical and emotional health.

A former competitive athlete, Dr. Ramirez-Thompson practices what he preaches through a lifestyle he calls "demonstrative practice," exemplifying the benefits of physical fitness and wellness in his daily life.

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

This digital resource was developed as part of the College of DuPage's Criminal and Justice Studies program to support key objectives of the discipline. The open-educational resource (OER) [initiative](#) provides faculty and students with an alternative to exceedingly expensive textbooks, with the goal of establishing programs that offer students with a zero-cost for textbooks. Even more important than the cost savings, the development and adoption of an OER alternative, is the opportunity to enhance learning in a current and meaningful way. Students unquestionably benefit from reading current up-to-date reports and resources rather than increasingly obsolete information that is typically found within a mainstream textbook. In addition, faculty benefit from the opportunity to advance their own scholarship within their respective area of expertise.

Read, Review, Watch, and Listen

Throughout this course, resources are categorized into four areas; that is, **readings** of scholarly articles or government reports; **reviewing** of websites, related resources, and supplements; **watching** of presentations and lectures; and **listening** to media or audio recordings.

Read – Readings provides students with an opportunity to visually engage with the material and improves their ability to achieve a higher-level of analysis and synthesis. The reading of academic scholarship, government reports, and professional literature is an indispensable part of the course and appeals to the visual learner who process information via text, tables, graphs, and illustrations.

Review – Students will review relevant resources throughout the term. The review of relevant material provides for a cursory examination of course-related terms and concepts. Reviewing news stories or pertinent articles is a way to enhance knowledge and comprehension.

Watch – Visual learners benefit from an opportunity to watch course-related material. The incorporation of media also contextualizes some of those more salient aspects of the course while strengthening interest and engagement.

Listen – Throughout the course, students will listen to chapter specific presentations. Audio presentations provide students who are auditory learners with an opportunity to understand information.

Although all module requirements are equally important, the amount of time needed to work through the material each week will vary. To that end, students should use the provided Weekly Checklists to manage their time and ensure that they have enough time to complete all activities and/or writing assignments before the end of the respective week.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about College of DuPage's Criminal and Justice Studies program.

DESCRIPTION

Course Description (as it appears in catalog)

Criminology – Students are introduced to theoretical explanations of crime, criminality, and society’s response to antisocial and law violating behavior. Theories of crime causation are used to understand crime patterns, evaluate trends, and understand how social scientific inquiry impact research, theory, and public policy. (3 lecture hours)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Review the social construction of crime, deviance, and delinquency [M1]
2. Interpret national crime facts and patterns [M3]
3. Summarize classical theory and its impact on public and criminal justice policy [M5]
4. Summarize positivist theory and its impact on public and criminal justice policy [M1]
5. Identify theories of crime causation [M5-M10]
6. Identify the principles and applications of modern biological theories [M1]
7. Explain principles of psychological and psychiatric theories [M6]
8. Describe the historical and empirical development of sociological theories [M1 & M2]
9. Illustrate how social structure theories have influenced social policy related to youth violence and poverty [M3]
10. Summarize the development of social process and development theories [M8]
11. Illustrate how social process and development theories have influenced public policy [M3]
12. Summarize the history of social conflict theory [M10]
13. Describe elements of peacemaking, feminist, convict, and postmodern criminology [M9]
14. Evaluate the goals, outcomes, and philosophical positions (liberal, conservative, and radical) associated with a modern criminal justice system [M4]
15. Explain how conflict theories have influenced shared consensus and a modern crime control model [M9]
16. Apply classical and positivist theory to an examination of violent, property, and white-collar crime [M11-M15]
17. Analyze how the social construction of crime, deviance, and delinquency are related to public order crime [M4]
18. Evaluate the need for new theory related to cybercrime and new innovations in offending [M11-M15]
19. Explain the role of comparative criminology in understanding terrorism and other newly emerging threats [M2]

This open educational resource (OER) is designed to supplement and coincide with content populated within the College's learning management system (LMS); that is, Blackboard. Students must complete readings as they appear within a particular chapter/ and submit all related work via the LMS.

COURSE OVERVIEW

SECTION I – CRIMINOLOGY: FOUNDATIONS AND PARADIGMATIC SHIFTS

Module 1: [Crime, Deviance, and Criminology as a Mainstream Discipline](#)

Module 2: [Criminology and the Public Policy Connection](#)

Module 3: [The Measurement of Crime](#)

Module 4: [The Social Construction of Crime](#)

SECTION II – THEORIES OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Module 5: [Classical and Rational Choice Theories](#)

Module 6: [Psychology of Crime](#)

Module 7: [Social Structure and Crime](#)

Module 8: [Social Process and Crime](#)

Module 9: [Critical Approaches to Law and Crime](#)

Module 10: [Crime Over the Life-Course](#)

SECTION III – CORRELATES OF CRIME

Module 11: [Age, Gender, and Crime](#)

Module 12: [Families and Crime](#)

Module 13: [Mental Illness and Crime](#)

Module 14: [Race/Ethnicity and Crime](#)

Module 15: [Social Class and Crime](#)

INTRODUCTION

This course provides students with an introductory review of the intellectual domain called criminology. Throughout the course, students learn about the origins and development of the discipline of criminology through a thorough review of the most notable social theory related to deviance and crime. In addition to a review of traditional criminological teachings, the course provides an opportunity to apply traditional theoretical frameworks within a modern context. That is, each chapter incorporates modern forms of crime, e.g., cybercrime, to promote a demonstrated and applied learning experience that is intended to strengthen the student's ability to understand crime within the twenty-first century while strengthening their understanding of theory, policy, and practice.

To date, scholarship involving crime is extensive and is available to academics, practitioners, policymakers, students, etc. In fact, some might describe the voluminous amount of information a bit overwhelming. There are enumerable government databases that warehouse reports, monographs, fact sheets, bulletins, applied research, data sets and more! Although these data sources are invaluable to understanding the nature and extent of crime, new students may find themselves a bit overwhelmed by agencies and their proprietary nomenclature. Therefore, theoretical criminology is often viewed as antiquated and less relevant than the modern version of applied criminology.

Criminologists with an understanding of those traditional academic foundations are uniquely positioned to contribute to research and policy that addresses those challenges and evolving dynamics in the field of crime and criminal justice. One notable change in the landscape of crime and deviance is the cybercrime. The digital age has brought new forms of criminal activity, such as cybercrime, identity theft, online harassment, and various types of fraud. Criminologists should study these emerging forms of crime, understand their causes and consequences, and develop effective strategies to prevent and combat them.

Social scientists should continue to explore the underlying factors that contribute to criminal behavior. This includes investigating individual, social, economic, and environmental influences that may lead to criminality. By understanding the root causes, policymakers and practitioners can develop evidence-based interventions and prevention strategies. In addition, the benefit and importance of evidence-based practices in the criminal justice system must be both documented and communicated throughout the public sphere. More succinctly, research should inform policy decisions, law enforcement practices, correctional interventions, and crime prevention efforts. Evaluating the effectiveness of various approaches and interventions is crucial for improving outcomes and reducing recidivism.

As a course of study, criminology should also pay increased attention to the experiences and needs of victims of crime. This involves studying the impact of victimization, improving support services, and developing strategies to prevent victimization in the first place. Restorative justice approaches and victim-offender

mediation can also be areas of focus. In addition, research and program evaluation within the criminal justice domain should examine the ways in which structural inequalities, systemic biases, and social injustices intersect with crime and the criminal justice system. This includes studying the disproportionate representation of marginalized communities in the criminal justice system and addressing issues of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in law enforcement, sentencing, and rehabilitation.

Given the complex nature of crime and its causes, criminology should collaborate with other disciplines such as sociology, psychology, economics, public health, and computer science. Interdisciplinary criminological research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of crime and contribute to innovative solutions.

Because criminology is a social science and provides a basis from which we can develop a robust understanding of the criminal mind, the nature of crime, and the role of institutions of social control, e.g., the police and prisons, we remain committed to making this ever-growing body of empirical research and practical knowledge available to most anybody with an Internet connection. Having said that, once students get past the web of government agencies and resources, they require basic knowledge about the philosophical underpinnings to give attention to social justice issues and government control of society vis-à-vis police, courts, and corrections.

PART I

SECTION I – CRIMINOLOGY: FOUNDATIONS AND PARADIGMATIC SHIFTS

Section I includes four modules: (1) Crime, Deviance, and Criminology as a Mainstream Discipline, (2) Criminology and Public Policy, (3) The Measurement of Crime, and the (4) The Social Construction of Crime. Collectively, these four modules provide an opportunity to understand the social construction for deviance and crime, which is an essential part of learning criminology because crime is a diverse matter and as such requires a plurality of influences; that is, multidisciplinary. As a social science, criminology is multidisciplinary and as an intellectual domain is derived from a variety of academic disciplines that include, but are not limited to, psychology, biology, anthropology, law, political science, and most specifically sociology. Throughout the section, particular attention is given to understanding the connection between criminology and public policy as philosophical underpinnings are inextricably linked to social justice issues and governmental control of society vis vie police, courts, and corrections. Examples of social policy that are impacted by criminological scholarship include ways to improve crime prevention, interdiction, enforcement, rehabilitation strategies, etc. Criminological inquiry contributes to a substantial base of understanding that provides the basis for informing social policy, which is one of the most significant yet often underappreciated aspects of the collective effort.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=92#audio-92-1>

CRIME, DEVIANCE, AND CRIMINOLOGY AS A MAINSTREAM DISCIPLINE

Module 1 provides a comprehensive overview of criminology, equipping learners with foundational knowledge and critical insights into the field. It begins by defining criminology and distinguishing it from criminal justice, emphasizing how criminology focuses on understanding the causes and nature of crime, while criminal justice pertains to the systems and processes that address criminal behavior.

The module delves into the work of criminologists, outlining their roles in studying crime patterns, analyzing criminal behavior, and contributing to policy development. It traces the history and evolution of criminology, highlighting significant milestones and the discipline's development over time. Special attention is given to Edwin Sutherland's contributions, particularly his role in shaping modern criminological theory. In addition, the module explores essential concepts in social science research, such as variables and their use in criminological studies. The module defines determinism and explains how it contrasts with positivism, setting the stage for an in-depth discussion on rational choice theory and its core principles.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- define criminology.
- discuss the difference between criminal justice and criminology.
- describe the work of criminologists.
- summarize the history and evolution of criminology.
- recognize those contributions to the discipline made by Edwin Sutherland.

- Identify variables used during social science inquiry.
- define determinism.
- restate the tenets of rational choice theory.
- explain the difference between determinism and positivism.
- discuss the difference between applied and theoretical criminology

Summary

Criminology is a field of study that focuses on understanding crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system. It involves the examination of various aspects of crime, including its causes, consequences, and prevention. Criminologists utilize theories, research methods, and data analysis to gain insights into criminal behavior and its societal impact.

The main objectives of criminology are to develop an understanding of why crimes occur, to identify patterns and trends in criminal behavior, and to find effective strategies for crime prevention and control. Criminologists study various factors that contribute to criminal behavior, including individual, social, economic, and environmental factors. By examining these factors, criminologists aim to explain why some individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activities than others.

Criminology draws upon multiple disciplines, including sociology, psychology, economics, and law. It incorporates a range of research methods, such as surveys, interviews, experiments, and statistical analysis, to collect and analyze data. These methods help criminologists to study crime rates, victimization patterns, offender profiles, and the effectiveness of different interventions.

The findings of criminological research can be applied to policy development and crime prevention strategies. Criminologists often work closely with law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and social organizations to develop evidence-based approaches to crime reduction. They may also contribute to the development of laws and policies that aim to promote social justice and reduce crime rates.

Some areas of specialization within criminology include:

- **Theoretical criminology** – Examining various theories that seek to explain why individuals commit crimes, such as strain theory, social learning theory, and rational choice theory.
- **Criminal profiling** – Analyzing offender characteristics, behaviors, and patterns of criminal activity to develop profiles that assist in the identification and apprehension of criminals.
- **Penology** – Studying the punishment and rehabilitation of offenders, including the effectiveness of correctional programs and the impact of imprisonment on recidivism.

- **Victimology** – Investigating the experiences and consequences of crime on victims, as well as the factors that contribute to victimization and ways to support and empower victims.
- **Comparative criminology** – Comparing crime rates, criminal justice systems, and crime prevention strategies across different countries or regions to understand the impact of social and cultural factors.

Criminologists, as scholars and researchers, play a critical role in advancing our understanding of crime. They study crime patterns, causes, and societal impacts, often conducting research that informs public policy and practice within the criminal justice system. The work of criminologists is essential in identifying variables during social science inquiry, such as socioeconomic status, education, and environment, which are crucial in analyzing crime trends and developing prevention strategies.

Overall, criminology aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of crime and contribute to the development of evidence-based policies and interventions to prevent and address criminal behavior in society.

Criminologists have developed several established theoretical domains to explain why individuals engage in crime, including:

1. **Rational Choice Theory** suggests that individuals engage in crime because they believe it is a profitable and low-risk activity. In other words, they weigh the potential benefits of committing a crime against the potential risks of getting caught and punished.
2. **Social Structure Theory** is a criminological perspective that examines how social structures and institutions in society contribute to criminal behavior. It suggests that the arrangement and organization of social institutions, such as the family, education, economy, and the community, play a significant role in shaping individual behavior and influencing the likelihood of criminal involvement.
3. **Social Learning Theory** argues that individuals learn to engage in crime through observing the behaviors of others, particularly those who are close to them. They may also be influenced by media portrayals of hackers as glamorous and successful.
4. **Strain Theory** posits that individuals engage in crime when they experience strain or pressure in their lives, such as economic hardship or social exclusion. Crime may provide a way for them to alleviate their stress or gain a sense of power and control.
5. **Routine Activities Theory** suggests that crime occurs when there is a convergence of three factors: a motivated offender, a suitable target (such as a vulnerable computer system), and the absence of capable guardians (such as effective cybersecurity measures).
6. **Self-Control Theory** proposes that individuals who engage in crime have low levels of self-control, which makes them more likely to act impulsively and make decisions without considering the consequences.

Overall, these criminological theories help us understand the various motives, opportunities, and situational

factors that contribute to crime. By better understanding the underlying causes of this type of criminal behavior, we can develop more effective strategies for preventing and responding to cybercrime.

The history and evolution of criminology have been shaped by key contributions, most notably by Edwin Sutherland, who is renowned for his theory of differential association. Sutherland's work emphasized the role of socialization in the development of criminal behavior, highlighting that criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others.

Criminology has also grappled with theoretical frameworks like determinism and rational choice theory. Determinism suggests that human behavior is influenced by factors beyond individual control, while rational choice theory posits that individuals weigh the costs and benefits before engaging in criminal activity. This distinction highlights the difference between determinism and positivism, where positivism asserts that human behavior can be studied and understood through scientific observation.

Finally, the field distinguishes between applied criminology, which focuses on practical interventions to reduce crime, and theoretical criminology, which seeks to develop and refine the theories that explain criminal behavior. Together, these aspects provide a comprehensive understanding of criminology as a discipline.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-11>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Applied Criminology

Chicago School of Social Ecology

Classical School of Criminology

Comparative Criminology

Correlation

Criminal Justice

Criminologist**Determinism****Edwin Sutherland****Positivism****Rational Choice Theory****Theoretical Criminology****Theory****Variables**

This following short interactive activity is ungraded and designed to enhance memorization.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-4>

Modern Application

There is a growing need to understand internal (i.e., individual) and external (i.e., social and structural) factors that contribute to various forms of digital crime. Therefore, traditional aspects of criminology must embrace new paradigms that consider the digital context and its influence on human behavior. Applications of newly proposed cybercriminological frameworks will invariably prove beneficial for both private and public sectors.

Understanding what internal and external conditions contribute to the commission of cybercrime makes it possible to prevent, respond to, and even eliminate the incentive to engage in various forms of digitally facilitated deviance and crime.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is the Nation's central hub for reporting cyber crime. Historically, the FBI has played an important role in our understanding of crime within the United States. Therefore, it is instructive to review current examples of, "Traditional crimes committed in non-traditional ways."

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – [Cyber Crime news and press releases](#)

Read, Review, Watch, and Listen

1. Read Chapter 1: *Criminology as Social Science: Paradigmatic Resiliency and Shift in the 21st Century* by J. Michell Miller, University of Texas at San Antonio (M. J. Miller, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-13>

This chapter:

- provides a comprehensive overview of criminology as a social science, tracing its historical development, theoretical and methodological foundations, and future directions.
- concludes that criminology is a dynamic and evolving discipline that is influenced by multiple disciplines and perspectives, and that criminology has a vital role in informing social policy and criminal justice practice.
- implies that criminology is a relevant and important field of study that can enhance our knowledge and understanding of crime as a social phenomenon, and that criminology can contribute to the prevention and reduction of crime and the promotion of justice and peace.

2. Read Chapter 2: *History and Evolution of Criminology*, by Charles F. Wellford, University of Maryland (as cited in M.J. Miller, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.





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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-29>

This chapter:

- introduces criminology is the scientific study of the making, breaking, and reaction to lawbreaking.
 - explains that criminology has two main foundations: (1) the interdisciplinary explanation of crime and (2) the analysis of the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.
 - describes criminology as a separate field of study in the 1930s and 1940s, influenced by the works of Beccaria and Lombroso, among others.
- provides an overview of the development of criminological theories of crime and describes various phases of theoretical development: (1) single-factor reductionism, (2) systemic reductionism, (3) multidisciplinary approaches, and (4) interdisciplinary theory.
- describes the future of criminology and criminal Justice, which has become one of the most dynamic and fastest growing social sciences, with a commitment to scientific rigor, interdisciplinary theory, and improving the criminal justice system.

3. Review Florida State University's Department of Computer Science, [Why Major in Cyber Criminology](#)
Cybercriminology is important for several reasons in today's digital age:



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-14>

In essence, cybercriminology plays a critical role in enhancing our understanding of cybercriminal behavior, devising effective countermeasures, protecting sensitive information, and maintaining the overall security of digital systems and networks.

4. Watch the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's [Hypothesis 101 \(and other Social Science Concepts\)](#) [28:50] (also embedded below)

Hypothesis testing is a fundamental concept in statistics that is used to make informed decisions about a population based on a sample of data. It involves the formulation of hypotheses, statistical

analysis of sample data, and drawing conclusions about the population. Hypothesis testing helps researchers and analysts determine whether observed effects or differences in data are statistically significant or if they could have occurred by chance.

The process of hypothesis testing typically involves the following steps:



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#h5p-15>

5. Watch [Careers in criminology](#) (UniSC University of the Sunshine Coast, Aug. 30, 2021) [also embedded below]

To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#oembed-1>



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=94#oembed-2>

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define criminology and what are its main objectives?
2. What are some of the major paradigm shifts in criminology and what factors influenced them?
3. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of different research methods in criminology and how do they relate to theory?
4. What are some of the current and emerging trends and challenges in criminology and how can they be addressed?
5. How can criminology be more interdisciplinary and policy relevant and what are some of the barriers and opportunities for doing so?

Supplemental Resources

- Additional resources are added by the professor if/when they deem relevant to the module.

References

1. Wellford, Charles F. "History and Evolution of Criminology." 21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook, edited by J. Mitchell Miller, vol. 1, SAGE Reference, 2009, pp. 10-17. 21st Century Reference Series. Gale eBooks, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600011/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=2fa78a10. Accessed 29 Dec. 2023.
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3. *Why major in cyber criminology*. Computer Science. (n.d.). <https://www.cs.fsu.edu/academics/why-major-in-cyber-criminology/>. Accessed 29 Dec. 2023.
4. UniSC: University of the Sunshine Coast. (2021, August 31). *Careers in criminology*. YouTube. <https://youtu.be/RXWSQe8SzMM?feature=shared>. Accessed 29 Dec. 2023.

5. *Crime, Deviance, and Criminology as a Social Science*. <https://cod.yuja.com/V/Video?v=7963656&a=77764040>. Ramirez-Thompson, E.R., 2023. Accessed 29 Dec. 2023.

CRIMINOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY

Module 2 provides an overview of the connection between criminology and public policy. An informed and effective social policy is the byproduct of empirical work undertaken by dedicated social scientists who seek to understand the nature and extent of crime within the context of existing criminal justice and social policy. This module explores those natural and yet inextricable links between criminology and public policy, which often dilutes the impact and influence that research findings might reveal. Particular attention is given to understanding the policy-relevant research that in many instances has little to no measurable effect on public policy.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=98#audio-98-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- sequence the emergence of criminology as a theoretically oriented field of study.
- discuss the influence of criminal justice on the study of crime.
- describe the difference between criminology and criminal justice.
- examine arguments in favor of and against the participation of criminal justice in the study of crime.
- list ways that criminology informs public policy.
- define program evaluation as a method for assessing the process and impact of criminal justice programs.
- explain the significance of program evaluation as a method for assessing the process and impact of criminal justice programs.

- identify important types and components of program evaluation.
- describe some important evaluation studies in criminology and criminal justice.
- list various methods of evaluation research.

Summary

Criminology and public policy share a close and interconnected relationship. Criminology is the scientific study of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. Public policy, on the other hand, refers to the actions and decisions made by governmental bodies to address societal issues and shape the overall functioning of society.

The link between criminology and public policy is multifaceted and revolves around the understanding, prevention, control, and response to crime. Criminological research and theories provide valuable insights into the causes and consequences of criminal behavior, which in turn inform the development and implementation of effective public policies.

Here are some key aspects of the link between criminology and public policy:

1. Informing policy development – Criminological research helps policymakers understand the underlying causes of crime, such as social, economic, and psychological factors. This knowledge can guide the formulation of evidence-based policies that address these root causes and reduce criminal behavior.
2. Crime prevention strategies – Criminologists study various crime prevention strategies and their effectiveness. These insights help policymakers design and implement targeted interventions to prevent crime, such as community policing initiatives, situational crime prevention measures, or rehabilitation programs for offenders.
3. Criminal justice system reform – Criminological research critically examines the functioning and outcomes of the criminal justice system. It identifies areas of improvement, such as reducing recidivism rates, addressing racial or socio-economic disparities, or improving the fairness and efficiency of the system. This information can guide policymakers in reforming laws, policies, and practices within the criminal justice system.
4. Evidence-based policy evaluation – Criminology plays a crucial role in evaluating the effectiveness of existing policies and programs aimed at crime reduction or offender rehabilitation. Through rigorous research methodologies, criminologists assess the impact of policies, helping policymakers make informed decisions about continuing, modifying, or discontinuing certain approaches.
5. Public safety and risk assessment – Criminologists contribute to public policy by studying the risks and

threats to public safety, such as terrorism, organized crime, or cybercrime. Their findings aid policymakers in developing strategies to mitigate these risks, enhance public safety, and allocate resources effectively.

6. Shaping public opinion and discourse – Criminology, through its research findings, can shape public opinion and public discourse on crime-related issues. This influence can guide public policy by creating awareness, mobilizing public support for specific policies or reforms, and facilitating public engagement in decision-making processes.

It is important to recognize that the link between criminology and public policy is a dynamic and ongoing process. Criminologists and policymakers need to collaborate, share knowledge, and engage in an iterative dialogue to develop effective policies that promote public safety, crime prevention, and justice.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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Overview of the Evidence-Based Approach

The evidence-based approach can be applied to policymaking in various fields. The first step is to identify the problem. That is, clearly define the problem that needs to be addressed. This could be a societal issue, a health concern, an educational gap, etc.

Second, conduct rigorous research to gather data and evidence about the problem. This could involve reviewing existing literature, conducting new studies, or analyzing data.

Third, conduct an analysis of the data, which requires the use of statistical methods to analyze the data and draw conclusions. The goal is to understand the causes and effects of the problem, and to identify potential solutions.

Fourth, based on the evidence derived from the statistical analysis, develop policy proposals that are likely

to address the problem effectively. These proposals should be grounded in the evidence, not just in theory or ideology.

The fifth step involves the implementation of the policy. That is, put the policy into action. This could involve passing legislation, launching programs, allocating resources, etc.

Sixth and arguably one of the most important steps involves evaluation. Meaning, after the policy has been implemented, conduct further research to evaluate its effectiveness. This could involve collecting new data, conducting surveys, etc.

Finally, results derived from the evaluation must contribute to the refining of the policy as needed. This could involve adjusting, scaling up successful initiatives, or trying new approaches.

This process ensures that policies are not just based on theory or ideology but are grounded in evidence about what works. It promotes accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in policymaking. It's important to note that this is an iterative process – policies should be continually monitored, evaluated, and refined based on new evidence. This approach can be applied to any field, from healthcare and education to environmental policy and criminal justice. It requires a commitment to rigorous research, open-mindedness to the evidence, and a willingness to make policy decisions based on what the evidence shows, rather than what one might intuitively believe or prefer.

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

Agency Practice

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.®)

Efficiency Analysis

Evaluation Research

Evidence-Based Criminology

Expert Testimony

Formative Evaluations

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.®)

Impact Evaluation

Intensive Supervision Programs (ISP)

Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment

Legislative Process

Needs Assessment

Peer Review

Process Evaluation**Public Policy****Summative Evaluations****White Papers**

Modern Application

Cybercriminology – combines coursework within the behavioral sciences and Computer Science to study the growing problem of computer crime.

- Watch TEDx Talk [Cyber Crime Isn't About Computers: It's About Behavior](#) (Anderson, 2017) [also embedded below]
- Listen to *Ransomware and Other Cyberattacks on K-12 Schools*:



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Want to learn more about the study of Cybercriminology? Then [CLICK HERE](#) and explore the British Journal of Cyber Criminology (BJCC). The BJCC is a peer-reviewed online (open access) journal focused on the criminal activities that occur within the cyber environment, such as those involving computer networks, information systems, and the internet.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 3: [Criminology and Public Policy](#) by Todd R. Clear, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Natasha A. Frost, Northeastern University (Clear & Frost, 2009)
 - Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
 - To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=98#h5p-18>

This chapter:

- highlights the complex relationship between criminology and public policy, emphasizing that despite criminology’s natural relevance to policy matters, its impact on policymaking has been limited historically due to various academic and institutional barriers.
- discusses the emergence and evolution of criminology, explaining how it initially focused on understanding crime through theoretical perspectives, while the field of criminal justice developed later to examine and assess the functioning of criminal justice institutions.
- explores the “what works” movement in criminology, advocating for evidence-based policies grounded in rigorous research and systematic evaluations to guide interventions in crime prevention, corrections, and policing.
- addresses the debate on whether criminologists should engage directly in policy advocacy, presenting arguments both for and against active involvement, including ethical obligations to prevent injustice and concerns over politicization of research findings.
- examines how criminologists can influence policy through individual efforts, such as publishing policy-relevant research and participating in media, as well as through collective actions by professional organizations advocating for evidence-based practices and responsible use of crime data.

2. **Voluntarily** read Chapter 50: *Program Evaluation*, by Jodi Lane, University of Florida (Lane, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=98#h5p-30>

This chapter:

- explains the purpose of program evaluation in criminal justice, emphasizing its role in assessing the effectiveness of programs aimed at reducing crime and aiding offenders, thus helping policymakers allocate limited resources efficiently.
- outlines different types of evaluations, including needs assessments, process evaluations, impact evaluations, and efficiency analyses, each serving a unique function in evaluating whether programs meet their intended goals and provide value.
- highlights the importance of collaboration between researchers and practitioners, noting that evaluators bring scientific rigor to assess program outcomes, while practitioners provide practical insights necessary for accurate evaluations.
- discusses the challenges in measuring program impact, stressing the need for comparison groups and well-defined outcome measures to determine whether observed changes in clients result directly from the program rather than other factors.
- underscores the value of process evaluations, which help ensure that a program's delivery aligns with its original design, providing insights for improvement if discrepancies or implementation issues are identified.

3. Review Department of Justice's [What is G.R.E.A.T.](#) (accessed, January 2024)

4. Watch United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Office of Justice Programs (OJP). National Institute of Justice (NIJ). [Strengthen Science. Advance Justice.](#)

5. Watch the National Institute of Justice's [Desistance From Crime: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice](#) (Start @ 6:33 – Stop @ 1:36:57) [NIJ, November 29, 2021]

6. Watch York County Virginia U.S. [YPSO D A R E Program 2023](#) [located below]

7. Watch [G.R.E.A.T. Summer Program](#)

The Chicago Police Department is helping kids have a G.R.E.A.T. summer! The Gang Resistance Education And Training program is a gang violence prevention initiative. Dozens of 3rd-8th graders from across the city are taking part in a summer program focusing on life skills, self-esteem building and sports. It's all to help keep kids safe and active, and plant seeds of positive interaction with the police.

8. Listen to PBS WHYY: [The police experiment that changed what we know about foot patrol](#) (by Liz Tung, November 15, 2019) [last accessed, August 2023] [click on "Listen" link within the webpage]

9. Listen to the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Justice Today Podcast: [Progressing from Evidence to Action](#) (21.27). Scroll down to the featured item from within the podcast list.

To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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Activity – Understanding the Role of Criminology in Combating Cybercrimes Like Ransomware

STOP!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to explore examples of how social scientists, most specifically criminologists, have contributed to public policy within the digital environment.

Overview

Criminologists have made significant contributions to the understanding and combating of cybercrime. For example, they continue to provide accurate information to policymakers to develop effective strategies to combat cybercrime. e.g., [Better Cybercrime Metrics Act](#) (May 2022). Their research findings can inform policy decisions, ensuring they are based on evidence rather than just theory or ideology.

Those in the social sciences have conducted extensive research to better understand the criminogenic environment of the online world. They have expounded on existing theory to explain why individuals engage in cybercrime within the context of traditional theoretical frameworks, such as Rational Choice Theory, Social Learning Theory, Strain Theory, Routine Activities Theory, and Self-Control Theory. Improved theoretical models help us understand the various motives, opportunities, and situational factors that contribute to cybercrime and in turn provide the basis for policy-based recommendations.

Because cybercrime is a complex issue, it requires knowledge from various fields such as Criminology, Victimology, Sociology, Internet Science, and Computer Science. Therefore, criminologists have embraced an interdisciplinary approach, which is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of cybercrime and its prevention. To that end, criminologists play a crucial role in advancing our understanding of cybercrime, training future cybersecurity professionals, informing policy decisions, and promoting an interdisciplinary approach to tackling cybercrime.

Instructions

1. Review Module 2 Key Terms/Concepts
2. Read [The U.S. Is Less Prepared to Fight Cybercrime Than It Could Be](#) (GAO, August 29, 2023)
3. Review [U.S. Ransomware attacks on schools threaten student data nationwide](#) by Ash-har Quraishi, Ari Sen, Scott Pham, Amy Corral, Taylor Johnston (August 26, 2024)
4. Listen to [Ransomware and Other Cyberattacks on K-12 Schools](#) [also attached to this activity]



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Answer the following questions:

- Identify some of the challenges and limitations that federal law enforcement agencies face in tracking and most specifically reporting of cybercrime? Describe how could criminologists help overcome some of these challenges?
- Consider the impact and consequences of cybercrime on individuals, schools, businesses, and governments. How might social science research help these entities protect themselves from cybercrime and mitigate the damages?
- Revisit the above listed list of Key Terms/Concepts and identify the most appropriate research approach and then explain how that might assist with the coordination between various governmental agencies responsible for combating cybercrime.

Key Terms/Concepts

Cybercrime – Criminal activities that target a computer or network to cause damage or steal information, or the use of computers to conduct criminal activity, like using the internet to facilitate the sale or exchange of illicit goods.

Department of Justice (DOJ) – The federal department responsible for enforcing the law and administering justice, which oversees several law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, Secret Service, and DEA.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) – A system that collects reports on crime from law enforcement across the country, maintained by the FBI.

Public Policy – Refers to the decisions, actions, and guidelines adopted by governments or public authorities to address societal issues, regulate behavior, and promote the collective well-being of the public. It encompasses a wide range of laws, regulations, programs, and initiatives that shape and guide the actions of governments and public institutions.

Ransomware – A type of malicious software that encrypts the victim's files or blocks access to the computer system until a ransom is paid.

Refer to the course learning management system (LMS); that is Blackboard (BB), for the correct due date. In addition, submit your work via BB for grading.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you evaluate the arguments for and against criminologists' participation in public policy? Which position do you find more convincing and why?
2. What are the advantages and challenges of using random assignment in program evaluation?
3. How can program evaluators balance the needs and expectations of different stakeholders?
4. What are some of the challenges and opportunities for criminologists to engage with the media and influence public opinion on crime and justice issues?
5. What are some examples of unintended consequences of programs and how can they be measured and reported?
6. What are some of the ethical and professional implications of taking formal organizational positions on controversial or contentious criminological debates? How should criminological associations balance the need for scientific rigor and policy relevance?
7. identify the most effective way to evaluate the program, "[A new scared straight: Project STORM](#)"

Supplemental Resources

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences ([ACJS](#))
- American Society of Criminology ([ASC](#))
- [Campbell Collaboration](#)
- [Chicago Data Portal](#)
- Chicago Police Department [CLEARMap](#)
- National Institute of Justice ([NIJ](#))
- [UCI Center for Evidence-Based Corrections](#)
- Consortium of Social Science Associations ([COSSA](#))

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9. National Institute of Justice (NIJ). *Progressing from evidence to action*. [21:27 mins]. Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

THE MEASUREMENT OF CRIME

Module 3 explores the importance of measuring crime and examines some of those most notable crime reports and statistics, e.g., National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), Uniform Crime Report (UCR), National Crime Victims Survey (NCVS), and self-report surveys. The module provides an opportunity to explore how the measurement of crime involves various methods and indicators to quantify and analyze criminal activity and victimization. For example, crime rates are some commonly used measurements of crime. Crime rates express the number of reported crimes per population or a specific unit of measurement (e.g., per 10,000 or 100,000 people). Crime rates allow for comparisons between different areas or time periods and help assess the relative prevalence of crime within each population. However, absent incident-level data, it becomes difficult if not impossible to contextualize victimization; that is, location, relationship, etc. In addition, the module provides a cursory review of crime mapping as an effective way to analyze where crime occurs. Finally, the module will consider how crime data helps authorities, researchers, and policymakers understand the nature and extent of crime, identify high-risk areas, evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention strategies, and make informed decisions to enhance public safety.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- define the elements of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) and identify its strengths and weaknesses as a crime data source.
- describe methodological differences between the UCR and National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

- define the difference between aggregate and incident-level measurement.
- define the elements of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and identify its strengths and weaknesses as a crime data source.
- define the elements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System.
- understand what patterns are present in the UCR and the NCVS and what they reveal about crime.
- list advantages and disadvantages of the UCR and NCVS.
- summarize what data sources tell us about the criminal justice system.

Summary

Crime reports play a crucial role in ensuring public safety. By documenting and reporting crimes, law enforcement agencies can identify patterns, trends, and hotspots, enabling them to allocate resources effectively and prevent future crimes. Timely and accurate crime reports help communities stay informed about potential dangers and take necessary precautions. They also provide essential information for criminal investigations. They contain details about the nature of the crime, the location, the time of occurrence, and any potential witnesses or suspects. This information helps law enforcement agencies initiate investigations, gather evidence, and identify and apprehend suspects. Crime reports also serve as valuable evidence during criminal trials, aiding in the prosecution of offenders.

By analyzing crime reports, law enforcement agencies can gain insights into crime patterns and trends. They can identify recurring criminal activities, modus operandi, and potential links between different incidents. This analysis allows them to develop effective strategies to combat crime, allocate resources efficiently, and implement preventive measures. In addition, they assist in determining resource allocation for law enforcement agencies. By understanding the types and frequency of crimes in different areas, agencies can deploy officers, patrol units, and investigative teams accordingly. Crime reports can also guide the allocation of financial resources for crime prevention initiatives, community outreach programs, and technology upgrades.

One of the more salient benefits of crime data is that it contributes to the formulation of crime prevention policies and strategies. When authorities have access to accurate data on crime rates and trends, they can make informed decisions regarding law enforcement strategies, legislation, and public safety initiatives. Such policies can be tailored to address specific types of crime prevalent in a particular area, leading to more effective crime prevention and reduction. In addition, they provide a basis for supporting and assisting victims of crimes. Law enforcement agencies can connect victims with support services, such as counseling, legal aid, and victim compensation programs. Accurate crime reports help ensure that victims' needs are addressed and that appropriate resources are allocated to assist them in their recovery.

Overall, crime reports are crucial for maintaining public safety, aiding investigations, understanding crime patterns, allocating resources effectively, developing crime prevention strategies, and supporting victims of crime. They form the foundation of a well-informed and proactive approach to law enforcement and community safety.

Test Your Knowledge

Print a copy of the following worksheet and bring it to class! As an alternative, complete the worksheet while you read through the summary located above.

[Module 3-Worksheet-The Measurement of Crime](#)

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=103#h5p-16>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Benchmark

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

Campbell Collaboration

Clearance Rates

Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Crime Mapping

Disaggregate

Full-Participation Agency

Hotel Rule

Limited-Participation Agency

National Crime Victim Survey (NVCS)

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

Self-Report Surveys

Uniform Crime Report

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Victimization Rates

Modern Application

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

The advent of personal computing machines that were available for public consumption in the late 1980s, produced unanticipated ways for would-be criminals to commit crime. Although most crimes were, “traditional crimes committed in a non-traditional way” (McQuade III, 2006), new crimes like hacking were also imagined. Despite the precipitous increase in digital crimes, there was no formal way to collect incident rate information. The private industry, e.g., Norton, Semantic, Internet Watch Foundation, etc., proactively began collecting data related to a variety of digital crimes.

In 2000, the Department of Justice’s Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), established the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). The IC3 has received complaints crossing the spectrum of cyber crime matters, to include online fraud in its many forms including Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) matters, Computer Intrusions (hacking), Economic Espionage (Theft of Trade Secrets), Online Extortion, International Money Laundering, Identity Theft, and a growing list of Internet facilitated crimes. It has become increasingly evident that, regardless of the label placed on a cyber crime matter, the potential for it to overlap with another referred matter is substantial. Therefore, the IC3, formerly known as the Internet Fraud Complaint Center (Internet Fraud Complaint Center), was renamed in October 2003 to better reflect the broad character of such matters having an Internet, or cyber, nexus referred to the IC3, and to minimize the need for one to distinguish “Internet Fraud” from other potentially overlapping cyber crimes.

Visit the [IC3 webpage](#) and review *Annual Reports* and other data related to complaints of computer crime.

IC3: [Other Types of Crimes](#)

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 44: [*Crime Reports And Statistics*](#) by Callie Marie Rennison, University of Missouri – St. Louis (Rennison, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=103#h5p-22>

This chapter:

- provides an overview of crime reports and statistics, explaining their importance in offering insights into the extent, nature, and changing characteristics of crime over time.
- highlights the role of two primary data sources in the U.S.—the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)—explaining their methodologies, advantages, and limitations in crime measurement.
- discusses how crime reports aid policymakers and researchers by offering critical data on crime trends, which helps guide policy decisions, crime prevention strategies, and resource allocation.
- explains the concept of “dark figure of crime,” referring to unreported crimes that the NCVS captures but the UCR does not, thereby providing a more comprehensive understanding of crime prevalence.
- describes the evolution of crime reporting systems, noting the enhancements in the UCR’s National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which aims to offer more detailed and incident-level crime data.

2. Review the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Incident-Based Reporting System ([NIBRS](#)) website

3. Review Chicago Data Portal: click [HERE](#)

4. Review Chicago Police Department’s CLEARmap: click [HERE](#)

5. Review Chicago Police Department’s *Violence Reduction Dashboard*: click [HERE](#)

6. Review [*NIBRS Participation Rates and Federal Crime Data Quality*](#)

7. Watch the FBI's [NIBRS 101](#) resource: [also located below]
8. Watch the Bureau of Justice Statistics'(BJS) [Learn More about the NCVS](#): (also located below)
9. Listen to [There's A Continued Uptick in Violent Crime, According to Federal Survey](#) (NPR, September 11, 2019)
10. Listen to the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Justice Today's podcast [The Science of School Safety](#) [11:55 – #17 within the list of episodes]

To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=103#oembed-2>

Activity – Trends in Violent Crime

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to explore the nature and extent of violent crime and better understand why some groups of people experience a greater or lower rate of violence.

Instructions

1. Review Data Matters: The Story In Numbers – Trends In Violent Crime (see attached)
2. Review Forbes' [Infographic] article, [Major American Cities See Sharp Spike In Murders In 2020](#) (Aug. 4, 2020)
3. Review Statista's data on the [Number of violent crime victims in the United States from 2005 to 2021, by gender](#)
4. Review the National Crime Victim Survey's (NCVS) Summary findings (BJS, 2020) [https://bjs.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh236/files/media/document/cv20_sum.pdf]

Answer the following questions:

- Why might some groups of people experience violence at a greater or lower rate? Explain.
- If a group of people have a higher rate of violent victimization, does that mean that the same group also has the highest number of victims? Be specific and use chapter specific details to formulate your response.
- How do rates and counts differ?
- How would you explain the significant decrease in property and nonfatal violent crime rates

since the early 1990s.

Key Concepts & Chapter Related Facts

1. **Count** only really make sense if your denominator is fixed, or relatively so. For example, if as a probation officer, you see 1,000 clients each month, then a change in cases from Month X to Month X+1 is a genuine change in cases.
2. **Dark figure of crime** – Crimes that fail to come to the attention of the police, because they were unreported, it was unclear a crime occurred, or no one learned that a crime was committed.
3. **National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS)** – A nationally representative survey of victims of property, and personal violence in the United States.
4. **Rates** are the number of events that occur in a defined period, divided by the average population at risk of that event.
5. **Uniform Crime Report (UCR)** – This program, started by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and then moved under the umbrella of the FBI in 1929, is a compilation of crime data.

Refer to the course learning management system (LMS); that is Blackboard (BB), for the correct due date. In addition, submit your work via BB for grading.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the main purposes and functions of crime reports and statistics and how do they help us understand the nature and extent of crime in society?
2. What are the major differences between the UCR and the NCVS and how do they affect the measurement and comparison of crime over time?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the UCR and NCVS?
4. What are some of the recent developments and innovations in crime reporting systems and how do they address the gaps and problems of the existing systems?
5. How would you design your own crime reporting system? That is, what types of crimes, victims, offenders, and incident characteristics would you include? Describe the methods and tools you would use to collect and analyze the data?

Supplemental Resources

- National Crime Victimization Survey ([NCVS](#))
- National Incident-Based Reporting System ([NIBRS](#))
- National Institute of Justice ([NIJ](#))
- [Criminal Victimization 2022](#) (U.S. DOJ, NCJ 307089)
- [Prison Policy Initiative](#)
- Chicago Police Department-[Statistical Reports](#)

Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences at College of DuPage

[PSYCH 2280](#) (M1 902) – Students will focus on mathematical reasoning and problem solving through the application of statistical methods in the analysis of quantitative data in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will also explore frequently used statistical methods and learn the use of computer applications in the analysis of quantitative data. Credit cannot be given for both for Psychology 2280 and Sociology 2205. (2 lecture hours, 2 lab hours)

[SOCIO 2205](#) (M1 902) – Students will focus on mathematical reasoning and problem solving through the application of statistical methods in the analysis of quantitative data in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will also explore frequently used statistical methods and learn the use of computer applications in the analysis of quantitative data. Credit cannot be given for both for PSYCH 2280 and SOCIO 2205. (2 lecture hours, 2 lab hours)

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1. Rennison, C. M. (2009). Crime Reports and Statistics. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 383-390). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600056/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=3e3598e2
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SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF CRIME

Module 4 explores the concept of social construction, particularly focusing on its relevance in the context of crime, deviance, and societal reactions. It delves into how social meanings are formed, maintained, and challenged through interactions, power dynamics, and theoretical frameworks. The module provides opportunities to consider what is deemed criminal and how society responds to criminal behavior that are not fixed or objective realities but are shaped by social, cultural, and historical factors. This perspective challenges the notion that crime is an inherent and absolute concept and highlights how various social forces contribute to defining, interpreting, and responding to deviant behavior. Moreover, crime and deviance are the inevitable result of central contradictions within societies very power infrastructure. The chapter reviews key aspects of the social construction of crime that include how we define crime, the implication of social norms and values, the impact of power and control, the influence of media and public perception, the social and economic context of crime and deviance, the artifact of labeling, and definitions of deviance from the position of social control.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=201#audio-201-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- define the concept of social construction.
- describe the significance of classifying behavior as crime by individuals with power and authority.
- identify examples of moral panic.
- explain how symbolic interactionism helps us understand the origins of social meaning as it is

created through interaction.

- identify the origins of labeling theory and its relevance within criminology.
- describe the historical and theoretical roots of social constructionist theory.
- illustrate the difference between social norms and value.
- describe how *constitutive theory* can lead to the process of *replacement discourse*.
- explain the fundamentals of nominalist philosophy.
- interpret reification within the context of social theory.

Summary

The social construction of crime refers to the idea that crime is not an inherent or objective concept but rather a product of social processes and interactions. It suggests that society, through its institutions, norms, values, and laws, constructs the definition of what is considered criminal behavior and determines how it should be dealt with.

According to the social constructionist perspective, crime is not a fixed or universal category but varies across time, cultures, and societies. What is considered a crime in one society or historical period may not be considered as such in another. The definition and understanding of crime are shaped by social, cultural, and political factors, and they can change over time.

Social constructionists argue that crime is a product of social interactions, power dynamics, and social norms. They emphasize that crime is not solely a result of individual deviance or pathology but is influenced by broader social factors. Factors such as social inequality, economic conditions, political systems, cultural beliefs, and the actions of social institutions, including the criminal justice system, all contribute to the construction and interpretation of crime.

For example, the social constructionist perspective suggests that acts labeled as crimes are often determined by those in positions of power within society. The laws and regulations created by lawmakers and enforced by the criminal justice system reflect the interests and values of the dominant groups. This perspective also recognizes that certain groups or behaviors are disproportionately labeled as criminal due to social biases, prejudices, and systemic inequalities.

The definition of crime varies across societies and over time. Acts considered criminal in one culture or era may be acceptable or even celebrated in another. This highlights that criminality is not a universal or biologically determined concept but is influenced by social norms, values, and power structures.

Social norms play a significant role in defining what behaviors are acceptable and which ones are not. Norms

are often shaped by cultural, religious, and historical influences. Acts that violate these norms are more likely to be labeled as criminal, even if the harm caused by the behavior is relatively minor.

The social construction of crime is also influenced by power dynamics within a society. Those in positions of authority and influence can shape the legal system and define what actions will be considered criminal. This can lead to the criminalization of certain behaviors that challenge the status quo or threaten the interests of the powerful.

Media portrayal of crime and deviant behavior plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of crime. Media outlets often focus on sensational or rare crimes, leading to the perception that certain types of crime are more prevalent or dangerous than they are. This influences public opinion and can lead to demands for stricter laws and harsher punishments.

Crime rates are often influenced by social and economic factors such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment. Socially disadvantaged groups may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior due to limited opportunities and structural barriers. The response to crime is also influenced by these factors, as law enforcement and criminal justice systems may disproportionately target and penalize certain communities.

Labeling theory is closely related to the social construction of crime. It suggests that the act of labeling an individual as a criminal can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where the person internalizes the criminal identity and engages in further criminal behavior because of societal reactions.

The social construction of crime is intertwined with the broader concept of deviance. Deviance refers to any behavior that deviates from social norms, and what is considered deviant varies across cultures and societies. Social control mechanisms, such as laws and law enforcement, are used to maintain order and conformity to dominant norms, and they play a significant role in shaping the construction of crime.

Overall, the social construction of crime highlights that crime is not an objective reality, but a socially constructed concept shaped by various social, cultural, and political factors. It encourages a critical examination of the processes through which certain behaviors are labeled as criminal and the implications of these constructions for individuals and society.

Test Your Knowledge

Print a copy of the following worksheet and bring it to class! As an alternative, complete the worksheet while you read through the summary located above.

[Module 4-Social Construction of Crime_Summary](#)

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=201#h5p-33>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Constitutive Theory

Contextual Constructionism:

Crime

Deviance

Edwin Lemert (1967)

Howard Becker (1963)

Labeling Theory

Mala In Se

Moral Crusader

Moral Panic

Nominalist Philosophy

Postmodernist Constructionism

Radical Constructionism

Reification

Replacement Theory

Social Construction

Social Constructionism

Symbolic Interactionism

Modern Application

AI and Criminal Justice

Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the potential to significantly influence the social construction of crime. For example, AI can be used in predictive policing, where algorithms analyze past crime data to predict where and when crimes are more likely to occur. This could potentially lead to a change in how society perceives crime-prone areas and individuals.

Another possible implication is the creation of AI-generated fake content, which can have broad societal impacts. This could lead to new forms of crime, such as deepfake-related fraud or misinformation campaigns, altering our understanding of what constitutes criminal behavior.

Because AI systems rely on algorithms trained on data, there is the potential for biased decision-making. In mathematics or software development, this affect is called garbage in, garbage out, or GIGO. Meaning, that in any system, the quality of output is determined by the quality of the input. If the data is biased, the resulting system can perpetuate that bias, affecting the social construction of crime by potentially reinforcing stereotypes and existing social inequalities.

AI can be used in various aspects of law enforcement, such as eDiscovery, forensic crime solving, facial recognition, and risk assessment in criminal cases for pretrial release and sentencing. This will likely change how crimes are detected and prosecuted, influencing societal perceptions of crime and justice.

As AI technology expands in capability and deployment, so do the risks of criminal exploitation. For example, this could lead to the emergence of novel forms of crime, requiring society to redefine its understanding of criminal behavior. It's important to note that while AI has the potential to greatly aid in crime prevention and detection, it also raises significant ethical and legal issues that society must address to ensure its fair and responsible use.



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Here are some related resources:

- [Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Law Enforcement](#) (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, 2018)
- [USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ADDRESS CRIMINAL JUSTICE NEEDS](#) (Christopher

Rigano, Oct. 2018)

Key Terms/Concepts

Deepfake – AI-generated synthetic media that can replicate a person’s likeness and voice, potentially leading to crimes like fraud and misinformation.

eDiscovery – The application of AI in law enforcement for identifying and producing electronic information as part of legal cases.

Facial Recognition – AI technology used to identify individuals based on facial features, aiding in crime detection and risk assessment but raising ethical concerns.

Garbage In, Garbage Out (GIGO) – A principle stating that flawed or biased input data leads to unreliable or biased outputs, impacting decision-making.

Predictive Policing – The use of AI algorithms to analyze past crime data to forecast where and when crimes are likely to occur, influencing societal perceptions of certain areas or individuals.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 34: [Social Construction of Crime](#) by Stuart Henry, San Diego State University (Henry, 2009)
 - Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
 - To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=201#h5p-34>

This chapter:

- explains that crime is a socially constructed concept, shaped by those with the power to define certain behaviors as criminal, often reflecting the values and interests of dominant groups within society.

- discusses the concept of moral panics, where media and moral entrepreneurs amplify societal fears about specific behaviors, leading to heightened concern and sometimes disproportionate responses to perceived threats.
- highlights the role of labeling theory, suggesting that the process of labeling certain actions as criminal can influence individuals' identities, potentially leading to further criminal behavior as individuals internalize the labels.
- emphasizes the variability of crime definitions across different societies and historical periods, arguing that what is considered criminal behavior is not universal but influenced by cultural and social context.
- critiques the influence of powerful interests in defining crime, suggesting that laws often criminalize the actions of less powerful groups while overlooking or downplaying offenses committed by those with greater socioeconomic influence.

2. Review Grinnell College's [*Subcultures and Sociological focus on Moral Panic*](#)

- a. Moral panics are disproportionate reactions by society to perceived threats, popularized by Stanley Cohen's 1972 work on Mods and Rockers.
- b. The media amplifies moral panics, portraying events in exaggerated and stereotypical ways.
- c. Groups capitalize on moral panics to promote their agendas, positioning themselves as experts or moral authorities.
- d. This is when media uses repeated, recognizable images to scapegoat subcultures.
- e. Historic and modern moral panics include issues like comic books, video games, and music subcultures.

3. Review [Moms, not cops, are the biggest roadblock to California's new drug reform law](#) (Lester Black, Alec Regimbal, SFGATE, July 17, 2003)

- a. Moral panics can arise in response to various issues, such as youth subcultures, crime waves, immigration, or emerging technologies. They can have significant social and political implications, as they may influence public policy, shape public opinion, and impact the lives of the groups or individuals targeted by the panic. Over time, moral panics may subside as the initial fears and anxieties are disproven or mitigated, or they may evolve into new forms as society undergoes changes.

4. Review [Moral Panic and Folk Devils](#) (Simply Psychology, August 2023) [last accessed September 2023]

Stanley Cohen's "Folk Devils and Moral Panics" is a seminal sociological work published in 1972 that explores the concept of moral panics and how they contribute to the social construction of deviance. This book provides valuable insights into how society reacts to perceived threats and how the media and authorities play a significant role in amplifying and perpetuating these panics.

Cohen introduces the term "folk devils" to describe the individuals or groups who become the focal point of societal anxiety and moral outrage during a moral panic. Folk devils are often portrayed as threats to the values and norms of society. They are typically labeled as deviant and blamed for various social problems.

According to Cohen, moral panics can intensify and perpetuate themselves through an “amplification spiral.” This occurs when the media, law enforcement, and other social institutions feed into the panic by sensationalizing the issue and exaggerating the threat posed by folk devils. As a result, public concern escalates, leading to increased social control measures and stigmatization of the targeted group.

Like other scholars within the discipline, Cohen emphasizes the media’s role in shaping and amplifying moral panics. He argues that the media often frames issues in ways that maximize their shock value and appeal to public emotions. This sensationalism can contribute to the rapid spread of moral panics.

Cohen also discusses the concept of “deviancy amplification.” This refers to the process by which societal reactions to deviant behavior worsen the behavior or create more deviance. When folk devils are singled out and persecuted, they may react by further embracing their deviant identity or engaging in more extreme behaviors. Moral panics can lead to increased social control measures, including the implementation of stricter laws and policies. This can have significant consequences for the individuals or groups labeled as folk devils, as they may face legal persecution, discrimination, and social exclusion.

Cohen’s work highlights the cyclical nature of moral panics and their role in reflecting and influencing societal norms and values. Moral panics often reveal underlying anxieties and tensions within a society and can contribute to social change, whether through the creation of new laws, shifts in public opinion, or changes in cultural norms.

Cohen’s work provides a valuable framework for understanding how societies react to perceived threats and how these reactions can lead to the construction of deviance and the amplification of social issues. It emphasizes the role of the media, the criminal justice system, and public discourse in shaping and perpetuating moral panics, and it continues to be a foundational text in the field of sociology and criminology.

5. Review [Revise Sociology’s overview of *The social construction of crime*](#) (last accessed November 2023)

a. The social construction of crime is a useful perspective for sociologists and criminologists to understand how crime is defined and dealt with in different societies and situations. It also challenges the assumption that crime is a fixed and objective reality that can be measured and controlled by the law and the criminal justice system. Instead, it shows that crime is a dynamic and contested phenomenon that reflects the values, interests, and power relations of different groups and actors in society.

6. Watch [Mod, Rockers, and Mora Panics](#) (Luxury Milk, October 2009) [last accessed September 2023] – also embedded below.

a. Moral Panic is a term used to describe a social phenomenon characterized by an exaggerated, widespread, and often irrational fear or concern over a perceived threat to societal values, norms, and moral order. It typically involves the amplification and sensationalization of a specific issue or group, often fueled by all forms of media, public opinion, and authorities.

7. Watch [Save The Boy? 4 Moral Thinkers Have Different Opinions](#) (Sprouts, 2023) – also embedded below.

a. Moral development theory holds that individuals become criminal when they have not successfully completed their intellectual development from child- to adulthood. An early theory was proposed by Jean Piaget, who posited four developmental stages. Lawrence Kohlberg offered an expanded theory of morality with a six-stage typology. In Kohlberg's first stage, people only obey the law because they are afraid of being punished if they don't. By the sixth stage, obedience to the law becomes an obligation that is willingly assumed, and people chose not to violate the law because they value the principle of fairness and believe in interpersonal justice. Those who have evolved to higher stages of moral reasoning are unlikely to commit crimes because they appreciate not only their own needs, but the needs and interests of others as well.

8. Listen to [Is pornography really warping our brains, or is it a moral panic?](#) (Joshua B. Grubbs, Opinion Contributor, 01/25/24) [last accessed September 2024]

9. Listen to [A 6-year-old shooter raises tough questions for the criminal justice system](#) (NPR, January 11, 2023)



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a. Whether and to what extent the criminal law should reflect and enforce the morality of the society it represents is a classic debate in criminal law literature.

b. While most people agree that actions that harm others should be controlled, not everyone sees consensual sex work as harmful.

To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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Activity – Social Constructionism: What We Think We Know About Hackers

STOP!!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.



Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the student's understanding of social constructionism and its influence on definitions, interpretations, and classification of cybercrime; most specifically, hackers.

Instructions

1. Read BBC's [How online photos and videos alter the way you think](#) (Amanda Ruggeri, November 4, 2024).
2. Review [Top Hacker Profile Types You Should Know](#).
3. Review [What Is a Hacker?](#) (US News, Jan. 25, 2022)
4. Watch TEDxHHL, [Profiling Hackers – The Psychology of Cybercrime](#) (Mark T. Hoffmann, June 28, 2021) [also embedded below]
5. Use the Image search feature within Google and search for the word "Hacker". Scroll through the page and document three **3 to 5 demographic features**, e.g., male, young, etc.
6. Use [Bing AI Image Creator](#) and generate an image using the demographic information that you documented within step 5.

- Start the prompt with, “**Realistic image of a hacker**”, then ENTER YOUR 3 to 5 demographic features.
 - An AI Image Creator account is easily created using a personal Gmail account.
 - Already have a favorite AI image generator account? You are welcome to use an alternative, as long as images are submitted with your work.
7. Save the AI generated image and submit that with your answers to the assignment’s questions.
- Students enrolled in the in-person version of this course, should be prepared to share and discuss their AI generated image.



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Answer the following questions:

- From a *social constructivist perspective*, explain how the media has generated moral panic and in turn influences societies’ reaction or labeling of hackers.
- Describe different forms of hacking and identify one or more with a potentially positive social impact.
- Identify a core feature or element of social constructionism that has influenced what we know about hackers (see *Social Construction of Crime*, S. Henry, pp. 299-300).
- Succinctly state whether your AI generated image matches your personally established version of a hacker. Meaning, does the depiction look anything like what you expected?

Key Terms/Concepts

Crime – Refers to any behavior or action that is considered illegal, prohibited, or punishable by law. It involves the violation of societal norms, rules, and regulations established by the government or governing authorities. Criminal acts are generally harmful or detrimental to individuals,

communities, or society as a whole and are subject to various legal consequences, such as fines, probation, imprisonment, or other forms of punishment.

Labeling Theory – Also known as Social Reaction Theory or the Interactionist Perspective, is a criminological and sociological theory that focuses on how social labels and societal reactions can influence an individual's self-identity and behavior. The theory suggests that when individuals are labeled as deviant or criminal by society, it can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where they internalize and embrace the label, resulting in increased deviant or criminal behavior.

Moral Panic – A term used to describe a social phenomenon characterized by an exaggerated, widespread, and often irrational fear or concern over a perceived threat to societal values, norms, and moral order. It typically involves the amplification and sensationalization of a specific issue or group, often fueled by all forms of media, public opinion, and authorities.

Social Constructivism – A theoretical perspective that argues that what counts as reality is the outcome of social processes through which humans interactively create and negotiate meaning about the world.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples of moral panics and claims-making about crime and deviance in your society?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a social constructionist approach to study crime and deviance?
3. What are the different types of social constructionism, such as radical, contextual, and postmodernist? How do they differ in their assumptions about reality, knowledge, and power?
4. How do moral entrepreneurs, media, and other agents of social control construct crime and deviance through claims-making, moral panics, and labeling?
5. How can social constructionism be used to challenge and transform existing definitions and responses to crime and deviance?
6. What are some alternative ways of defining and addressing social problems and harms?

Supplemental Resources

- Example of replacement theory in action – [Fringe conspiracy theory has now become mainstream](#) [last accessed, November 2023]
- [Bill O'Reilly: Do Violent Video Games Make You Violent?](#)

- Violence and Video Games
 - Ever since the inception of video games in the 1970s, people have questioned what effects these games have on those that play them. The first major concern about the violence in video games came with the release of the 1976 game “Death Race” (Kent 2001). In “Death Race,” the objective is for players to run over as many “gremlins” with their car as possible, but the general public believed the game involved killing innocent pedestrians and promoted such behavior in real life, causing an outcry against the game (Ferguson et al. 2008). Similar concerns are still very apparent today. In particular, many concerned parents and lawmakers accuse the video game franchise “Grand Theft Auto” where players steal cars, rob banks, and flee the police of promoting this type of behavior in those that play the game, especially adolescents, because players start to lose sight of what is fake and what is reality.
- Are Video Games Really Causing Violence?
 - If the media seem to claim that violent video games cause real-life violent acts, where does empirical research stand on this issue? Some studies such as Anderson and Dill’s (2000) research on the relationship between aggressive behavior and video games claims that exposure to such games had a negative impact on academic achievement and increased the frequency of aggressive thoughts and behavior. However, as Ferguson (2008) argues, such increases in aggressive behavior are so minor that they do not equate to an individual committing an actual crime. In addition, Ferguson (2008) suggests that because nearly all young males are exposed to violent video games, studying the video game-aggression link is a waste of time and resources and more time should be spent investigating the other factors that have a role in mass violence. In addition, although the popularity of violent video games is increasing, overall rates of violent crime are decreasing.
- [*LGBTQ History Month: The early days of America’s AIDS crisis*](#) (NBC News, Oct. 2018) [last accessed, Feb. 2024]
- [*AIDS: homophobic and moralistic images of 1980s still haunt our view of HIV – that must change*](#) (The Conversation, Nov. 2018) [last accessed, Feb. 2024]
- [*Crack Babies: A Tale From the Drug Wars*](#) (New York Times, May 2013) [last accessed, Feb. 2024]

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PART II

SECTION II - THEORIES OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Section II includes six modules: (1) Classical and Rational Choice Theories, (2) Psychology of Crime, (3) Social Structure and Crime, (4) Social Process and Crime, (5) Critical Approaches to Law and Crime, and (6) Crime Over the Life-Course. Collectively, these six modules attempt to incite critical thinking about crime and deviance as theorized by various scholars with a focus on the work of sociologists and criminologists. Modules present several theories that attempt to explain the causes and patterns of criminal behavior and deviance in society. It's essential to recognize that these theories are not mutually exclusive, and criminal behavior and deviance often result from a combination of factors. Sociologists and criminologists continue to refine and expand these theories to gain a more comprehensive understanding of crime and deviance in society.



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CLASSICAL AND RATIONAL CHOICE THEORIES

Module 5 introduces classical and rational choice theory as two distinct yet related perspectives that lend to foundations of early criminological thought. Classical theory in criminology refers to a school of thought that emerged during the Enlightenment period in the 18th century. It represents a significant departure from the prevailing views on crime and punishment at the time, which were often characterized by harsh and arbitrary methods of dealing with criminal behavior. Classical criminology is associated with the works of prominent thinkers such as Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham. Their writings sought to establish a rational and systematic approach to understanding crime, punishment, and the functioning of the criminal justice system. Rational choice theory is a social science perspective that seeks to explain human behavior, including criminal behavior, based on the idea that individuals have agency. That is, humans are rational decision-makers who weigh the costs and benefits of their actions to maximize their self-interests. It is widely used in various fields, including economics, sociology, political science, and criminology.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- identify the major principles of the Classical School of criminology.
- name some forerunners of classical thought in criminology.
- list some important thinkers of the Classical School of criminology, and what was their legacy.
- describe neoclassical criminology, and how does it differ from the classical perspective.

- explain the role of punishment in neoclassical criminology.
- describe the policy implications of the Classical School and of neoclassical thought.
- recognize the social context of neoclassical theories and their rise to prominence in America during the 1970s.
- describe the central concepts in deterrence theory, including specific, general, marginal, and focused deterrence.
- recall what the various empirical tests indicate about the empirical status of deterrence theory.
- explain the central concepts in the routine activities and lifestyle approaches to criminal behavior.
- describe rational choice theory and its relationship to deterrence.
- understand policy implications of rational choice theory, including criminal justice policies and situational crime prevention.

Summary

Classical and rational choice theories are two influential perspectives in criminology that attempt to explain criminal behavior based on rational decision-making processes. While they share some similarities, they also have distinct features and historical contexts.

Classical criminology emerged during the Enlightenment period in the 18th century and was popularized by thinkers like Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham. It marked a significant shift away from the prevailing views of crime and punishment at the time, which were often characterized by harsh and arbitrary penalties.

Classical theory assumes that individuals are rational beings who make decisions based on a cost-benefit analysis. Criminal behavior is seen as a calculated choice made by individuals who weigh the potential benefits of the crime against the perceived risks of getting caught and punished.

A central concept in classical theory is deterrence. The theory posits that punishment can deter individuals from engaging in criminal acts. This idea is based on the belief that if the punishment is swift, certain, and severe, potential offenders will be dissuaded from committing crimes.

Classical criminologists emphasized the need for a fair and just legal system. They advocated for the rule of law and argued that all individuals, regardless of their social status or wealth, should be treated equally before the law.

Classical theorists proposed that individuals enter into a social contract with the state or society, surrendering certain freedoms in exchange for protection of their rights and property. Criminal acts were viewed as a breach of this social contract.

Rational choice theory builds upon the foundation of classical theory but takes a more individualistic and micro-level approach. It gained popularity in the late 20th century and is based on the principles of rational decision-making and utility maximization.

Rational choice theory focuses on the decision-making processes of individuals. It examines how individuals assess the costs and benefits of engaging in criminal behavior and how they seek to maximize their self-interest.

The theory emphasizes the importance of opportunity structures. It suggests that criminal acts are more likely to occur when there are suitable opportunities available for offenders to exploit. These opportunities might be influenced by factors such as the presence of capable guardianship, the attractiveness of potential targets, and the absence of effective deterrents.

Rational choice theory has practical applications in the field of crime prevention. By understanding the decision-making processes of potential offenders, situational crime prevention strategies aim to manipulate the factors that influence criminal opportunities, making crime less attractive or more difficult to commit.

Rational choice theory is closely related to routine activities theory, which was introduced by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson. Routine activities theory suggests that crime occurs when three elements converge: motivated offenders, suitable targets, and the absence of capable guardianship.

Neoclassical theory in criminology is an extension and refinement of classical theory that emerged as a response to some of the limitations and criticisms of the classical perspective. While neoclassical theory shares many fundamental principles with classical theory, it introduces certain modifications and acknowledges additional factors that influence criminal behavior.

Neoclassical theory represents a more nuanced and flexible approach to understanding criminal behavior than classical theory. It seeks to strike a balance between acknowledging the role of rational choice and recognizing that human behavior can be influenced by various psychological, social, and situational factors. This perspective has contributed to ongoing discussions and reforms within the criminal justice system regarding the appropriate treatment of offenders based on individual circumstances and levels of responsibility.

While both classical and rational choice theories emphasize rational decision-making, rational choice theory takes a more nuanced approach by focusing on individual-level factors and situational contexts that influence criminal behavior. These theories have been influential in shaping modern criminological thought and have contributed to the development of crime prevention strategies and policies that aim to deter criminal activity by manipulating the cost-benefit calculations of potential offenders.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=119#h5p-23>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Age of Reason (also known as the age of Enlightenment)

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)

Ronald Clarke and Derek Cornish

Classical Criminology

Daniel Nagin

Deterrence

Gary Beker (1968)

Homo Economicus

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

Just Deserts

Natural Law

Neoclassical Criminology

Objective Deterrence

Perceptual Deterrence

Rational Choice Theory (RTC)

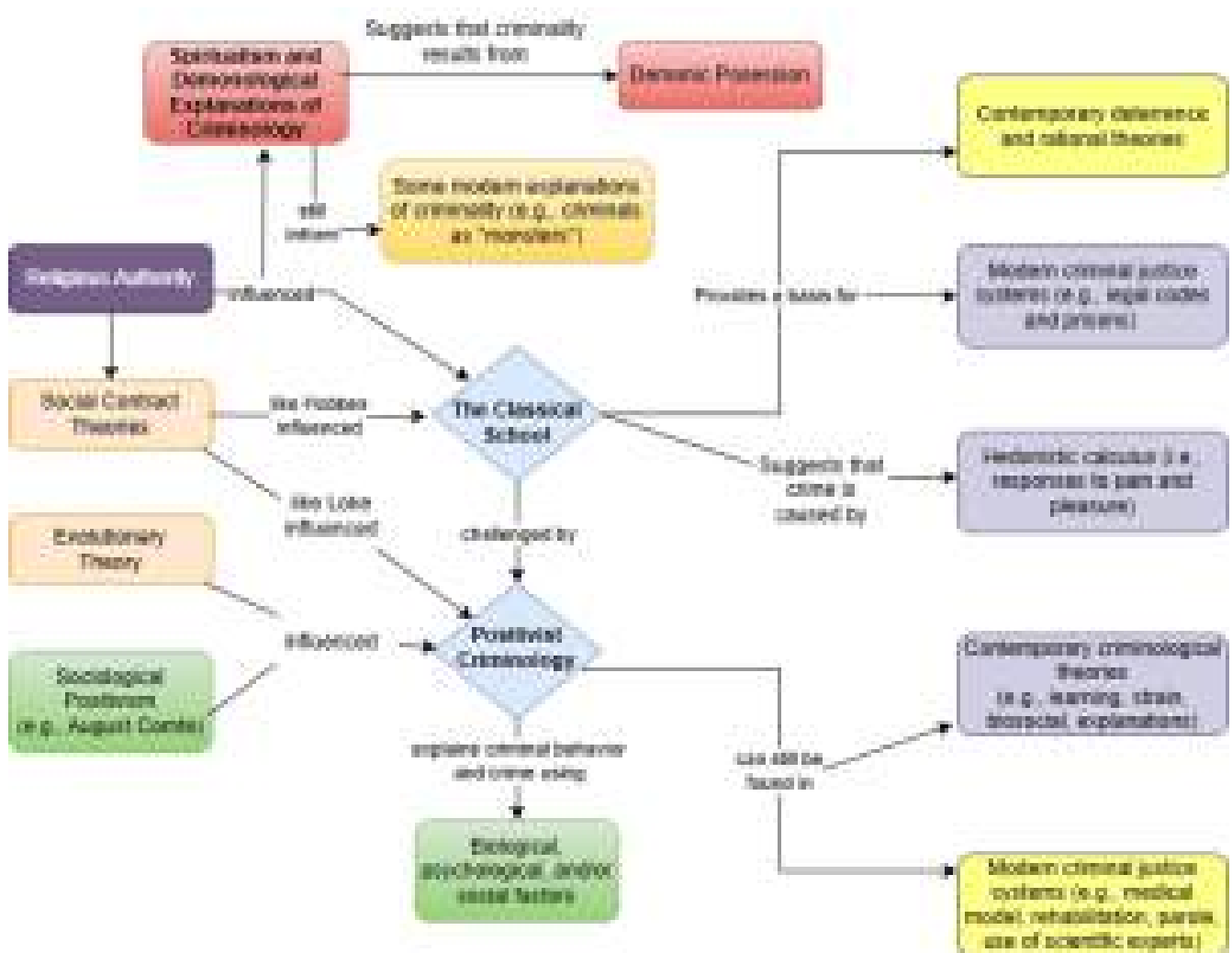
Routine Activities Theory

Self Control Theory

Situational Crime Control

Subjective Utility Model

Mapping Early Criminology



Modern Application

Integrated Deterrence In Cyberspace

Integrated deterrence is a framework that combines all domains of warfare, all instruments of national power, and the coordinated capabilities of allies and partners to deter adversaries and defend national interests.

Because cyberspace is a contested and complex domain, it poses unique challenges and opportunities for integrated deterrence, such as the difficulty of attribution, the asymmetry of capabilities, the speed and scale of cyber operations, and the interdependence of public and private actors.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is implementing integrated deterrence in cyberspace by generating insights about the adversary's cyber operations and capabilities, enabling better cyber defenses for the U.S. government, industry, and international partners, and acting to deter or disrupt adversary cyber actors and halt malicious activities.

Understanding concepts of deterrence within the context of cyberspace is increasing important as it will inform the authorities, identify domestic and international obligations, and aid in the assessment of risks of cyber operations.

- Jacquelyn Schneider, Hoover Fellow at the Hoover Institution, [Does cyber deterrence work? National security expert on cybersecurity and National Defense Strategy](#) (Government Matters, Jan. 2022) [also embedded below]



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Key Terms/Concepts

- **Resilient Deterrence** – A strategic approach aimed at maintaining and enhancing the ability to deter adversaries through adaptable, robust, and enduring capabilities, which minimize the impact of disruptions thus reducing the incentive. This concept is commonly applied in military and defense contexts, but can also extend to cybersecurity, law enforcement, and other fields where deterrence is crucial, e.g., private and public digital infrastructures.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. **Voluntarily** Read Chapter 23: [Classical Perspective](#) by Andy Hochstetler, Iowa State University (Hochstetler, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=119#h5p-24>

This chapter:

- explains that classical criminology is rooted in the 18th-century ideas of philosophers like Beccaria and Bentham, who viewed crime through an economic lens and introduced rational choice theory, asserting that individuals make decisions to maximize pleasure and minimize pain.
- discusses rational choice theory’s influence on modern criminology and its role in “get-tough” policies, while also cautioning that classical theory does not inherently advocate punitive measures but supports measured and evidence-based justice.
- emphasizes that classical theorists believed in the necessity of rational, minimal, and effective punishment, advocating that laws should deter crime with the least possible harm to individuals and society.
- describes how rational choice theory has evolved to incorporate social, economic, and psychological variables, allowing a more comprehensive understanding of how individuals assess the costs and benefits of crime.
- highlights recent studies on deterrence that reveal how offenders adjust their perceptions of risk and reward based on past experiences, peer influence, and subjective probabilities of punishment.

2. Read Chapter 27: [Deterrence and Rational Choice](#) by Raymond Paternoster, University of Maryland (Paternoster, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.

- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=119#h5p-25>

This chapter:

- introduces deterrence and rational choice theories (RCT), explaining that both focus on how the perception of punishment affects individuals’ decisions to engage in or refrain from crime, with RCT also accounting for rewards of both criminal and non-criminal options.
- differentiates between general deterrence, where individuals refrain from crime due to the threat of legal punishment, and specific deterrence, which prevents previously punished individuals from reoffending due to the fear of further punishment.
- emphasizes that, according to rational choice theory, people make decisions about crime based on a rational assessment of potential benefits versus risks, which can include formal sanctions, informal sanctions, and personal moral concerns.
- discusses empirical support for deterrence theory, noting that perceived certainty of punishment can have a deterrent effect, with informal sanctions such as shame and social disapproval often being more effective than formal sanctions alone.
- explores various policy applications of RCT, suggesting that crime can be reduced by increasing the costs of crime, reducing the benefits of crime, increasing the benefits of legal alternatives, or lowering the costs associated with non-criminal behavior.

3. Review *Twenty-Five Techniques of Situational Prevention: [25 techniques grid](#)* (ASU Center for Problem Oriented Policing, 2023)

a. Situational crime prevention is a key component of rational choice theory within the field of criminology. Rational choice theory is a theoretical framework that suggests that individuals make decisions to engage in criminal behavior based on a rational assessment of the potential costs and benefits of their actions. Situational crime prevention focuses on altering the immediate environment and situational factors to reduce the opportunities for crime and make criminal behavior less attractive to potential offenders.

4. Review the National Institute of Justice’s [FIVE THINGS ABOUT DETERRENCE](#), (DOJ/OJP, May 2016)

5. Watch [Self-Control Theory](#) (Danielle MacCartney) [last accessed, Sep. 2023]. Also embedded below.
 - a. The self-control theory of crime, also known as the General Theory of Crime or the self-control theory, is a criminological theory developed by Travis Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson in 1990. This theory focuses on understanding why individuals engage in criminal behavior and what factors contribute to their decision to commit crimes. The central premise of this theory is that low self-control is the primary factor underlying criminal behavior.
6. Watch [The Trouble with Long Prison Terms](#) (Justice Policy Institute, September 2020)
 - a. The effectiveness of long prison terms in deterring crime is a complex and debated issue within the field of criminology. While some proponents argue that longer sentences act as a deterrent by incapacitating potential offenders and sending a message that crime will be met with severe punishment, others contend that the relationship between long prison terms and crime deterrence is not straightforward.
 - b. The relationship between long prison terms and crime deterrence is not straightforward, and its effectiveness can vary depending on the type of crime, individual factors, and societal conditions. While long prison sentences may deter some individuals from committing crimes, they are not a panacea for reducing crime rates. Many experts argue for a more balanced approach to criminal justice that considers factors such as rehabilitation, reintegration, and addressing the root causes of criminal behavior in addition to punitive measures like long prison terms.
7. Watch Reason TV's [3 Reasons to Get Rid of the Death Penalty](#) (Sep. 9, 2014) – last accessed September 2023. Also embedded below.
 - a. The death penalty, also known as capital punishment, is a controversial and heavily debated topic when considered as a form of deterrence in criminal justice systems. The central argument in favor of the death penalty as a deterrent is that the prospect of facing the ultimate punishment, death, can deter individuals from committing serious crimes, particularly murder. However, this argument is fraught with complexities, and its effectiveness as a deterrent is a subject of extensive research and debate.
 - b. The idea behind using the death penalty as a deterrent is rooted in deterrence theory, which suggests that potential offenders weigh the potential costs and benefits of their actions before committing a crime. Proponents argue that the death penalty, being the harshest punishment possible, can act as a strong deterrent because individuals may be less likely to commit a murder if they fear execution.
 - c. Criminologists argue that potential offenders are influenced by various complex factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, family background, drug addiction, mental health issues, and the perceived likelihood of getting caught, in addition to the severity of punishment. Therefore, the effectiveness of the death penalty as a deterrent is challenging to isolate from these other influences.

To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=119#oembed-3>

Activity – Assessing Deterrence, the Death Penalty, and the Administration of Justice

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.



Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to advance the student's understanding of the death penalty from the context of the neoclassical perspective and to either establish or challenge their own established position on the subject. Particular attention is given to the concept of deterrence and its application within a modern context.

Instructions

1. Review [5 Things About Deterrence](#) (NIJ, May 2016) [see attached]
2. Review the Death Penalty Information Center (DCIP) [2024 fact sheet](#) (see attached)
3. Watch Reason TV's [3 Reasons to Get Rid of the Death Penalty](#) (Sep. 9, 2014)
4. Watch, Gov. Gavin Newsom on halting death penalty: ["It's a racist system. You cannot deny that."](#)
5. Watch, [CA Governor Spares 700+ Lives By Ending Death Penalty](#) | Velshi & Ruhle | MSNBC (also embedded below).
6. Review the related, but not required United States Department of Justice / Bureau of Justice Statistics [Capital Punishment, 2021 Statistical Tables](#)





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California Governor Imposes a Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The following example is emblematic of social and attitudinal changes throughout the country. California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that placed a moratorium on the death penalty within the state on March 13, 2019. In addition to the moratorium, the executive order also called for the repeal of lethal injections protocols and a closure of the San Quentin execution chamber. Governor Newsom's move has been praised by some as a progressive move towards fixing the inequality inherent in the criminal justice system. However, he has also received backlash from those who argue that he has gone against Californian voters, who in 2012 and 2016 rejected ballot measures to abolish the death penalty within the state.

Answer the following questions:

- From a deterrence perspective, describe what you believe is the **most** convincing argument for the death penalty?
- From a deterrence perspective, describe what you believe is the **least** convincing argument for the death penalty?
- Based on your first two responses, do you believe that the death penalty deters crime? Explain and be specific.
- In your estimation, did Governor Gavin Newsom made the right decision in imposing the moratorium on the death penalty in the state of California? Explain and be specific.

Key Concepts

Just deserts – suggests that punishment rightfully reflects the pain caused and is thus earned by the law violator.

Retribution – similar to just deserts and implies that criminals (i.e., law violators), deserve to be punished because they have violated a legal system from which everyone benefits.

General deterrence – the idea that punishing offenders sets an example and deters the rest of society from engaging in law violating activities.

Specific deterrence – the principle of refers to the use of punishment for criminal activity intended to discourage a specific individual from re-offending.

Discussion Questions

1. How rational and deterrence theories account for the influence of emotions, impulses, or peer pressure on criminal behavior?
2. What are some of the unintended consequences or side effects of relying on sanctions to prevent crime?
3. How can deterrence and rational choice theories inform crime prevention policies and programs?
4. How do classical criminology and rational choice perspectives differ in their assumptions, methods, and applications?
5. How do the concepts of deterrence and self-control relate to the classical and rational choice perspectives on crime?
6. How do individuals and groups make or structure decisions that lead them to engage in or abstain from criminal behavior?

Supplemental Resources

- [Executions in Oklahoma: Cruel and Unusual?](#) (VICE News, Feb. 2023) [last accessed, Feb. 2024].
- Cornish and Clarke (2003). [25 Techniques of Situational Crime Prevention](#) (as cited by ASU, Center for Problem Oriented Policing, 2024) [last accessed, Feb. 2024].
- Death Penalty Information Center ([DPIC](#))
 - The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to serve the media, policymakers, and the general public with data and analysis on issues concerning capital punishment and the people it affects. DPIC does not take a position on the death penalty itself but is critical of problems in its application.
- Center for Law and Social Policy
 - The Center for Law and Social Policy ([CLASP](#)) is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advancing policy solutions for people with low incomes.
- Associated Press (AP), [California moves to dismantle nation's largest death row](#) (January 21, 2022) [last accessed, Feb. 2024].
- CBS News [Kenneth Eugene Smith executed by nitrogen hypoxia in Alabama, marking a first for the death penalty](#) (Jan. 26, 2024) [last accessed, Feb. 2024].

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1. Hochstetler, A. (2009). Classical Perspectives. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 201-209). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600034/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=fe41aea7
2. Paternoster, R. (2009). Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 236-244). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600038/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=79736864
3. Arizona State University (2023), *Twenty-Five Techniques of Situational Prevention* (Center for Problem Oriented Policing, 2023). https://drive.google.com/file/d/1g4meX_GHR2tu3zIFPFp5srGSc6aWOrVq/view. Accessed 19, Feb. 2024.
4. National Institute of Justice's (NIJ). FIVE THINGS ABOUT DETERRENCE, (DOJ/OJP, May 2016). https://drive.google.com/file/d/16p1KSzLr-NV-4MD2X5EM8I_Ln2leL_bS/view. Accessed 19 Feb. 2024.
5. Danielle MacCartney (Oct. 2021), *Self-Control Theory*. https://youtu.be/AiI1DC3fHGY?si=t_tlzykM4MTgJ6-P. Accessed 19 Feb. 2024.
6. Justice Policy Institute (Sep. 2020), *The Trouble with Long Prison Terms* (Justice Policy Institute, September 2020). <https://justicepolicy.org/long-prison-terms/>. Accessed 19 Feb. 2024.
7. Reason TV, *3 Reasons to Get Rid of the Death Penalty* (Sep. 9, 2014). https://youtu.be/ql1-rneRkDE?si=gNFPamsx2h_r5llh. Accessed 19 Feb. 2024.

PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIME

Module 6 explores the interaction between psychological factors and criminal behavior. The examination between psychology and crime provides an opportunity to consider how individual psychological characteristics, experiences, and processes can contribute to the commission of criminal acts. The field of forensic psychology focuses on understanding how psychological principles can shed light on the causes of crime, the motivations of offenders, and the impact of crime on victims and society. It also examines the application of psychological knowledge in the criminal justice system to better understand and address deviance and criminal behavior. It's important to note that while psychology can provide valuable insights into criminal behavior, it is just one piece of a larger puzzle. Criminal behavior is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon influenced by social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors, in addition to individual psychological traits. The integration of psychological knowledge with other disciplines, such as sociology, criminology, and law, is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of crime and the development of effective strategies for crime prevention, intervention, and justice.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- explain how mental illness relates to crime in general.
- describe the fundamentals of psychoanalytic theory, including Freudian elements of personality and defense mechanisms.
- enumerate the three learning mechanisms operant conditioning, classical conditioning, and observational learning and how they relate to theories of crime.

- explain cognitive structure and cognitive content and how they have been applied to criminal behavior.
- distinguish between general personality research and research on a “criminal personality.” Furthermore, be able to provide examples of general traits related to crime and the specific attributes of a psychopath.
- summarize the debate on the relationship between IQ and criminal behavior.
- discuss the contributions of psychology to the study of crime.
- identify the major principles of psychological perspectives of criminal behavior.
- explain how personality explains criminality.
- recognize the treatment implications of psychological understandings of criminality.

Summary

The psychology of crime is the study of the psychological factors that contribute to criminal behavior, including the motivations, thoughts, emotions, and personality traits of individuals involved in illegal activities. This field of study seeks to understand why some individuals engage in criminal acts while others do not and how psychological factors interact with social, environmental, and cultural influences to shape criminal behavior.

Certain personality traits have been associated with an increased likelihood of criminal behavior. Traits such as impulsivity, sensation-seeking, low empathy, aggressiveness, and a lack of conscience or guilt (associated with psychopathy) have been linked to criminal conduct.

Cognitive factors play a role in criminal behavior. Deficits in decision-making, problem-solving skills, and executive functions can lead individuals to engage in criminal acts as a way of addressing their problems or achieving their goals.

Mental health issues can be relevant to criminal behavior, particularly in cases of severe disorders like antisocial personality disorder, conduct disorder, or substance use disorders. However, it is essential to recognize that most people with mental health issues are not involved in criminal activities.

Adverse childhood experiences, such as physical or emotional abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence, can significantly impact an individual’s likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior later in life. Early trauma can affect brain development and lead to maladaptive coping strategies.

The social learning theory suggests that individuals learn behaviors, including criminal ones, through observation and imitation of others. Exposure to criminal role models or environments can contribute to the adoption of criminal behavior.

Family influences, such as inconsistent discipline, family conflict, or a lack of parental supervision, can

impact an individual's likelihood of engaging in criminal conduct. A dysfunctional family environment may contribute to the development of delinquent behavior.

Peer relationships and social networks can play a significant role in criminal behavior. Association with delinquent peers can reinforce criminal attitudes and behavior, leading to further involvement in criminal activities.

Substance abuse can impair judgment and increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal acts to obtain drugs or maintain an addiction.

Advances in neuroscience have shown that brain structure and functioning can influence behavior, including criminal conduct. Abnormalities in certain brain regions may be associated with increased aggression or impulsivity.

The psychology of crime is a complex and multidimensional field that considers various individual and environmental factors. It's essential to understand that criminal behavior is the result of an intricate interplay between biological, psychological, social, and environmental factors. By integrating psychological knowledge with other disciplines, policymakers and practitioners can develop more effective prevention and intervention strategies to address criminal behavior and promote public safety. Moreover, understanding the psychological aspects of crime can also contribute to efforts aimed at rehabilitation and reducing recidivism among offenders.

Test Your Knowledge

Print a copy of the following worksheet and bring it to class! As an alternative, complete the worksheet while you read through the summary located above: [Worksheet](#)

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=207#h5p-26>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Albert Bandura (1925-2021)

Antisocial Personality

Attachment Theory

Behavioral Theory

Behavioral Conditioning

Behaviorism

Big Five Model of Personality

Charles Goring (1870-1919)

Cognitive Theory

Cyberpsychology

Gabriel Tarde (1843-1904)

Lawrence Kohlberg (1927-1987)

Maladaptation

Modeling Theory

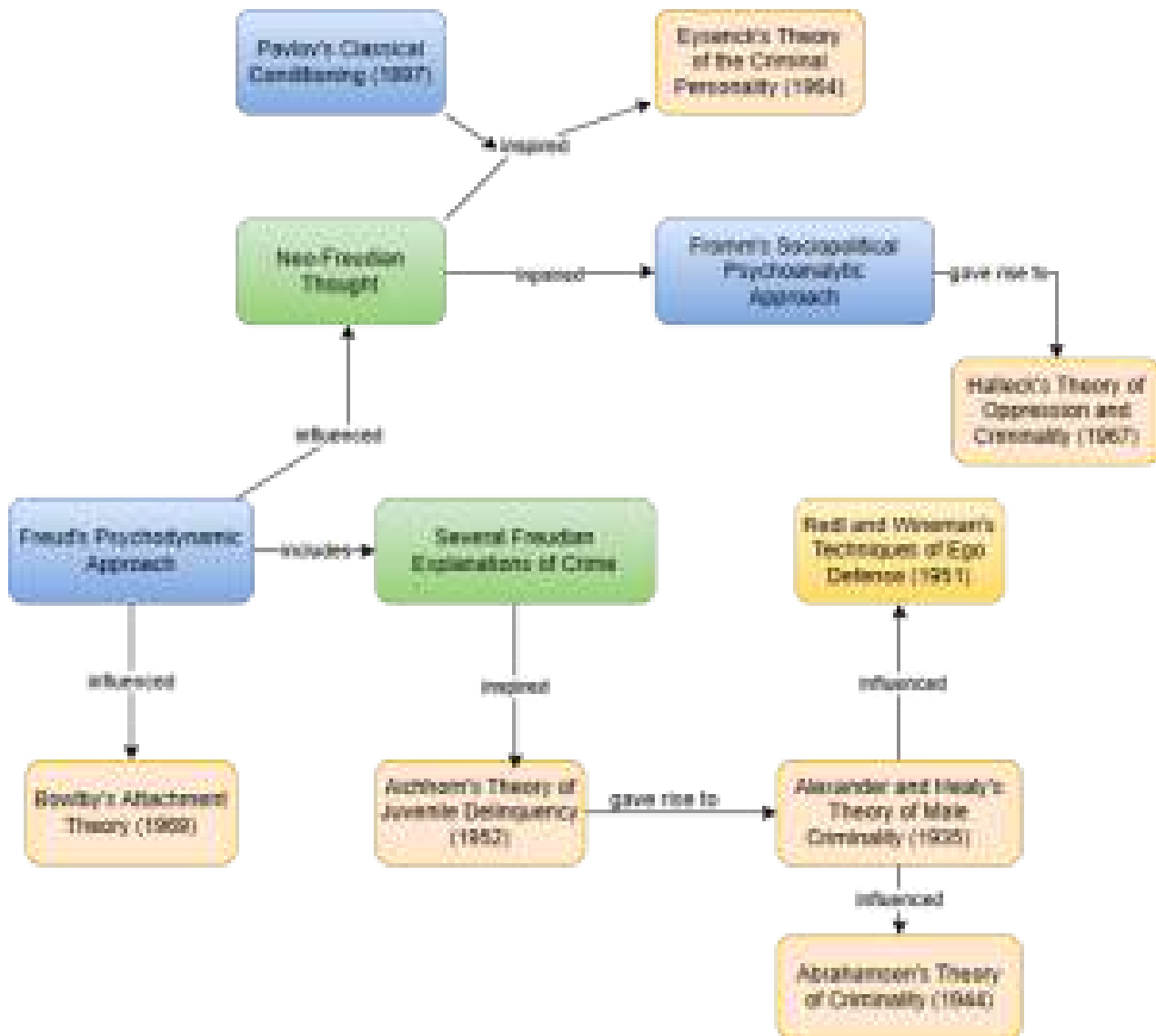
Psychoanalytic Perspective

Psychopath

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

Trait Theory

Psychological Positivism



Modern Application

Cyberpsychology

Cyberpsychology, a discipline at the intersection of psychology and technology, explores how

digital environments impact human behavior, cognition, and emotions. As the digital age progresses, understanding the psychological aspects of online interactions becomes increasingly crucial, especially in the context of deviance and crime. This field sheds light on the motivations, behaviors, and profiles of individuals engaging in cyber deviance, such as cyberbullying, cyberstalking, hacking, and other forms of cybercrime. Through cyberpsychology, researchers analyze how the anonymity, perceived detachment, and vast audience reach of the internet contribute to deviant behaviors online.

The application of cyberpsychology in understanding cyber deviance and crime is multifaceted. It helps in identifying psychological traits that predispose individuals to engage in cybercriminal activities, understanding the impact of digital environments on behavior, and developing psychological profiles of potential offenders. This knowledge is instrumental in crafting strategies and tools to combat cybercrime, including the design of safer online environments, the implementation of digital literacy programs, and the enhancement of cybersecurity measures.

Moreover, cyberpsychology contributes to the development of intervention strategies aimed at preventing cyber deviance and assisting victims. By understanding the psychological underpinnings of cybercrime, professionals can create more effective education and awareness programs, improve legal and policy frameworks, and devise therapeutic interventions for those affected by cybercrime.

However, the rapid evolution of technology and the complexity of online interactions pose significant challenges for cyberpsychology. Ethical concerns, the need for cross-disciplinary research, and the dynamic nature of digital technologies demand continuous adaptation and innovation in the field. Despite these challenges, cyberpsychology remains a vital discipline for addressing the complexities of deviance and crime in the twenty-first century, offering insights and solutions to secure cyberspace and protect individuals from the psychological impacts of cybercrime.

The Cyberpsychology of Cybercrime – Mary Aiken, RCSI (Web Summit, Dec. 2015)



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- New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) [What is Cyberpsychology and Why is it](#)

Important? (Feb. 2023)

- [Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace](#) (MUNI Journals)
- CSO. [Why cyberpsychology is such an important part of effective cybersecurity](#) (Mary Pratt, July 4, 2023.) [last accessed, March 3 2024].

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 31: [Psychological Theories of Crime](#) by John W. Clark, Troy University (Clark, 2009)

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=207#h5p-28>

This chapter:

- explores the major psychological theories of crime, highlighting psychodynamic, behavioral, and cognitive theories to explain criminal behavior through personality, intelligence, and learning processes.
- explains how psychodynamic theory suggests early childhood experiences, including neglect or lack of nurturing, can lead to weakened personality structures that may contribute to criminal tendencies.
- delves into behavioral theory, emphasizing that criminal behavior is often a learned response, influenced by family interactions, environmental experiences, and exposure to violent media.
- discusses cognitive theory, focusing on how flawed information processing and impaired moral development may hinder individuals' ability to make ethical decisions, potentially leading to criminal behavior.
- examines the relationship between personality traits, such as neuroticism and extraversion, and criminal behavior, as well as the controversial link between intelligence and crime within the nature-versus-nurture debate.

2. Read WPO's [More Children Are Depressed and Anxious. Is Social Media Really Behind It? Lawmakers have proposed restrictions, but some scientists say it is hard to tell if they will help](#) (Nidhi Subbaraman, October 15 2024).

a. There is growing concerns among lawmakers, parents, and health experts about the potential link between social media use and rising levels of depression and anxiety among children and teenagers.

b. Although many attribute youth mental health issues to social media, experts find it difficult to determine the exact impact due to numerous influencing factors, making it hard to isolate social media as a primary cause.

c. The recent legislative efforts aimed at restricting children's access to social media to protect their mental health, though some scientists argue that these restrictions might limit important social connections for young people.

d. The complexities in studying social media's impact on mental health, as platforms frequently update features, and access to critical data is often limited, complicating efforts for thorough, long-term research.

e. While social media companies have implemented safety features for young users, they are still facing lawsuits and criticism for allegedly creating addictive products that could harm youth mental health, with some states seeking further legal action.

3. Review Saul Mcleod's [Operant Conditioning: What It Is, How It Works, And Examples](#) (Simply Psychology, June 2023)

a. Operant conditioning, developed by B.F. Skinner, is a learning process where behaviors are influenced by the consequences that follow them, encouraging or discouraging specific actions.

b. In operant conditioning, reinforcement is used to increase the likelihood of a behavior being repeated, with positive reinforcement adding a desirable stimulus (like a reward) and negative reinforcement removing an unpleasant one (such as stopping an annoying sound).

c. Punishment, another key element, is used to decrease the likelihood of a behavior, with positive punishment introducing an unpleasant stimulus (like a scolding) and negative punishment taking away a desired item (such as a toy).

d. Skinner identified schedules of reinforcement — fixed, variable, interval, and ratio — which affect how quickly and strongly a behavior is learned based on the timing and frequency of reinforcement.

e. Through operant conditioning, Skinner demonstrated that behavior is not merely a response to stimuli but can be shaped and controlled by carefully manipulating consequences, establishing a foundational concept in behavior psychology.

4. Review Saul Mcleod's [Bandura's Bobo Doll Experiment On Social Learning](#) (Simply Psychology, June 2023)

a. Albert Bandura developed a comprehensive social cognition theory of aggression that depends on cognitive processes for its explanatory power.

b. Everyone is capable of aggression but must learn how to behave aggressively.

c. Central to his theory are the ideas of observation, imitation, and modeling. People learn to act (aggressively or otherwise) by observing others, either in person or in the media.

5. Review Kendra Cherry's [*What Are the Big 5 Personality Traits? Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism*](#) (verywell mind, March 2023)

a. Hans Eysenck explained crime as the result of fundamental personality characteristics or traits, which he believed are largely inherited.

b. He believed the degree to which three universal super-traits are present in an individual accounts for his or her unique personality.

c. Termed these super-traits introversion/extraversion; neuroticism/emotional stability; psychoticism – people who score high on any of these are not easily socialized or conditioned and commit more crime in adulthood.

d. Psychoticism thought to be closely correlated with criminality at all stages.

e. Today, trait theories of personality have expanded to the Five Factor Model with five basic traits: openness to experience, extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and agreeableness.

6. Review NBC News' [*The shape of your brain may strongly influence your thoughts and behavior, study finds*](#) (Bendix, A. , May 21, 2023) [last accessed July 2023]

7. Watch [*Social Learning Theory: Bandura's Bobo Beatdown Experiments*](#) (Sprouts, 2022)

a. Social learning theory suggests that all behaviors, including crime, are learned in much the same way, involving the acquisition of norms, values, and patterns of behavior conducive to crime, so that crime is a product of the social environment rather than an innate characteristic of some individuals.

8. Watch [*Psychoanalytic Theory*](#) (Khan Academy, 2015)

a. Psychoanalytic theory, based on the work of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), suggests that criminal behavior is maladaptive, the result of inadequacies inherent in the offender's personality which is formed by early childhood experiences that influence his or her likelihood for committing future crimes.

b. Psychoanalysis suggests that one possible cause of crime may be a poorly developed superego, which leaves the individual operating without a moral guide.

9. Watch TEDx Talks (May 2016), Brian Boutwell: [*The Future of Criminology Saint Louis University*](#) [14:34] (TED, 2021) – also embedded below.

10. Watch and Review [*How Sociopaths Are Different from Psychopaths*](#) by Marcia Purse (verywell mind, November 2022)

a. The concept of the psychopathic personality was developed by Hervey Cleckley, who described a psychopath as a “moral idiot,” with poverty of affect as the central defining characteristic.

b. There are several different types of psychopaths, including sociopaths, who are born with a normal personality but develop psychopathic characteristics due to personal experiences early in life.

c. Today, the terms “psychopath” and “sociopath” have fallen out of favor and have been replaced by the concept of antisocial personality.



Mind Journal – last accessed, June 2024.
<https://themindsjournal.com/being-a-psychopath-exploring-benefits/>

- 11. Watch JCS’ *What Pretending to be crazy looks like* (May 2021)
- 12. Watch *Psychopath Child* (AP Psychology, August 2013)

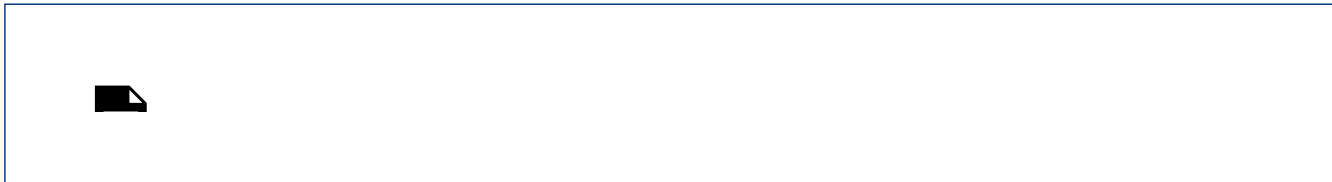
To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

The Future of Criminology Saint Louis University





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Activity – Violent Video Games and Crime Nexus?

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Purpose

The theory building process requires that we can establish testable assumptions that account for a set of facts. Such facts provide a premise from which we can address contemporary social challenges within the context of a modern society. For example, there is much debate regarding the potential harm caused by violent media, music, and video games. The purpose of this topic forum is to provide students with an opportunity to explore the possible correlation between video games and violence as part of developing an understanding of evidence-based criminology.

Instructions

1. Review behavioral theory as explained within Chapter 31 *Psychological Theories of Crime* (p. 274)
2. Read attached article from [Do Violent Video Games Make Kids More Violent](#) and explore a few of those links embedded within the file.
3. Watch **Video 1:** [Video game violence linked to bad behavior, study says](#) (also embedded below)

4. Watch **Video 2: [How do video games affect behavior?](#)** (also embedded below)



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Answer the following questions:

- Use modeling theory within the context of social learning theory to **explain** how you believe violent video games might affect a player's emotions and influence their perceptual or emotional view of the world and increase the likelihood of maladaptive behavior.
- **Summarize** how playing violent video games might influence a person's real-life behavior?
- A recent summary of this emerging literature finds a moderate correlation between exposure to violent video games and both aggression and lack of empathy. An exclusive review of studies of criminal aggression, however, did not find that video gaming had a significant impact. Skeptics of the link between media exposure and real-world violence also point out that both cross-national research and American crime trends cast doubt on the existence of a large effect. **Using aspects of Module 6, explain whether or not you believe there is in fact a connection between video games and real-world violence.**

Key Terms/Concepts

Definitions for these terms are located above within the respective section.

- **Albert Bandura**
- **Behavioral Theory**

- **Behavioral Conditioning**
- **Modeling Theory**

Refer to the course learning management system (LMS); that is Blackboard (BB), for the correct due date. In addition, submit your work via BB for grading.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the development of the id, ego, and superego influence deviant and/or criminal behavior?
2. How does social learning theory explain the acquisition of violent and aggressive behavior?
3. What are the three primary sources of behavior modeling according to Bandura?
4. How does moral development theory account for the different stages of moral reasoning?
5. What are some factors that may impair the information-processing abilities of criminal offenders?
6. How does the Big Five model of personality measure individual differences in personality?
7. What are some personality traits that are correlated with delinquent and criminal behavior?
8. What are the arguments for and against the nature-versus-nurture debate in relation to intelligence and crime?

Supplemental Resources

- [The Moral Sense Test: How do you decide between right and wrong?](#)
- [Treating Antisocial Personality Disorder](#) (Psych Central, 2023)
- [“Psychopathic Child” AP Psychology](#) (Hacker, C., August 2013)

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about College of DuPage's Psychology Program

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SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND CRIME

Module 7 introduces various general assumptions and types of sociological theories before focusing specifically on social structure theories. Social structure theories are a group of sociologically based theories that consider formal and informal economic and social arrangements of society as root causes of crime and deviance. Structure based theories highlight arrangements within society that contribute to the low socioeconomic status of identifiable groups as significant causes of crime. The three main types of social structure theories are: (1) social disorganization theories, (2) general strain theories [GST], and (3) the culture conflict perspectives. Particular attention is given to exploring how social structure theories have influenced social policy, through programs such as the Chicago Area Project ([CAP](#)), [Mobilization for Youth](#), and the War on Poverty.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of a “structural” explanation of crime.
- recognize the contributions of Emile Durkheim and how his work connects to modern criminological theory.
- identify the central themes captured by the Chicago School and social disorganization theory.
- describe the anomie/strain tradition, including the work of Robert K. Merton and subsequent revisions of his theory.
- identify the different subcultural explanations of delinquency and connect them to broader theoretical traditions.

- explain how culture conflict connect the theories within this chapter to their respective policy implications.

Summary

Social structure theory, also known as social disorganization theory, is a criminological perspective that links crime rates to the characteristics of a community or neighborhood. The theory posits that the structural and social features of a community can influence the prevalence of criminal behavior and deviance within that community. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the social context and environment in which individuals live to comprehend the factors contributing to crime.

Key elements of social structure theory and crime include social disorganization, the ecological perspective, strain and anomie, informal social control, poverty and inequality, neighborhood effects, and collective efficacy.

Social disorganization refers to a breakdown in the social fabric of a community, which can result from factors such as poverty, residential mobility, ethnic heterogeneity, and weak community ties. When a community lacks social cohesion and collective efficacy, it becomes more susceptible to crime and delinquency.

Social structure theory adopts an ecological perspective by viewing communities as ecosystems. It focuses on the spatial distribution of crime and delinquency, examining how crime rates vary across different neighborhoods with distinct social characteristics.

Social structure theory is influenced by strain theory and anomie theory, which suggest that individuals may turn to crime when they experience a disconnection between socially approved goals and the means to achieve those goals. In socially disorganized communities with limited opportunities and resources, the likelihood of criminal coping mechanisms increases.

The theory highlights the importance of informal social control mechanisms in preventing crime. When communities lack strong bonds, mutual trust, and shared norms, informal social control mechanisms that discourage criminal behavior weaken, allowing deviant acts to proliferate.

Social structure theory recognizes the impact of poverty and social inequality on crime rates. Communities with higher levels of poverty and economic disadvantage often experience higher crime rates due to limited access to resources and opportunities for social and economic advancement.

The theory emphasizes the impact of the neighborhood environment on an individual's behavior. Individuals living in socially disorganized areas may adopt the norms and values prevalent in their immediate surroundings, which can influence their involvement in criminal activities.

Collective efficacy refers to a community's ability to work together to address common problems and

maintain social order. Strong collective efficacy can serve as a protective factor against crime, as communities with high levels of cooperation and social integration are better equipped to prevent criminal behavior.

Social structure theory highlights the significance of the broader social context in shaping crime rates and patterns. By understanding the dynamics of communities and neighborhoods, policymakers and practitioners can develop targeted interventions to address the root causes of crime, such as poverty, lack of opportunities, and weak social ties. Strengthening community bonds, promoting economic development, and implementing community-based crime prevention programs are some of the strategies that can be employed to reduce crime in socially disorganized areas and foster safer and more resilient communities.

Test Your Knowledge

Print a copy of the following worksheet and bring it to class! As an alternative, complete the worksheet while you read through the summary located above: [Worksheet](#)

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=209#h5p-27>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Anomie

Chicago School

Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay (1942)

Collective Efficacy

Culture Conflict Theory

Differential Opportunity

Émile Durkheim (1858-1917)

Focal Concerns

General Strain Theory (GST)

Mechanical Solidarity

Middle-Class Measuring Rod

Neutralization Theory

Organic Solidarity

Reaction Formation

Relative Deprivation

Robert E. Park and Ernest W. Burgess (1928)

Robert K. Merton (1910-2003)

Social Disorganization

Social Ecology

Strain Theory

Subculture Theory

Zone in Transition

Modern Application

Can Cybercrime be Explained with Strain Theory?

According to strain theory, individuals engage in computer crime when they experience strain or pressure in their lives, such as economic hardship or social exclusion. Computer crime may provide a way for them to alleviate their stress or gain a sense of power and control.

Computer crime, encompassing a range of illegal activities conducted through digital means, offers individuals a unique pathway to exert power and control, as well as a method to alleviate stress.

The digital realm provides a veil of anonymity and a physical distance from victims, enabling individuals to commit crimes without the immediate risk of identification or confrontation. This detachment not only emboldens them but also creates a perceived environment of control and power over their targets.

Engaging in computer crime often requires a certain level of technical skill and knowledge, which can contribute to a sense of superiority and mastery. For some, the challenge of bypassing security

measures and exploiting vulnerabilities is intellectually stimulating and gratifying, reinforcing their sense of control and capability.

The immersive nature of the digital world offers a form of escapism from real-world problems and stressors. Engaging in computer crime can be a way for individuals to divert their attention from personal issues, using the thrill and focus required for such activities as a form of stress relief.

Computer crime can invert traditional power dynamics, allowing individuals who may feel powerless or marginalized in their physical lives to exert influence and command over others online. This shift can provide a psychological boost, empowering them in ways they do not experience offline.

Some people engage in computer crime as part of online communities or groups. The sense of belonging to a community that shares skills, knowledge, and goals can further enhance feelings of power and control, alongside providing social support mechanisms that alleviate stress.

Computer crime offers individuals a complex interplay of power, control, and stress relief, facilitated by the anonymity, technical challenge, escapism, altered power dynamics, and community belonging inherent in the digital world.

- [Institutional Anomie Theory and Cybercrime—Cybercrime and the American Dream, Now Available Online](#) (Dearden, Thomas & Parti, Katalin & Hawdon, James. (2021). Institutional Anomie Theory and Cybercrime—Cybercrime and the American Dream, Now Available Online. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*.) [last accessed, March 3, 2024].

This article published in the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, explores the relationship between institutional anomie theory (IAT) and cybercrime. The authors use a national sample of 215 self-admitted cybercriminals to examine how levels of institutional anomie correlate with cybercrime activity. Their research finds a relationship between two variables where the change in one variable does not correspond to a constant change in the other variable (i.e., curvilinear) indicating that both low and high levels of institutional anomie are associated with increased cybercrime. The study reveals that the pursuit of economic success, as dictated by American capitalism and the values of the American Dream, influences online criminal behavior.

In addition, the authors provide a succinct presentation of the theoretical background of strain and anomie theories, their application to cybercrime, and presents empirical findings supporting the relevance of IAT in understanding cybercriminal activities. The study underscores the complex interaction between economic pressures, individual values, and online deviance, suggesting that both extreme adherence to and rejection of the American Dream can produce conditions favorable for cybercriminal behavior.

An examination of cyberbullying might prove instructive as it provides an opportunity to consider internal (e.g., psychological) and external (e.g., social) factors with the potential to intensify one's willingness and eventual involvement in digitally supported behavior.

- Verywell Minda. [The Psychology of Cyberbullying](#) (Arlin Cuncic, MA, Dec. 31, 2023) [last accessed, March 3, 2024].

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 36: [Social Disorganization Theory](#) by Jeffrey T. Walker, University of Arkansas, Little Rock

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document

Part 1:



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=209#h5p-36>

Part 2:



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=209#h5p-37>

This chapter:

- outlines the origins and evolution of Social Disorganization Theory, tracing its roots from plant biology

and human ecology to its formalization by Shaw and McKay, who linked urban characteristics to delinquency.

- describes how Shaw and McKay used ecological factors such as physical status, economic status, and population status to explain patterns of delinquency in urban settings, particularly highlighting the impacts of community stability and social norms.
- examines the decline of Social Disorganization Theory in the 1970s, noting criticism of its reliance on official data and the theory's reduced focus in criminological studies until its partial resurgence in the 1990s.
- introduces the concept of “collective efficacy,” a modern extension of Social Disorganization Theory, emphasizing how neighborhood cohesion and informal social control can mitigate crime.
- suggests the future of Social Disorganization Theory may rely on studies incorporating collective efficacy and environmental criminology, as the classic form of the theory continues to be refined or integrated with newer frameworks.

2. **Voluntarily** read Chapter 38: [Strain Theories](#) by Robert Agnew, Emory University

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=209#h5p-35>

This chapter:

- explains strain theories as frameworks for understanding crime, positing that certain stressors, like the inability to achieve goals or exposure to negative stimuli, increase the likelihood of criminal behavior as a coping mechanism.
- explores Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory (GST), emphasizing how high-magnitude, unjust, and low-social-control strains—such as discrimination, homelessness, and abuse—are particularly conducive to crime.
- describes how strains contribute to crime by fostering negative emotions, particularly anger, frustration, and depression, which may push individuals toward crime as a form of relief or retaliation.
- highlights factors influencing criminal coping, including poor coping skills, low social support,

association with criminal peers, and beliefs that justify crime as a valid response to strain.

- discusses the policy implications of strain theories, advocating for social programs like parental support, anti-bullying initiatives, and job training to reduce strains and promote healthier coping strategies.

3. Review the [Chicago Area Project](#) (CAP) website. Identify various initiatives that CAP supports, e.g., community and youth services, prevention and wellness, and workforce development.

a. Environmental criminology is an emerging perspective building on routine activities theory, situational crime prevention, and ecological approaches and emphasizing the importance of location and architectural features in the prevalence of victimization.

b. Lawrence Sherman's "hot spots" of crime research found that a small percentage of places in Minneapolis produced half of all calls to the police.

4. Review a category of your choice from [The Power of Place The indelible mark of neighborhoods](#) (Vital City Journal, Issue 3). Issue 3 contains several categories from which you will find compelling articles; that is, Setting the Stage, Looking Back, Conversations, etc.

5. Watch [How does Merton's Strain Theory work? Sociology of Crime and Deviance](#) (Precooked Sociology, August 15, 2022) – also embedded below.

a. Strain theory is a sociological concept that was developed by Robert K. Merton in the mid-20th century. It seeks to explain deviant behavior by examining the tension or "strain" individuals experience when they are unable to achieve socially accepted goals through legitimate means. Here's a summarized explanation of strain theory:

b. Strain theory states that society sets culturally approved goals, such as success, wealth, and status, which are desirable to all members. Society also prescribes legitimate means to achieve these goals, like education and hard work.

c. When individuals are unable to attain these goals through conventional means or feel that the means are blocked for them, they experience a state of "anomie," or normlessness. This leads to feelings of strain and frustration.

d. In response to strain, individuals may adopt different modes of adaptation, which can be categorized into five types:

1. **Conformity:** Individuals continue to pursue societal goals through accepted means.
2. **Innovation:** People create new, often unconventional methods to achieve societal goals.
3. **Ritualism:** Individuals abandon the pursuit of societal goals but continue to adhere rigidly to the means.
4. **Retreatism:** People withdraw from both societal goals and conventional means, often turning to substance abuse or deviant lifestyles.
5. **Rebellion:** Individuals reject both the established goals and means, striving to replace them with alternative values and goals.

e. Strain theory suggests that deviant behavior can result from the inability to resolve the tension caused by the gap between societal goals and the means available for achieving them. The specific form of deviance depends on the individual's mode of adaptation.

f. In essence, strain theory helps us understand how social structures and opportunities influence individuals' choices and the potential for deviant behavior when these structures create a sense of frustration and blocked opportunities for success. It remains a valuable perspective in the field of criminology and sociology for examining the root causes of deviance and crime.

6. Watch [Breaking Down How the Broken Windows Theory Promotes Racial Bias](#) (theGrio Politics, January 29, 2022). Consider the unintended consequences of policies that are rooted deeply in criminological teachings (also embedded below).

7. Listen to [Gun violence in our region, and who's working to curb it](#) (WMRA | Randi B. Hagi, November 21, 2022).

a. Thorsten Sellin suggests that the root causes of crime are found in different values about what is acceptable or proper behavior. Consider which norms are in at odds and how differently socialized groups solve problems.

b. Franco Ferracuti and Marvin Wolfgang have proposed the existence of a subculture emphasizing values that support violence and violent behavior.

c. They suggest that for members of these violent subcultures, violence can be a way of life and thus the users do not feel guilty about their aggressive behavior.

8. Listen to [Incarcerated teens find escape in music and poems composed with artists](#) (NPR-WEBZ Chicago, Olivia Hampton June 2, 2023)

a. Consider that the likelihood that a juvenile will react to strains with criminal behavior depends on a range of factors influencing the individual's (1) ability to engage in legal coping, (2) costs of crime, and (3) disposition of crime. As you listen, isolate which aspects of music and the related experience are positive reinforcements that strengthen the ability of the youth to resist engaging in antisocial behavior.

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

Activity – Strain and Cyber Espionage Within the Twenty-First Century

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is apply aspects of social structure theory within the context of digital structures through the examination of modern espionage and the theft of intellectual property cases. In addition, students will explore how the evolution of technology has contribute to the growth of large-scale, sophisticated criminal enterprise and consider how innovation produces the need for a modern criminology.

Instructions

1. Read Cyber Risk GmbH's [From Espionage to Cyber Espionage](#) (June 2024)
2. Review CROWDSTRIKE's [What is Cyber Espionage?](#)(Feb. 2023) [last accessed, June 2024]
3. Watch [Cyber Espionage: National Security in the Digital Age](#) (WoodrowWilsonCenter, June 2021) [last accessed, June 2024] {also located below}
4. Listen to the FBI's [Economic espionage—the stealing of trade secrets for the benefit of a foreign government—is on the rise](#) audio file (DOJ), July 2015) [last accessed, June 2024]
5. Using a search engine of your choice, find a recent article that describes an espionage case that occurred within the past 12 months and include the respective link within your response.



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Answer the following questions:

- Was the selected espionage case industrial or economic? Cite specifics from the case to describe what and/or how much was lost.
- Thinking about your selected article, describe the type of espionage is involved and explain how that might related to organized crime.
- From the social structural perspective, explain how technology has expanded the capabilities of criminals and organized groups to perpetrate different forms of espionage.
- Consider the motives for those who commit cyber espionage and explain why are criminals increasingly willing to work together, partner, subcontract, and communicate anonymously through underground channels, to plan and perpetrate new criminal enterprise? Explain and be specific.

Key Terms/Concepts

Deep/Dark web is an umbrella term for parts of the internet not fully accessible using standard search engines such as Google, Bing and Yahoo. The contents of the deep web range from pages that were not indexed by search engines, paywalled sites, private databases, and the dark web.

Economic espionage is defined by the Economic Espionage Act (Title 18 U.S.C. §1831), economic espionage is (1) whoever knowingly performs targeting or acquisition of trade secrets to (2) knowingly benefit any foreign government, foreign instrumentality, or foreign agent. In contrast, the theft of trade secrets (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1832) is (1) whoever knowingly misappropriates trade secrets to (2) benefit anyone other than the owner.

Historically, economic espionage has targeted defense-related and high-tech industries. But recent FBI cases have shown that no industry, large or small, is immune to the threat. Any company with a proprietary product, process, or idea can be a target; any unprotected trade secret is vulnerable to theft by those who wish to illegally obtain innovations to increase their market share at a victim company's expense.

Industrial espionage refers to the illegal and unethical theft of business trade secrets for use by a competitor to achieve a competitive advantage. This activity is a covert practice often done by an

insider or an employee who gains employment for the express purpose of spying and stealing information for a competitor. Industrial espionage is conducted by companies for commercial purposes rather than by governments for national security purposes.

Strain theories explain crime because of the negative emotions caused by certain types of stress or strain, such as the inability to achieve one's goals, the loss of positive stimuli, or the presence of negative stimuli.



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How does Merton's Strain Theory work? Sociology of Crime and Deviance



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Breaking Down How the Broken Windows Theory Promotes Racial Bias



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Collective Efficacy



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Discussion Questions

1. How did the early studies of urban ecology, plant biology, and crime patterns in Chicago influence the development of social disorganization theory?
2. What were the main findings and limitations of the studies that replicated Shaw and McKay's analysis of ecological characteristics and juvenile delinquency in different cities?
3. How did the concepts of collective efficacy, social capital, and environmental criminology advance the understanding of the relationship between neighborhoods and crime?
4. What are some of the methodological innovations and substantive issues that need to be addressed to test and improve social disorganization theory in the 21st century?
5. How do strain theories suggest that crime can be prevented or reduced? What are some examples of programs or policies that are based on strain theories?
6. What are the types of strain that are most conducive to crime, according to general strain theory? How do these strains differ from other types of strain that are less likely to result in crime?
7. How do emotions mediate the relationship between strain and crime? What are some emotions that are more likely to lead to crime than others? How do gender differences in emotional reactions to strain affect crime rates?
8. How do strain theories explain group differences in crime, such as gender, age, class, and ethnic-racial differences?

Supplemental Resources

- [Say NOPE to social disorganization criminology: the importance of creators in neighborhood social control](https://doi.org/10.1186/) (Linning, S.J., Olaghere, A. & Eck, J.E. Say NOPE to social disorganization criminology: the importance of creators in neighborhood social control. *Crime Sci* 11, 5 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/>

s40163-022-00167-y) [last accessed, March. 2024].

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4. Vital City – The Power of Place The indelible mark of neighborhoods. <https://www.vitalcitynyc.org/issues/issue-3>. Accessed 23 March, 2024.
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6. theGrio Politics (January 29, 2022), *Breaking Down How the Broken Windows Theory Promotes Racial Bias*. <https://youtu.be/y44Dui0w8Kk?si=JgnmKCRcn2UXh3ye>. Accessed 23 March, 2024.
7. WMRA (Nov. 21, 2022), *Gun violence in our region, and who's working to curb it* (Randi B. Hagi). <https://www.wmra.org/2022-11-21/gun-violence-in-our-region-and-whos-working-to-curb-it>. Accessed 23 March, 2024.
8. NPR-Morning Edition (June 2, 2023), *Incarcerated teens find escape in music and poems composed with artists* (Olivia Hampton). <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/02/1178762181/incarcerated-teens-find-escape-in-music-and-poems-composed-with-artists>. Accessed 23 March, 2024.

SOCIAL PROCESS AND CRIME

Module 8 covers social process theory, which is a criminological perspective that focuses on how criminal behavior is learned and shaped through social interactions and processes. Readings and resources provide an opportunity to identify how social process theory is unlike other criminological theories that emphasize individual traits or structural factors, social process theory highlights the significance of socialization, peer influence, and the impact of social interactions in shaping an individual's propensity for criminal conduct. An examination of social forces throughout the module provides an opportunity to understand in what ways the theory suggests that crime is not solely determined by inherent characteristics or external circumstances, but rather, it is a result of ongoing social processes and interactions.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=211#audio-211-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- examine the nature of process theories of crime, including the important institutions within these theories and the role of socialization.
- explain the history and major concepts within the differential association/social learning perspective.
- identify what makes control theories different from other explanations of crime.
- list the types of informal control and explain how they fit into the various control theories of criminal behavior.
- discuss the social context of labeling theory and the labeling process.
- summarize the policy implications derived from learning, control, and labeling theories of

crime.

Summary

Social process theory is a criminological perspective that focuses on how criminal behavior is learned and shaped through social interactions and processes. Unlike other criminological theories that emphasize individual traits or structural factors, social process theory highlights the significance of socialization, peer influence, and the impact of social interactions in shaping an individual's propensity for criminal conduct. This theory suggests that crime is not solely determined by inherent characteristics or external circumstances, but rather, it is a result of ongoing social processes and interactions with intimate, peer, and social relationships. Furthermore, socialization, not the social structure, determines life chances. The more social problems encountered during the socialization process, the greater the likelihood that youths will encounter difficulties and obstacles.

Social process draws heavily from social learning theory, which posits that individuals learn behaviors, including criminal ones, through observation, imitation, and reinforcement. Criminal behavior may be acquired by associating with delinquent peers, family members, or engaging in criminal subcultures. The collection of theories within the social process perspective argues that socialization, not the social structure, determines life chances. The more social problems encountered during the socialization process, the greater the likelihood that youths will encounter difficulties and obstacles.

In 1939, Edwin Sutherland put forth one of the most notable social process theories. He explained that criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others who hold favorable attitudes toward crime. Individuals exposed to pro-criminal attitudes and values are more likely to adopt those values and engage in criminal activities.

In addition, the social theoretical perspective considers the role of socialization in shaping an individual's behavior. Early socialization experiences, especially within the family and peer groups, can significantly influence a person's attitudes towards authority, norms, and the acceptability of deviant behaviors. The relationship between family structure and crime is critical when the high rates of divorce and single parents are considered, but family conflict and discord are more important determinants of behavior than are family structure.

Peer influence may be a universal norm. Peer relations are a vital aspect of maturation and adolescents feel a persistent pressure to conform to group values. Those who regularly attend religious services should also eschew crime and other antisocial behaviors. The association between religious attendance and belief

and delinquent behavior patterns is negligible and insignificant; participation seems to be a more significant inhibitor of crime than merely having religious beliefs and values.

The effect of the family on delinquency has also been observed in other cultures. Educational process and adolescent achievement in school have been linked to criminality. Schools contribute to criminality in that when they label problem youths, they set them apart from conventional society. Many school dropouts, especially those who have been expelled, face a significant chance of entering a criminal career. In addition, the perspective connected to labeling theory, which emphasizes how the process of labeling individuals as criminals or deviants can influence their self-concept and behavior. Being labeled as a criminal can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where individuals internalize the criminal identity and engage in further criminal behavior.

This perspective examines the effectiveness of social control mechanisms in regulating behavior. Weak social bonds, low attachment to conventional institutions, and a lack of social control can lead to an increased likelihood of criminal behavior. In addition, the theory recognizes the role of rational choice and the availability of criminal opportunities. Individuals may weigh the costs and benefits of engaging in criminal behavior based on their social interactions and the perceived likelihood of getting caught.

Finally, social process theory highlights the dynamic nature of criminal behavior and the importance of social influences in shaping individuals' choices. By focusing on the social context and social interactions, this theory provides insights into how criminal behavior can be prevented or redirected through positive socialization, strong social bonds, and supportive networks. Intervention programs that target social learning and the reinforcement of pro-social behaviors can be instrumental in reducing criminal behavior and promoting prosocial outcomes within communities.

Test Your Knowledge

Print a copy of the following worksheet and bring it to class! As an alternative, complete the worksheet while you read through the following key terms and concepts summary located below: [Worksheet](#)

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=211#h5p-38>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Differential Association

Differential Association-Reinforcement Theory

Differential Identification

Containment Theory

Control Balance Theory

Frank Tannenbaum (1938)

General Theory of Crime (GTC)

Labeling Theory

Reintegrative Shaming

Ronald L. Akers (1966)

Social Bond Theory

Social Control Theories

Social Learning Theory

Stanley Cohen (1995)

Symbolic Interaction

Modern Application

Cybersecurity and Differential Association

The relationship between cybersecurity and social norms is both complex and dynamic, reflecting the evolving landscape of digital interactions and the expectations that govern them. Cybersecurity, fundamentally concerned with protecting information and systems from digital threats, intersects with social norms at the juncture where human behavior meets technology. Social norms dictate what is considered acceptable or ethical in online behavior, influencing the development of cybersecurity policies and practices. For instance, the increasing emphasis on privacy and data protection has been shaped significantly by societal values and expectations, leading to more robust cybersecurity measures. Conversely, cybersecurity incidents often prompt a reevaluation of social norms, as seen in the growing public discourse on the responsibility of individuals and

organizations to maintain cyber hygiene. This bidirectional relationship highlights the critical role that societal values play in shaping cybersecurity strategies and the importance of cybersecurity awareness in cultivating a safer digital culture.

Social process theories provide a basis from which we can better understand the relationship between cybersecurity and social norms within the digital context. For example, social Interaction and learning emphasizes that criminal behavior is learned through social interactions, highlighting the influence of socialization, peer influence, and intimate relationships on an individual's propensity for criminal conduct. In addition, social learning Theory suggests that behaviors, including criminal ones, are acquired through observation, imitation, and reinforcement, particularly from delinquent peers and family members. Therefore, there is value in developing information and communication technology policies that are in part informed by these criminological theories.

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Nov. 30, 2017), [Cybersecurity and the Concept of Norms](#) (Marth Finnemore, Nov. 30, 2017.)

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 37: [Social Learning Theory](#) by Ronald L. Akers, University of Florida and Wesley G. Jennings, University of Louisville

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=211#h5p-39>

This chapter:

- provides an overview of Akers's social learning theory, outlining its foundation in Sutherland's differential association theory and incorporating principles from behavioral psychology, such as those by

Skinner and Bandura.

- explains that Burgess and Akers’s differential association-reinforcement theory aimed to address the limitations of Sutherland’s work by detailing the learning process through operant conditioning, highlighting how reinforcement and punishment shape behavior.
- emphasizes four core components of social learning theory: differential association, definitions, differential reinforcement, and imitation, each contributing uniquely to the learning and continuation of criminal or deviant behavior.
- reviews empirical support for the theory, discussing landmark studies like the Boys Town and Iowa studies, which demonstrated that social learning variables significantly explained substance use and delinquent behavior among adolescents.
- also discusses the expansion of social learning theory into a macro-level framework known as social structure and social learning (SSSL), which posits that social structures indirectly affect behavior through social learning processes.

2. **Voluntarily** Read Chapter 29: [Labeling and Symbolic Interaction Theories](#) by Sean Maddan, University of Tampa and Ineke Haen Marshall

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document

This chapter:

3. Watch [Self control: Dan Ariely at TEDxDuke](#) (April 18, 2011) – also embedded below
 - a. In 1990, Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson proposed a general theory of crime (GTC) based on control theory concepts.
 - b. The theory asserts that low self-control accounts for all types of crime, always.
 - c. Self-control is acquired early in life and low self-control combined with impulsivity is the premier individual-level cause of crime.
 - d. A well-developed social bond will result in the creation of effective mechanisms of self-control.
4. Watch [The Rescue Me Project](#) | The Identity of the JUMP (The Rescue Me Project, December 2, 2021) – also embedded below
 - a. Social process theories emphasize crime prevention programs that work to enhance self-control and build prosocial bonds.
 - b. The Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) is run by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).
 - c. JUMP attempts to build strong social bonds while teaching positive values to juveniles.
 - d. JUMP places at-risk youth in a one-on-one relationship with favorable adult role models

- e. Both youth and mentors are very positive when rating the mentoring experience
5. Watch [Labeling Theory](#) (desorienteo, September 2013)
 - a. Society's response to offenders is important.
 - b. It determines the individual futures of those labeled as criminals.
 - c. It may contribute to increased criminality by reducing the behavioral options available to labeled offenders.
 - d. Frank Tannenbaum's 1938 research used the term "tagging" to describe what happens to offenders after arrest, conviction, and sentencing.
 6. Listen to Caught: [Introducing Charged](#) (NPR – WBEZ Chicago, May 8, 2019) [last accessed August 2023]

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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Activity – Understanding Mechanisms of Social Process/Control Within a Digital Context

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.



Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the student's understanding of social process theory, most specifically social control, within the context of a digital environment.

Instructions

1. This module's activity requires that students have completed a cursory review of Chapter 37: *Social Learning Theory* by Ronald L. Akers, University of Florida and Wesley G. Jennings, University of Louisville

2. Read K. Jaishankar's Abstract and seven (7) postulates for [Space Transition© Theory of Cyber Crimes](#)
3. Learn about B.F. Skinner. Watch [B.F. Skinner in 2 Minutes](#) (May 26, 2016)
4. Watch [Social Media as Social Control](#) (Luke Smith, Feb. 2021)

Answer the following questions:

- Discuss the significance of social control mechanisms (e.g., family, education, media and technology, self-control, etc.), as outlined in social process theory, in preventing online criminal behavior via social media applications.
- The Space Transition Theory suggests that individuals exhibit different behaviors when they transition from *physical* spaces to *cyberspace*. Explain how the 'transition' might make it difficult to develop effective measures of social control and prevention strategies in cyberspace?
- Considering the unique aspects of cybercrimes as distinct from traditional crimes in physical spaces, how might existing criminological theories such as Social Learning Theory, Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory, or Gottfredson or Hirschi's General Theory of Crime be adapted or expanded to better address the phenomena of cybercrimes?

Key Terms/Concepts

General Theory of Crime – Also known as Self-Control Theory, is a prominent criminological theory developed by Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi in 1990. The theory posits that the primary cause of criminal behavior is low self-control, which is formed early in childhood and remains relatively stable throughout an individual's life.

Social Control Theories – A group of criminological theories that focus on the mechanisms and processes by which societies regulate and control individual behavior to prevent deviance and criminality. These theories suggest that the presence of social bonds, attachments, and conformity to societal norms play a crucial role in deterring individuals from engaging in deviant behavior.

Social Process Theory – Also known as Social Cognitive Theory or Social Learning Socialization Theory, is a psychological and criminological theory developed by Albert Bandura in the 1960s. The theory proposes that individuals learn new behaviors, attitudes, and values by observing and imitating others, particularly those they perceive

as role models or authority figures. Social Learning Theory emphasizes the importance of the social environment in shaping human behavior and focuses on how learned behaviors influence future actions.

Space Transition Theory – A theoretical framework proposed by Jaishankar in 2008 to explain the causation of cybercrimes. It argues that people behave differently when they move from one space to another, such as from physical space to cyber space.

Refer to the course learning management system (LMS); that is Blackboard (BB), for the correct due date. In addition, submit your work via BB for grading.

Discussion Questions

- How does social process theory explain the influence of family structure and conflict on an individual's likelihood to engage in criminal behavior, and how does this compare to the impact of peer relationships and socialization outside the family?
- Considering Edwin Sutherland's theory that criminal behavior is learned through interaction with others holding pro-criminal attitudes, discuss how modern social media and online communities might affect the spread of such attitudes among youths today.
- Reflect on the role of schools and the educational system in potentially contributing to criminal behavior, as suggested by the labeling theory aspect of social process theory. How do labels like "problem youth" affect students' self-concept and behavior, and what alternatives might schools consider preventing such outcomes?
- Discuss the significance of social control mechanisms, as outlined in social process theory, in preventing criminal behavior. How can communities strengthen these mechanisms to reduce crime rates effectively?
- Analyze the claim that religious participation, rather than mere belief, acts as a more significant inhibitor of crime. What might this suggest about the nature of social influences and the effectiveness of communal activities in deterring delinquent behavior?
- Considering the dynamic nature of criminal behavior as suggested by social process theory, evaluate the potential of intervention programs targeting social learning and the reinforcement of pro-social behaviors. How might these programs be designed to effectively address and mitigate the root social causes of criminal behavior?

Supplemental Resources

1. Cybercrimeology (April 14, 2020). S1:E12 podcast – [*Social Learning Theory and Cybercrime: The impact of Family, Friends and Bronies*](#) (last accessed, March 14, 2024).

References

1. Akers, R. L., & Jennings, W. G. (2009). Social Learning Theory. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 323-331). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600048/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=395956fe
2. Maddan, S., & Marshall, I. H. (2009). Labeling and Symbolic Interaction Theories. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 253-261). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600040/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=4c573192

CRITICAL APPROACHES TO LAW AND CRIME

Module 9 examines crime from the conflict perspective as proposed within the writings of Karl Marx, who believed that conflict was inevitable in any capitalist society. The six key elements of the conflict perspective are outlined and the concept of social class, a topic central to the conflict perspective, is discussed. Also introduced are the early conflict theorists that include George Vold, who described crime as the result of political conflict between groups, Ralf Dahrendorf, who considered conflict to be a normal part of any society, and Austin Turk, who considered crime a natural consequence of intergroup conflict. The module continues with an examination of modern radical criminology, which suggests that crime causes are rooted in social conditions empowering the wealthy and politically well-organized and disenfranchising those less fortunate. William Chambliss, a modern radical thinker, emphasizes the power gap between the powerful and powerless as helping to create crime. Richard Quinney outlined six Marxist principles for an understanding of crime. He stated that crime is inevitable under capitalist conditions and that the problem of crime can only be solved by the development of a socialized society.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- explain the difference between a consensus and conflict view of society and identify the core themes of critical theories.
- recognize how conflict among different interest groups shapes the content of the law and the operation of the criminal justice system.

- interpret the evidence regarding the relationship between race, class, and criminal justice outcomes.
- describe how radical criminologists explain the law, criminal justice system, and criminal behavior.
- recognize extensions of radical theory, including peacemaking criminology and critical realism.
- describe how gender may shape both criminal justice processing and theories of crime.
- evaluate the crime-control implications of social conflict theories.

Summary

Critical approaches to understanding law and crime are theoretical perspectives that examine the role of power, social inequality, and the impact of societal structures in shaping legal systems, criminal justice policies, and definitions of crime. These perspectives challenge traditional and mainstream views of law and crime, aiming to uncover hidden power dynamics, oppressive practices, and social injustices within the criminal justice system. Critical approaches emphasize the importance of considering broader social, political, and economic contexts in understanding crime and law enforcement.

Critical criminology seeks to understand crime as a product of social inequality and unequal distribution of resources and opportunities. It critiques the role of capitalism, class conflict, and structural factors in generating criminal behavior. This perspective argues that crime can be seen as a form of resistance or rebellion against oppressive social conditions.

Marxist criminology is an approach that builds on Marxist theories and explores how economic factors influence crime. It views crime as a response to the capitalist system, wherein some individuals may resort to criminal behavior due to economic deprivation and exploitation. Marxist criminology highlights how laws and the criminal justice system can protect the interests of the ruling class while criminalizing behavior that threatens the established order.

Feminist criminology focuses on the intersection of gender and crime. It examines how patriarchal structures contribute to the perpetuation of crime and victimization. This perspective also critiques how the criminal justice system may perpetuate gender biases and stereotypes.

Postcolonial criminology examines the impact of colonialism and imperialism on crime and the criminal justice system. It recognizes how colonial legacies and ongoing neocolonial practices can influence crime rates, the treatment of marginalized communities, and the development of punitive policies.

Peacemaking Criminology is an approach that seeks to challenge punitive models of justice and focuses on healing, reconciliation, and community-based responses to crime. Peacemaking criminology emphasizes

restorative justice practices that involve the offender, victim, and the community in finding resolutions to the harm caused by the crime.

Critical legal studies critique the formalistic and neutral approach to law, highlighting how law reflects and reinforces existing power structures. It questions the objectivity of legal reasoning and how legal norms often serve the interests of dominant groups in society.

Intersectional approaches recognize the interconnected nature of various social identities, such as race, class, gender, and sexuality, and how these intersect to shape experiences of crime and criminal justice. Intersectionality emphasizes the need to consider multiple dimensions of social inequality in understanding law and crime.

Critical approaches challenge the dominant narratives and question the status quo in understanding law and crime. They call for more inclusive, equitable, and transformative approaches to address the root causes of crime, reduce social inequality, and promote a more just and fair criminal justice system. By examining the social and political context of law and crime, critical perspectives contribute to broader conversations about social change and the pursuit of justice for marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Key Takeaways

Critical approaches **emphasize the importance of power and social inequality** through the examination of the impact of influence of societal structures, power dynamics, and inequalities in shaping legal systems and criminal justice policies.

The **critical criminology** focus views crime because of social inequalities and the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities.

Building on **Marxist theory**, this perspective examines the relationship between economic factors and crime, arguing that criminal behavior can stem from economic deprivation and exploitation within a capitalist system.

The **feminist criminological perspective** focuses on the intersection of gender with crime, exploring how patriarchal structures foster crime and victimization, and critiquing gender biases and stereotypes within the criminal justice system.

Postcolonial criminology examines the impacts of colonialism and imperialism on crime rates, the treatment of marginalized communities, and the formulation of punitive policies, acknowledging the influence of colonial legacies and neocolonial practices.

Peacemaking criminology advocates for non-punitive responses to crime, peacemaking

criminology emphasizes healing, reconciliation, and community-based approaches, promoting restorative justice practices that involve offenders, victims, and communities.

Critical legal studies critique the formalistic and purportedly neutral stance of law, highlighting how legal systems reflect and reinforce existing power structures and often serve the interests of dominant societal groups.

Intersectional approaches recognize the interconnectedness of social identities (e.g., race, class, gender, sexuality).

Critical approaches collectively **challenge dominant narratives** and the status quo, advocating for more inclusive, equitable, and transformative strategies to address the root causes of crime, reduce social inequality, and foster a just and fair criminal justice system.

Key Terms/Concepts

Conflict Perspective

Consensus Perspective

Convict Criminology

Critical Criminology

Feminist Criminology

Jock Young

Left-Realist Criminology

Marxist Thought

Michel Foucault

Peacemaking Criminology

Pluralist Perspective

Post Modern Criminology

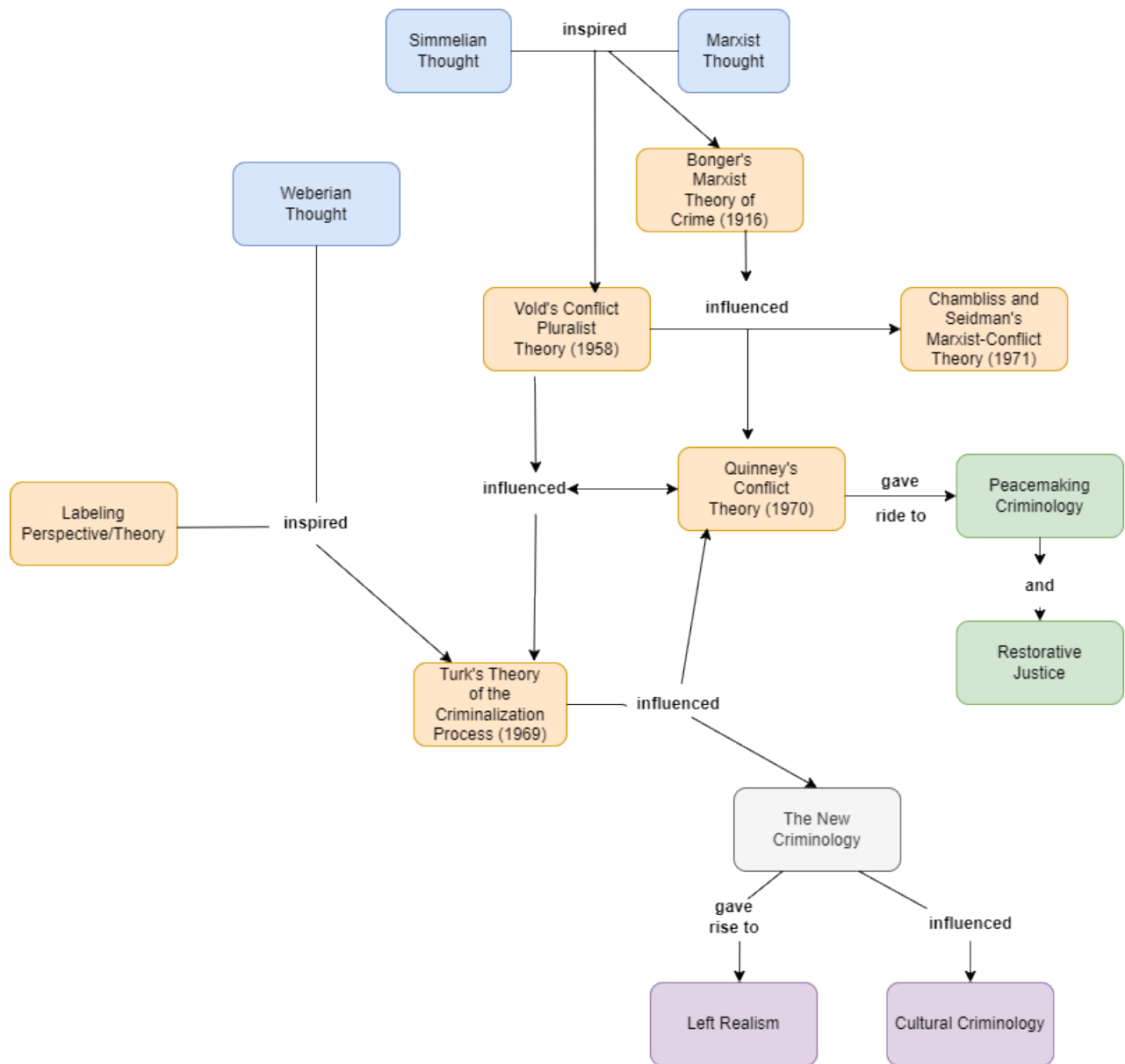
Radical Criminology

Simmelian Thought

Stuart Hall

Weberian Thought

Conflict Theory



Modern Application

A relevant and modern application of criminology's critical theory perspective can be seen when examining the criminal justice system itself and its interactions with marginalized communities.

Critical criminology focuses on understanding how power dynamics, inequality, and social structures contribute to crime and the administration of justice.

In today's context, this perspective can be applied to analyze issues such as:

- [Mass Incarceration](#) – Critical criminologists may examine how mass incarceration disproportionately affects marginalized communities, particularly people of color and those from low-income backgrounds. They would critique the structural factors—such as racial bias in policing and sentencing—that contribute to this disparity.
- [Policing Practices](#) – Critical criminologists might analyze police practices such as stop-and-frisk or the use of force, questioning how these tactics target certain communities and perpetuate social inequalities. They would explore the role of power dynamics and institutional racism within law enforcement agencies.
- [War on Drugs](#) – Critical criminologists often critique the War on Drugs as a policy that disproportionately targets minority communities while failing to address underlying social and economic factors contributing to drug abuse and crime.
- [Racial Profiling](#) – Examining how racial profiling operates within the criminal justice system, leading to unjust treatment of individuals based on their race or ethnicity. Critical criminologists would analyze the systemic biases that lead to profiling practices and advocate for reforms to address these issues.
- [Restorative Justice](#) – Some critical criminologists advocate for restorative justice approaches that focus on repairing harm and addressing the root causes of crime, rather than punitive measures that perpetuate cycles of incarceration and marginalization.

Overall, the critical theory perspective in criminology continues to be relevant in highlighting and challenging the structural injustices within the criminal justice system and advocating for reforms that promote equity and social justice.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 24: [Critical Criminology](#) by David O. Friedrichs, University of Scranton

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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2. Review [U.S. Poverty Census Bureau information on poverty](#) (July, 2023)

a. From a critical theory perspective, poverty is not simply an individual failing or a natural outcome of economic processes, but rather a social and systemic issue deeply embedded in the structures of society. Critical theory seeks to understand and challenge the power dynamics, inequalities, and oppressive structures that perpetuate poverty and social injustice.

b. Critical theory provides a lens through which poverty can be understood as a product of social, economic, and political structures. It calls for transformative action to challenge and dismantle these structures, with the goal of creating a more just and equitable society where poverty is no longer a pervasive and entrenched issue.

3. Review [The Fortune Society](#) website and watch the embedded presentation (also accessible via YouTube) *Both Sides of the Bars – Words Matter: The Importance of Humanizing Language* (MNN NYC, February 1, 2017)

a. Convict criminology is an emerging perspective within the field of criminology that emphasizes the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals who have been convicted of crimes. It challenges traditional criminological theories and perspectives that often neglect or marginalize the voices of those who have been directly affected by the criminal justice system.

b. The origins of convict criminology can be traced back to the United States in the late 1990s when a group of formerly incarcerated individuals and academic scholars started to advocate for a more inclusive and humanistic approach to understanding crime and punishment. The movement aims to address the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to crime by drawing on the personal experiences and insights of those who have been incarcerated.

4. Watch [Social Class & Poverty in the US: Crash Course Sociology #24](#) (Crash Course, September 11, 2017)

5. Watch [Why is there Social Stratification?: Crash Course Sociology #22](#) (Crash Course, (August 14, 2017)

a. In their 1971 book *Law, Order, and Power*, Chambliss and Seidman argue that economic stratification require dominant groups to enforce norms through coercion.

b. According to the authors, life conditions affect values and norms; complex societies are comprised of groups with divergent life conditions and conflicting values; and political and economic power determines whose values are embodied in the law.

6. Watch [Restorative Practices to Resolve Conflict/Build Relationships: Katy Hutchison at TEDxWestVancouverED](#) (TEDx Talks, June 10, 2013) – also embedded below.

- a. Peacemaking criminology emphasizes crime control through the adoption of a peace model based on cooperation rather than retribution.
- b. The peace model of crime control focuses on effective ways for developing a shared consensus on critical issues such as crime.
- c. Alternative dispute resolution programs such as mediation are characterized by cooperative efforts to resolve disputes rather than by adversarial proceedings.
- d. Dispute resolution is based on the participatory justice principle in which all parties accept a form of binding arbitration by neutral parties.
- e. Restorative justice is a modern social movement to reform the criminal justice system and stresses healing over retribution.
- f. The primary goal of restorative justice is restoration.

7. Listen to Forms Editor's Pick, [*New Year, New Glass Heights: Women Now Comprise 10% Of Top U.S. Corporation CEOs*](#) (January 27, 2023).

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.



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Activity – Public Order Crime – From Killer Weed to Kind Bud – The Power Dynamics, Inequality, and Social Structures of Marijuana Law and Enforcement

STOP!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Purpose

The purpose of this week's Topic Forum is to consider law as a social construction of those in positions of power and influence. Students will consider how laws have the ability to criminal perceptually deviant and harmful behaviors committed by distinct segments of society.

Instructions

1. Review the Marijuana Policy Project's '[Decriminalization](#)' page.
2. Review the National Institute of Health's (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) overview of [cannabis](#), pay particular attention to the medical information related to the physiological effects on the human body.
3. Watch [Will recreational marijuana soon be legal nationwide?](#)
4. Watch [Voting to Legalize Marijuana](#) news story (MSNC, Oct. 2018).
5. Watch [Marijuana laws could change as DÉJÀ considers reclassification](#) (Scripps News, Sep. 2023).

Answer the following questions:

- How might a conflict theorist explain the reluctance of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to change laws related to marijuana? Be specific.

- How might law makers, law enforcement officials, and the medical community describe any potential social harm that might occur if the United States continues to move towards legalizing/decriminalizing marijuana?
- Describe how critical criminology might improve our understanding of existing and changing drug policy in the United States?

Key Terms/Concepts

Extralegal factors – Factors such as race, class, and gender, that might have a substantial impact on the criminal justice system’s decision making regardless of legal factors such as offense seriousness and prior record.

Conflict model – Supports the notion that law is the result of a battle between people or groups that have different levels of power.

Conflict theory – A pluralistic perspective that arose in the 1970s and focused on one central conflict; that is, the battle between the very wealthy and the rest of the population.

War on Drugs – Critical criminologists often critique the War on Drugs as a policy that disproportionately targets minority communities while failing to address underlying social and economic factors contributing to drug abuse and crime.

Discussion Questions

1. How do critical approaches to understanding law and crime differ from traditional views, and what implications does this have for policymaking within the criminal justice system?
2. Discuss the significance of considering broader social, political, and economic contexts in the analysis of crime and law enforcement as proposed by critical criminology. How can this perspective help in addressing the root causes of criminal behavior?
3. Marxist criminology views crime as a response to the capitalist system and economic deprivation. What are the potential strengths and limitations of applying Marxist theories to understand and address crime?
4. Feminist criminology highlights the impact of patriarchal structures on crime and victimization. In what ways can integrating gender perspectives into criminology lead to a more comprehensive understanding of crime and its solutions?
5. Peacemaking criminology advocates for restorative justice practices over punitive models. Discuss the

potential benefits and challenges of implementing restorative justice practices within the current criminal justice system.

Supplemental Resources

- Still missing: Female business leaders ([CNN Business](#), March 2015)
- National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) – [Fast Facts](#) (last accessed October 2023)
- [The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice](#) (11th Edition, 2016) – By Jeffrey Reiman and Paul Leighton. A widely read critical criminology text, it critiques the U.S. criminal justice system, emphasizing class disparities.
- [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) (2010) – By Michelle Alexander. A seminal text in critical criminology, this book discusses the racial impacts of mass incarceration in the U.S. criminal justice system.
- [The International Journal for Crime, Justice, and Social Democracy](#). This open-access journal offers a critical perspective on criminological research, with a focus on social justice issues across the globe.
- [Waiting for “Superman”](#)
 - From the Academy Award-winning Director of *An Inconvenient Truth* comes the groundbreaking feature film that provides an engaging and inspiring look at public education in the United States. *Waiting For “Superman”* has helped launch a movement to achieve a real and lasting change through the compelling stories of five unforgettable students such as Emily, a Silicon Valley eighth-grader who is afraid of being labeled as unfit for college and Francisco, a Bronx first-grader whose mom will do anything to give him a shot at a better life. *Waiting For “Superman”* will leave a lasting and powerful impression that you will want to share with your friends and family.

References

1. Friedrichs, D. O. (2009). Critical Criminology. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 210-218). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600035/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=dc46c40d

CRIME OVER THE LIFE-COURSE

Module 10 examines the work of Glen Elder, John Laub, Robert J. Sampson, and Terri Moffitt. Their work collectively is called the life-course perspective. Life-course theory focuses on the dimensions of criminal offending and the development of criminal careers as the result of criminogenic influences affecting individuals over the entire life course. Key concepts include activation, aggravation, and desistance. Glen Elder's key principles provide a concise summary of life course theory. John Laub and Robert J. Sampson's age-graded theory of informal social control emphasizes two key turning points (marriage and job stability) that seem to be particularly important in reducing the frequency of offending in later life. They also stress the importance of social capital. Terrie Moffitt's dual taxonomic theory of criminality helps explain the observation that most antisocial children do not become adult criminals. Her two-path biosocial theory argues that neuropsychological deficits combined with poverty and family dysfunction explains why some people display rather constant patterns of behavior throughout life, while others go through limited periods with high probabilities of offending.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=215#audio-215-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- examine the nature of process theories of crime, including the important institutions within these theories and the role of socialization.
- explain the history and major concepts within the differential association/social learning perspective.
- identify what makes control theories different from other explanations of crime.

- list the types of informal control and explain how they fit into the various control theories of criminal behavior.
- discuss the social context of labeling theory and the labeling process.
- summarize the policy implications derived from learning, control, and labeling theories of crime.

Summary

Life-course theory, or the life-course perspective, is a framework in sociology and developmental psychology that examines how individual development and behavior unfold across a lifespan. It emphasizes the impact of interconnected life events, transitions, and experiences on a person's life path. Life-course criminology examines how criminal behavior evolves over an individual's lifespan, highlighting key phases like onset, persistence, and desistance. The theory is grounded in the well-documented age-crime relationship, where criminal activity peaks in late adolescence and typically declines in early adulthood. This approach considers the "criminal career," analyzing the sequence of crimes an individual commits, including the age they begin offending, patterns of persistence, and eventual desistance.

The theory suggests that early advantages, like quality education and stable family support, often lead to further benefits, while early disadvantages can make individuals more vulnerable to additional setbacks. Key life events—such as marriage, parenthood, education, and job changes—are seen as potential turning points that can significantly alter life trajectories.

Life-course criminology is primarily based on work using a longitudinal method, which involved the use of cohort samples. These studies identified small groups of chronic offenders responsible for a disproportionately high volume of crimes, a finding that propelled further research into risk and protective factors across life stages. Key life events, such as marriage or steady employment, can serve as turning points that reduce criminal activity, while factors like incarceration may increase the likelihood of continued offending.

The field integrates insights from sociology and psychology, especially the life-course paradigm, which emphasizes that life events and social bonds can redirect behavioral trajectories. Developmental and life-course (DLC) theories within criminology focus on three core aspects: the progression of criminal behavior, the role of risk and protective factors at different ages, and the effects of significant life events. For instance, Sampson and Laub's age-graded theory suggests that social bonds (e.g., employment, marriage) in adulthood can reduce crime involvement, regardless of prior tendencies.

Research in this area continues to explore unanswered questions, such as the influence of race, gender, and

intermittency in offending patterns. By understanding these factors, life-course criminology offers insights for more effective interventions and policies that address crime across different stages of life.

Key Takeaways



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=215#h5p-9>

Key Terms/Concepts

Activation

Age-Crime Curve

Age Graded Theory

Aggravation

Criminal Career

Developmental and Life Course (DLC) Paradigm

Desistance

Evolutionary Ecology

Farrington's Delinquent Development Theory

Life Course Criminology

Moffitt's Dual Taxonomic Theory

Onset

Persistence

Risk and Protective Factors

Thornberry's Interactional Theory

Trajectories

Turning Points

Modern Application

Parental Control and Cyber Victimization in Adolescents

Life-course theory underscores the interconnectedness of lives within families, communities, and broader social networks. Within a modern context life-course theory provides an instructive position from which we can explore the influence of parents and peers on a child's behavior within and via digital devices, e.g., cell phones.

Although Farrington, Moffitt, and Thornberry's original theories did not involve technology, the importance of parental control was central to those social frameworks. A modern application of life-course theory must consider how parental control might mitigate cyber-victimization among adolescents. Parents who monitor and regulate online activities, can shield their children from harmful content and predatory behaviors. This oversight helps in early detection of cyberbullying, inappropriate interactions, and exposure to risky online communities.

Effective parental control involves not only the use of technological tools, such as content filters and usage limits, but also open communication about the dangers of the digital world. Educating adolescents about online safety, encouraging them to share their online experiences, and setting clear guidelines for internet use create a safe digital environment. However, it is essential that this control balances supervision with adolescents' need for autonomy to foster trust and responsibility. Ultimately, a proactive and balanced approach to parental control can significantly reduce the risk of cyber-victimization, promoting a healthier online experience for adolescents.

1. [The Effect of Parental Control on Cyber-Victimization in Adolescence The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and High-Risk Behaviors](#) by David Álvarez-García*, José Carlos Núñez, Paloma González-Castro, Celestino Rodríguez and Rebeca Cerezo (Frontiers in Psychology, 22 May 2019).

The article examines the impact of parental control on cyber-victimization among adolescents, focusing on impulsivity and high-risk internet behaviors as mediating factors. The study involved 3360 Spanish adolescents and found that parental control, particularly supervision, can reduce the likelihood of cyber-victimization by mitigating impulsivity and

risky online activities. The research highlights the complexity of the relationship between parental control and cyber-victimization, suggesting that effective prevention requires a supportive family environment.

2. Louisa Clarence-Smith's article [Parents urged to buy 'dumb' phones to protect children from social media](#) (April 6, 2024) highlights key concerns and actions related to the impact of social media and smartphones on children's mental health.

According to Smith, the NEU general secretary suggests parents should have the option to buy phones without social media apps for teenagers, citing a link between social media addiction and mental health issues.

A grassroots movement, Parents for a Smartphone-free Childhood, has gained support from thousands of parents and celebrities, advocating for delaying smartphone access for children. [Safescreens Campaign](#) calls for government action to restrict smartphone use for under-16s, emphasizing the need for regulation to protect children from social media's harmful effects.

An [NEU survey](#) reveals a significant rise in student mental health issues, with teachers observing increased anxiety and social difficulties among pupils.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 30: [Life Course Criminology](#) by Wesley G. Jennings, University of Louisville and Alex R. Piquero, University of Maryland

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=215#h5p-10>

This chapter:

- examines the relationship between age and crime, emphasizing the age-crime curve, which typically shows crime peaking in the late teens and declining in early adulthood.
- highlights the development of life course criminology, which integrates insights from sociology and psychology to study criminal careers over time, addressing the onset, persistence, and desistance of criminal behavior.
- reviews landmark studies, including the Philadelphia Birth Cohort and Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development, which significantly contribute to understanding patterns of criminal offending across different life stages.
- discusses the importance of life transitions, such as marriage or employment, in influencing desistance from crime, as well as factors that can lead to continued offending, like incarceration.
- outlines core developmental life course (DLC) theories, such as Sampson and Laub's age-graded theory of informal social control, which emphasizes the role of social bonds in shaping criminal behavior throughout life.

2. Review [The Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up \(ABC\) Program](#) as an example of an initiative dedicated to the parent-child relationship. Pay particular attention to the research that supports the ABC program. Click [here](#) to access an overview of the research that supports the ABC program (last accessed, July 2023).

3. Review <http://www.abcintervention.org/about/> the brief overview of Moffitt's two-path theory (Soz Theory, April 2022) and watch [Jacobs Research Prize 2010 Caspi + Moffitt](#) (Jacobs Foundation, October 21, 2010)

a. Terrie E. Moffitt has developed a two-path, or dual taxonomic, theory of criminality to explain the observation that most antisocial children do not become adult criminals.

b. Life course persisters (LCPs) display relatively constant patterns of misbehavior throughout life – the theory suggests this is due to neuropsychological deficits combined with poverty and family dysfunction.

c. Adolescence-limited offenders (ALs) go through limited periods where they exhibit high probabilities of offending – they are led into offending mainly by structural disadvantages.

4. Review and learn more about the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods ([PHDCN+](#)) [Harvard University, last accessed, July 2023].

a. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has adopted the social development model as the foundation for its Comprehensive Strategy Program, which helps communities develop programs for preventing and responding to delinquency and crime and for early intervention.

b. The Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Targeted Outreach program diverts at-risk juveniles into activities intended to develop a sense of belonging, competence, usefulness, and self-control.

5. Watch the National Gang Center's (NGC) [Why Youth Join Gangs](#)

a. The National Gang Center (NGC) is a project funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and

Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

b. According to Thornberry's Interactional Theory, delinquent peers (including gang membership) are particularly important in providing the environment necessary for criminal behavior to develop because delinquents will seek out association with ever more delinquent groups if their delinquency continues to be rewarded, delinquency is seen as a process that unfolds over the life-course.

c. Childhood maltreatment could also be an important element of the developmental process leading to delinquency.

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

Discussion Questions

1. How do Glen Elder's key principles within the life-course perspective contribute to our understanding of criminal careers, and in what ways do they intersect with or differ from the concepts of activation, aggravation, and desistance?
2. Discuss the role of informal social controls, as outlined by John Laub and Robert J. Sampson, in the context of life-course criminology. How do turning points such as marriage and job stability influence the trajectory of criminal behavior, and what implications does this have for rehabilitation and policy-making?
3. Evaluate Terrie Moffitt's dual taxonomic theory of criminality, focusing on the interaction between neuropsychological deficits and socio-economic factors like poverty and family dysfunction. How does this theory explain the divergence in criminal behavior patterns observed from childhood to adulthood?
4. Discuss the implications of Moffitt's theory for prevention and intervention strategies targeting youth at risk of engaging in criminal activities.
5. Life-course theory emphasizes significant life transitions such as marriage, parenthood, and career changes as pivotal in altering an individual's life path. Reflect on how these events can serve as turning

points and discuss whether the impact of these transitions is more heavily influenced by the individual's choices or by their social context. Include examples to support your argument.

6. Considering the importance of timing and sequencing of life events in life-course theory, evaluate how the timing of key life events like marriage or career transitions can influence an individual's life outcomes. Discuss the potential consequences of "off-time" transitions (events occurring earlier or later than is typical in one's social context) on an individual's social and psychological well-being.
7. Life-course theory underscores the interconnectedness of lives within families, communities, and broader social networks. Explore the concept of "linked lives" and discuss how events in one person's life can have ripple effects on others. How can this concept inform policies and interventions aimed at supporting individuals through challenging transitions or circumstances?

Supplemental Resources

- [The Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up Program](#)
 - ABC is an evidence-based parenting intervention for caregivers of infants and toddlers who have experienced early adversity. The program is endorsed by the [MIECHV](#)-Home Visiting Coalition, The [California Evidence-Based Clearing](#) House for Child Welfare, and [SAMHSA](#)'s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. In light of the evidence supporting the effectiveness of ABC, we are disseminating the program at multiple sites across the nation and internationally.
- [Pathways to Desistance From Crime Among Juveniles and Adults_ Applications to Criminal Justice Policy and Practice](#) (Lila Kazemian, Ph.D., US DOJ, NIJ/OJP, 2021).
- National Crime Prevention Council ([NCPC](#))



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=215#oembed-1>

References

1. Jennings, W. G., & Piquero, A. R. (2009). Life Course Criminology. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 262-270). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600041/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=ca04f417

PART III

SECTION III - CORRELATES OF CRIME

Section III includes five modules: (1) Age, Gender, and Crime, (2) Family and Crime, (3) Mental Illness and Crime, (4) Race/Ethnicity and Crime, and (5) Social Class and Crime. Together, these five modules provide an opportunity to isolate internal and/or external correlations (i.e., statistical relationship) that may lead to antisocial behavior. For example, socioeconomic status, unemployment, urbanization, age and gender, family factors, substance abuse, neighborhood characteristics, police presence and criminal justice policies, gang activity, etc. are all points of examination and lend to an improved crime prevention strategies designed to targeted interventions that address the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior. Studying the correlates of crime is essential for several reasons as it provides valuable insights into the complex factors that contribute to criminal behavior and its patterns. Understanding these correlates helps in developing effective crime prevention strategies, informing public policy, and addressing the root causes of criminal activity. While correlation does not necessarily imply causation, studying these associations helps researchers understand the complex interplay of factors that contribute to crime rates and patterns.



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AGE, GENDER, AND CRIME

Module 11 highlights the age-crime curve, which illustrates a typical pattern where criminal activity peaks during adolescence and declines with age, a phenomenon supported by the curvilinear relationship between age and crime. The analysis extends to aging effects, emphasizing how individuals' involvement in crime evolves over their lifespan, and maturation reform, which describes the natural decrease in criminal activity as people mature. The study also considers cohort effects, noting how generational experiences influence unique patterns of criminal behavior, and period effects, which show how historical and social contexts impact deviance. Additionally, the concept of the “invisible offender” focuses on the overlooked involvement of females in crime, pressing for adjustments in public policy. Lastly, the importance of temporal ordering in research is underscored, crucial for establishing causal relationships between variables and deepening our understanding of crime's life-course.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=218#audio-218-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- identify the age-crime curve as it relates to deviance and crime.
- describe aging effects and how criminal involvement evolves over one's life.
- explain how cohort effects impact what social scientists know about unique patterns of criminal involvement compared to other generations.
- recognize how invariance influences what we know about the life-course of deviance and crime.
- define the concept of invisible offender and the implications for public policy involving

females.

- describe feminist theories and explain how they provide different lenses to understand gender, crime, and justice.
- identify foundational concepts, emphasizing the historical male-centered focus of criminology and the necessity for gender-based analysis.
- describe the process of what social scientists call maturation reform.
- recognize how period effects influence the nature and extent of deviance and crime.
- explain the curvilinear relationship between age and crime; that is, resilient empirical regularity.
- identify how temporal ordering is an essential feature of understanding the causal relationship between variables.

Summary

The module examines the nexus between two specific correlates of antisocial behavior and crime; that is, age and gender. The nexus between age and crime is a well-documented phenomenon in criminology. Research consistently shows that crime rates vary significantly across different age groups, and age is one of the most reliable predictors of criminal behavior. The relationship between age and crime is complex and can be understood through various criminological theories and developmental perspectives.

Overall, the nexus between age and crime reflects the dynamic nature of criminal behavior across the lifespan. While crime rates are generally highest among young people, most individuals tend to desist from criminal behavior as they age and become more integrated into society through various life transitions, such as employment, marriage, and parenthood. Understanding the relationship between age and crime is essential for developing effective crime prevention and intervention strategies that consider the unique needs and challenges faced by individuals at different stages of their lives.

The nexus between gender and crime is also a significant area of study in criminology. However, studies and results remain largely male-based. Research consistently shows that crime rates and patterns differ between males and females, and gender is one of the most consistent predictors of criminal behavior. Understanding the relationship between gender and crime is essential for addressing gender disparities in the criminal justice system and developing targeted interventions. In addition, a developed understanding of differences in victimization, substance abuse, and mental health will improve the ability of the criminal justice system to respond with more than a one size fits all form of justice.

Overall, the nexus between gender and crime highlights the complex interplay of biological, social, and cultural factors that contribute to gender differences in criminal behavior. Addressing gender disparities in

crime requires a comprehensive approach that considers the unique experiences and challenges faced by men and women in different social contexts. Additionally, developing gender-responsive policies and interventions is essential for promoting gender equity and reducing crime rates among both men and women.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=218#h5p-19>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Age-Crime Curve

Aging Effects

Cohort Effects

Feminist Criminology

Intersectionality

Invariance

Invisible Offender

Male-Based Criminology

Maturation Reform

Pathways Perspective

Patriarchy

Period Effects

Resilient Empirical Regularity

Temporal Ordering

Modern Application

The Gendered Nature of Cybercrime

According to various studies, (e.g., UNODC, 2020; Mayra Rosario Fuentes, 2024), the cybercriminal world, much like many other fields, exhibits a significant gender gap, with male participants overwhelmingly outnumbering females. Current research and anecdotal evidence suggest that men dominate in numbers and visibility within both legal tech industries and illegal cyber activities. Traditionally, studies examining gender differences in crime have not included cybercrime. However, a modern criminology must consider how gender profiles in cybercrime reflect broader societal norms and stereotypes which often portray technology and cyber activities as predominantly male domains.

The disparity between men and women is not just a matter of participation but also extends to the perception of capabilities and roles. Women involved in cybercrime often face stereotypes that may either underestimate their technical abilities or typecast them into specific roles such as money mules or social engineering experts. Such perceptions can influence how cybercriminals are pursued by law enforcement and how their threats are assessed by security professionals.

Despite the skewed gender ratio, there are instances of prominent female cybercriminals who have taken on significant roles within this underworld, challenging the typical gender stereotypes. Increasing awareness and changing perceptions could potentially alter the dynamics within cybercriminal communities and law enforcement strategies. Understanding and addressing the gender gap in cybercrime is crucial for developing more effective and equitable cybersecurity policies and practices.

Here are few sources about gender and cybercrime:

- Trend Micro (2024), [THE GENDER-EQUAL CYBERCRIMINAL UNDERGROUND](#) (Mayra Rosario Fuentes)
- [Gender-Based Interpersonal Crime](#) (UNODC, 2020)
- NBC News, [Study Reveals the Age, Nationality, and Motivation of Hackers](#) (Alyssa Newcomb, Sep. 2016)

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. **Voluntarily** Read Chapter 4: [Age and Crime](#) by Leana A. Bouffard, Washington State University

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=218#h5p-20>

This Chapter:

- explores the age–crime curve, a widely accepted finding in criminology, illustrating that crime rates generally rise in adolescence, peak in late teens, and then decrease throughout adulthood, with variations in timing across different types of crime.
- discusses Hirschi and Gottfredson’s assertion that the age–crime curve is invariant across social and cultural contexts, emphasizing that the form of the curve remains consistent regardless of variables like gender, location, or type of offense.
- examines debates around the criminal careers perspective, focusing on concepts like onset, persistence, and desistance in crime, and highlights that individual offending trajectories often differ from the aggregate age–crime curve.
- contrasts propensity theories, which attribute crime to stable individual traits like low self-control, with developmental and life-course theories that link age-related changes in social factors, like peer influence and social bonds, to variations in criminal behavior over time.
- considers the implications of the age–crime relationship for criminal justice policy, such as the criticism of “three-strikes” laws, which may incarcerate individuals past their peak offending age, limiting their effectiveness in reducing crime.

2. Read Chapter 10: [Gender and Crime](#) by Janet T. Davidson, Chaminade University of Honolulu and Meda Chesney-Lind, University of Hawaii

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.

- To support the student’s reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=218#h5p-21>

This Chapter:

- examines the male-centered foundation of criminology, highlighting how traditional theories and interventions have often overlooked the unique pathways and challenges faced by female offenders.
- discusses the contributions of feminist criminology, emphasizing that gender-specific factors, such as histories of abuse and economic marginalization, are critical for understanding female criminality and should inform justice practices and policies.
- introduces the pathways perspective, which links women’s victimization and trauma to their criminal behavior, suggesting that female offenders often enter the justice system due to survival crimes connected to their life circumstances.
- addresses gender disparities in the criminal justice system, noting that policies designed with male offenders in mind often fail to meet the needs of female offenders, resulting in inequitable treatment and outcomes.
- highlights the rapid growth of female incarceration, linking it to policies like the war on drugs, which disproportionately impact women and have lasting effects on their families, especially in terms of child custody and community reintegration challenges.

NOTE: Check with the Professor to determine the assignment of a GoReact activity.

3. Review [*The Age Crime Curve Perspectives in Crime: Is there a relationship between age and crime?*](#) (Pinkerton, last accessed, July 2023).

4. Read the AP article, [Prison work assignments used to lure and rape female inmates. Guards sometimes walk free](#) (MARGIE MASON and ROBIN MCDOWELL, October 31, 2024).

5. Review The Sentencing Project’s Fact Sheet: [Incarcerated Women and Girls](#) (Monazzam, N. and Budd, K. M., April 3, 2023) [last accessed July 2023].

6. Review the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Statistical Briefing Book [Juvenile Population Characteristics](#) page (OJJDP, last accessed, July 2023).

7. Review the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Statistical Briefing Book [Law Enforcement & Juvenile Crime](#) page (OJJDP, last accessed July, 20223).

- a. Review all data within the following categories: (1) Juvenile Arrests, (2) Juvenile Arrest Rate Trends, (3) Customizable Arrest Tables, and (4) Age-Specific Arrest Rate Trends.
8. Watch [Overview of the Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report](#) (OJJDP, 2022).
9. Listen to a [Women & Crime](#) podcast of your choice (last accessed, July 2023).
 - a. The podcast series provides an opportunity to learn details about various female offenders.

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

ACTIVITY – Research and the Gendered Nature of Cybercrime

Stop!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.



Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to provoke thought and discussion on the complexities of gender and crime within the context of a modern era. Focus is placed on the matter of cyber-crime and significant gender-gap, with male participants and perpetrators overwhelmingly outnumbering females.

Instructions

1. Review the Module 11 [Modern Application](#) via Pressbooks.
2. Read Mayra Rosario Fuentes' [THE GENDER-EQUAL CYBERCRIMINAL UNDERGROUND](#) (Trend Micro).
3. Read Barracuda's [Cybercrime and gender equality: Women comprise a surprisingly large share of cybercriminals](#) (Phil Muncaster, Mar. 2023).

Answer the following questions:

- In what ways does gender bias in criminal investigations potentially affect the accuracy and outcome of cybercrime cases?

- How has the historical lack of focus on female criminality impacted the treatment and understanding of female offenders in the criminal justice system?
- How do factors like race and class intersect with gender to affect women's experiences of crime and victimization?

Key Terms/Concepts

Feminist Criminology – A field of study that challenges traditional male-based criminology, focusing on female offenders and questioning the applicability of male-based theories to explain female criminality.

Intersectionality – A concept within third-wave feminism that examines how overlapping social identities, including gender, race, and class, affect individuals' experiences and opportunities.

Pathways Perspective – A theoretical framework that examines the unique life experiences and factors that lead women to commit crimes, emphasizing the role of gender-related risk factors.

Patriarchy – A social system characterized by male dominance and privilege, which feminist criminologists argue shapes opportunities and social participation in ways that disadvantage women.

Discussion Questions

1. How do criminological theories explain the decline in criminal behavior as individuals age? What specific life transitions are most influential in reducing crime among older age groups?
2. Considering that age is one of the most reliable predictors of criminal behavior, how can policymakers utilize this information to develop age-specific crime prevention strategies?
3. How do crime rates and patterns differ between males and females, and what implications does this have for the criminal justice system in terms of equitable treatment and intervention?
4. In what ways has the focus on male-based studies in criminology impacted the understanding and treatment of female offenders? What steps can be taken to balance this research bias?
5. Discuss the roles of biological, social, and cultural factors in shaping the criminal behavior of men and women. How can understanding these factors lead to more effective crime prevention?
6. What are some examples of gender-responsive policies that could address the disparities in crime rates between men and women? How can these policies promote gender equity within the criminal justice system?

Supplemental Resources

- ABC News', [*Former female inmates speak about widespread sexual abuse by prison staff*](#) (Quinn Owen, Dec. 2022) [last accessed, October 2023]
- Violence Against Women (VAW) [*Women's Experience of Abuse as a Risk Factor for Incarceration: A Research Update*](#) (Sue Osthoff, July 2015).
- [*The Age-Crime Curve Perspectives in Crime: Is there a relationship between age and crime?*](#) (Pinkernton, 2023)
- ASU Center for Problem-Oriented Policing [*Juvenile Runaways: The Problem of Juvenile Runaways*](#) (Guide No. 37, 2006)

References

1. Bouffard, L. A. (2009). Age and Crime. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 28-35). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600014/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=bf05c57a
2. Davidson, J. T., & Chesney-Lind, M. (2009). Gender and Crime. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 76-84). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600020/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=0e29dfc9

FAMILIES AND CRIME

Module 12 offers an in-depth exploration of the influence of familial factors on antisocial behavior and criminal activity. By integrating research and theoretical perspectives from multiple disciplines, including criminology, sociology, and psychology, this module enhances students' understanding of the complex relationship between parenting practices and the development of antisocial behavior. The chapter focuses on the interconnections between family dynamics and antisocial behavior across different life stages—childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Additionally, it provides a comprehensive review of the literature concerning family structure and its correlation with delinquency. The module also examines the impact of socioeconomic factors, such as poverty and neighborhood conditions, on adolescent delinquency.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- identify attributes of an at-risk child.
- discuss the relationship among family and child, adolescent, and adult antisocial behavior.
- describe the connection between parental behavior and delinquency.
- define the two dimensions of parenting; that is, responsiveness and demandingness.
- explain how corporal punishment can increase the likelihood of maladaptive behavior.
- discuss the connection between family structure as an at-risk factor for child behavior.

Summary

The relationship between family and crime is a complex and multifaceted issue that has been widely studied in various fields, including criminology, sociology, and psychology. While it's essential to recognize that not all individuals from troubled or dysfunctional families become involved in criminal activities, research suggests that family dynamics and upbringing can play a significant role in shaping an individual's propensity for criminal behavior.

Research indicates that children raised in stable, two-parent households tend to have lower involvement in criminal activities compared to those raised in single-parent or unstable family structures. A stable family environment with supportive and involved parents can provide emotional security, positive role models, and a sense of belonging, reducing the likelihood of criminal behavior.

Parents have a crucial role in shaping their children's values, attitudes, and behaviors. If parents' model pro-social behavior, communicate clearly, and set appropriate boundaries, children are more likely to develop prosocial behavior and avoid engaging in criminal activities. Conversely, neglectful, abusive, or criminal parents may increase the risk of their children adopting similar behaviors.

Adequate parental supervision and monitoring of children's activities are essential for reducing the chances of involvement in criminal behavior. Lack of supervision can lead to increased exposure to risky situations and criminal peers, increasing the likelihood of criminal engagement.

Different parenting styles can have varying impacts on a child's propensity for criminal behavior. Authoritative parenting, characterized by warmth, support, and consistent discipline, tends to be associated with lower levels of delinquency. On the other hand, authoritarian, permissive, or neglectful parenting may increase the risk of criminal involvement.

Siblings can also influence each other's behavior, including involvement in criminal activities. If older siblings engage in criminal behavior or associate with delinquent peers, younger siblings might be more likely to follow suit.

Family socioeconomic status can influence crime indirectly by affecting access to resources, educational opportunities, and neighborhood environments. Low-income families may face more challenges in providing a supportive and nurturing environment for their children, potentially increasing the risk of criminal involvement.

Some studies suggest that criminal behavior can be passed down through generations due to a combination of genetic, environmental, and learned factors. Children growing up in families with a history of criminality may be exposed to deviant values and attitudes from an early age.

It's crucial to recognize that the relationship between family and crime is not deterministic, and many other factors, such as peer influence, community characteristics, and individual traits, also contribute to criminal behavior. Nonetheless, addressing family-related risk factors and promoting positive family dynamics can significantly contribute to reducing the likelihood of criminal involvement among individuals. Early

intervention and support for at-risk families may also be crucial in breaking the cycle of crime across generations.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=220#h5p-31>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

At-Risk

Authoritarian Parents

Authoritative

Child Maltreatment

Coercion model of antisocial behavior

Common Couple Violence

Corporal Punishment

Demandingness

Intimate Partner Violence

Neglectful/Rejecting Parents

Permissive Parents

Responsiveness

Social Deviance

Spouse Abuse or Battering

Modern Application

***Disconnected: Youth, New Media, and the Ethics Gap* by Carrie James**

A book that explores the complex relationship between young people, digital media, and ethical decision-making. Published in 2014, James, a researcher at Harvard University's [Project Zero](#), delves into the ways in which digital technologies shape the moral and ethical landscapes of young users.

The book is based on extensive research conducted with teenagers, ages 12 to 19, from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds in the United States. Through interviews, surveys, and observations, James investigates how young people navigate the ethical challenges presented by digital media platforms, including social networking sites, online gaming, and digital communication tools.

James examines the ethical dilemmas that arise in online environments, such as cyberbullying, privacy concerns, digital plagiarism, and online identity construction. She explores how young people perceive and negotiate these challenges within their peer groups and broader social contexts.

The Ethics Gap: The concept of the "ethics gap" refers to the disparity between young people's ethical values and their behaviors in digital spaces. James argues that while many adolescents possess a strong sense of right and wrong offline, they may struggle to apply these ethical principles consistently online due to the unique affordances and norms of digital environments.

The book emphasizes the importance of digital literacy and citizenship education in preparing young people to navigate the ethical complexities of the digital age. James advocates for a holistic approach that goes beyond technical skills to foster critical thinking, empathy, and responsible decision-making in online interactions.

Parental and Educational Roles: "Disconnected" also addresses the roles of parents, educators, and policymakers in supporting young people's ethical development in digital spaces. James highlights the need for adults to engage in open dialogue with youth about digital ethics, provide guidance on ethical decision-making, and advocate for policies that promote online safety and responsibility.

Overall, "Disconnected" offers a nuanced examination of the ethical challenges and opportunities presented by digital media for today's youth. It encourages readers to reflect on the ways in which

technology shapes moral reasoning and calls for collective action to cultivate a more ethical digital culture.



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Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 9: *Families and Crime* by Leslie Gordon Simons, University of Georgia

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=220#h5p-32>

This chapter:

- explores the complex relationship between family processes and the development of criminal behavior, integrating insights from criminology, psychology, sociology, and family science to explain how family dynamics can influence antisocial behaviors in children, adolescents, and adults.
- emphasizes the role of parenting styles and discipline in shaping a child's likelihood of engaging in delinquency or crime. Authoritative parenting is associated with positive outcomes, while neglectful or inconsistent discipline is linked to higher risks of antisocial behavior.
- discusses how socioeconomic factors, such as poverty and neighborhood conditions, impact family functioning and parenting effectiveness, highlighting that financial hardship often leads to inconsistent discipline, less supervision, and increased stress, all of which can increase the risk of deviant behavior in

children.

- presents evidence on the intergenerational transmission of antisocial behavior, suggesting that children exposed to harsh or abusive parenting are at higher risk of replicating such behaviors, contributing to cycles of violence and delinquency across generations.
- analyzes different theoretical models that explain the stability and change of antisocial behavior across life stages, including self-control theory and life course theory, which account for factors that can either perpetuate or mitigate criminal tendencies over time.

2. Review and Watch [*Parents Should Not Be Spanking Their Kids, and Here's Why*](#) (Parents by Nicole Harris, November 2022).

a. For an overview of the related discussion and related literature, refer to pp. 70-71 of Chapter 9.

b. Corporal punishment refers to the use of physical force, such as spanking or hitting, to discipline or correct a child's behavior.

c. Many child development experts, pediatric associations, and human rights organizations strongly advise against using corporal punishment. Research has shown that it can have negative effects on a child's emotional and psychological well-being, leading to increased aggression, antisocial behavior, and mental health problems. It may also damage the parent-child relationship and erode trust between the child and their parents.

d. Instead, experts recommend positive discipline methods that focus on teaching and guiding children through age-appropriate consequences, setting clear boundaries, using effective communication, and providing positive reinforcement for good behavior. These methods are believed to be more effective in promoting long-term behavioral and emotional development while fostering a healthier parent-child relationship.

e. It is important for parents to understand the potential consequences of using corporal punishment and consider alternative discipline strategies that promote a supportive and nurturing environment for their children.

3. Review [*The Statistics Don't Lie: Fathers Matter*](#) (National Fatherhood Initiative®, last accessed, July 2023).

a. For an overview of the related discussion and related literature, refer to pp. 71-72 of Chapter 9.

4. Review [*The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey \(NISVS\)*](#) (CDC, last accessed, August 2023).

a. For an overview of the related discussion and related literature, refer to pp. 73-74 of Chapter 9.

5. Watch [*The Making of a Juvenile Delinquent | Byron Williams | TEDxDanielHandHS*](#) (TEEX Talks, May 3, 2023) [also embedded below]

a. Throughout the program, think about possible links between parenting and delinquency.

b. Identify ways that Mr. Williams' commitment to fatherhood and family guard against antisocial behavior.

6. Listen to a [Successful Parenting](#) podcast of your choice (last accessed, November 2024).
 - a. Sociologists, psychologists, and criminologists have produced a voluminous amount research examining the relationship between parental behavior and delinquency.



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To access the PPT file, click **HERE**. Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click **HERE** to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

ACTIVITY – Family-Based Interventions: Breaking the Link Between Ineffective Parenting and Delinquency

Stop!!!

Students should review the course syllabus to determine the assignment of this activity.

This is a copy of the module's activity that students find within Blackboard. For that reason, refer to the Activities page to submit your work for review.

Overview

The general policy implication from this emphasis is that prevention and rehabilitation programs should be started as early as is feasible. Programs to improve the health of newborns have become much more popular in recent years. Home visiting programs, where nurses visit mothers before and after the birth of their child, have shown a great deal of promise. Family-based interventions, such as training programs to provide parental management skills, have accumulated a track record of modest success. For example, the most recent “second-generation” family-based intervention from Gerald Patterson and his colleagues is called the Family Check-Up (FCU). This program aims to reduce childhood conduct problems by targeting disrupted or unskilled family management. The FCU is a brief, three-session intervention with an optional parent management training component. Because FCU is new, it is not yet known whether the program reduces delinquency or crime. The National Institute of Justice considers it “promising” based on evidence that it does reduce childhood problem behavior and increase positive parenting practices.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to learn about family-based interventions and consider the importance childhood in the development of crime.

Instructions

1. Read the section labeled [Linking Parenting to Delinquency](#) (pp. 68-70) within the Module 11 reading; that is, Chapter 9 *Families And Crime* by Leslie Gordon Simons, University of Georgia.
2. Review the National Home Visiting Resource Center’s (NHVRC) overview, [Who Is Being Served?](#)
3. Watch [Home Visiting – A Closer Look](#) | Pew (also embedded below)



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=220#oembed-3>

Answer the following questions:

- a. From a General Theory of Crime (GTC) perspective (Hirshi, 1969) explain how the NHVRC might improve the parent's ability to develop self-control within their children. Be specific, refer to the related key terms/concepts, and incorporate elements of GTC as presented within the reading?
- b. According to the National Home Visiting Resource Center (2022), only 1.7 percent of the approximately 17.6 million pregnant caregivers and parenting families who could benefit from home visiting receive services. Identify reasons that some high-priority families do not gain access to services. Be as specific as possible. Meaning, incorporate key terms/concepts into your response.
- c. Identify and describe what you believe is one of the most important things/skills that the Home Visiting program might teach a participating parent. Be specific.

Key Terms/Concepts

Responsiveness – Involves the extent to which parents are approachable, warm, supportive, and attuned to the needs of the child.

Demandingness – The extent to which the parents exercise control over the child through, supervision, disciplinary efforts, and a willingness to consistently impose consequences for violations of expected behavior.

Permissive Parents – A type of parent who rank high on responsiveness but low on demandingness.

Authoritarian Parents – A type of parent who rank low on responsiveness and high on demandingness.

Neglectful/Rejecting Parents – A type of parent who rank low on both responsiveness and demandingness.

Authoritative Parents – A type of parent who rank high on both responsiveness and demandingness.

Discussion Questions

1. Considering that children from stable, two-parent households tend to have lower involvement in crime, how might policymakers and community leaders create programs or initiatives that support and reinforce family stability?
2. How do different parenting styles, specifically authoritative versus authoritarian, impact a child's likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior?
3. What interventions can be proposed to educate parents on effective parenting techniques that minimize the risk of delinquency?
4. Discuss the implications of the finding that criminal behavior can be passed down through generations.
5. Evaluate the role of sibling relationships in criminal behavior. Should intervention programs focus more on sibling dynamics and their influence on behavior, especially in families where one or more children are already involved in crime?
6. How does socioeconomic status indirectly influence a child's propensity for criminal behavior?

Supplemental Resources

- American Academy of Pediatrics [*AAP policy opposes corporal punishment, draws on recent evidence*](#)
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP): [*Juvenile Population Characteristics*](#)
- MST Services [*Poverty Impacts Children in a Multitude of Ways*](#) (Sep. 2018) [last accessed November 2023]
- [*Project Zero*](#) [Last accessed August 2024]

References

1. Simons, L. G. (2009). Families and Crime. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology: A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 67-75). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600019/GVRL?u=cod_Irc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=38f46ed0

MENTAL ILLNESS AND CRIME

Module 13 examines the relationship between mental illness and crime. A review of studies involving the prevalence of mental illness within the criminal justice system is provided. In addition, consideration of the impact of defining those who exhibit deviance and or law violating behavior as mentally ill. The module also reviews the public policy and police practice of dealing with the mentally ill.



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Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- identify organizations that are dedicated to mental health.
- explain how criminal justice policies and practices impact the wellbeing of the mentally ill offender.
- describe economic cost of criminalizing mental illness.
- illustrate the social cost of criminalizing mental illness.
- recognize the lack of resources available to criminal justice practitioners throughout the system (i.e., law enforcement, courts, and corrections) who interact with the mentally ill.
- identify federal legislation designed to promote public safety and community health.
- describe the susceptibility of mentally ill persons in the criminal justice system to crime victimization.

Summary

The relationship between mental illness and crime is a complex and multifaceted issue that has been widely studied and debated. It is essential to recognize that most individuals with mental health conditions are not involved in criminal activities, and people with mental illnesses are more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. However, some research suggests that there is a correlation between certain mental illnesses and an increased risk of involvement in criminal behavior.

Studies indicate that a significant proportion of individuals involved in the criminal justice system have some form of mental illness. These conditions can include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and substance use disorders.

There is a substantial overlap between mental illness and substance abuse. Substance abuse can exacerbate symptoms of mental illness and lead to impulsive or aggressive behavior, which may contribute to criminal activity.

Many individuals with mental illness, especially severe mental illnesses, end up homeless due to a lack of adequate support systems. Homelessness can expose them to various risks, including engaging in criminal behaviors to meet basic survival needs.

Some individuals with mental illness may not receive proper treatment or medication, which can contribute to their involvement in criminal activities. Untreated symptoms may impair judgment and increase the risk of impulsive actions.

Several risk factors associated with mental illness, such as impulsivity, poor coping mechanisms, and difficulty in social interactions, may also contribute to criminal behavior.

The correlation between mental illness and crime can depend on the specific mental health condition, individual circumstances, and socio-economic factors. Not all mental illnesses are equally linked to criminal behavior.

Stigmatization and discrimination against people with mental illness may contribute to their marginalization and isolation, making it harder for them to access resources and support, thus increasing the likelihood of involvement in criminal behavior.

Some jurisdictions have implemented diversion programs that focus on treatment rather than punishment for individuals with mental illness who commit minor offenses. These programs aim to address the underlying mental health issues and reduce the risk of reoffending.

The management of mentally ill inmates in jails and the importance of addressing their specific needs. It highlights the eight most important issues in managing mentally ill inmates, such as reception, housing, programming and services, medical services, discipline, physical plant, linkage, and staff training. It also mentions the formation of a subcommittee by the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Mentally Ill in the Courts to address jail standards for the mentally ill. Additionally, the document discusses the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, which aims to effectively deal with mentally ill offenders through collaboration and specialized training for law enforcement officers.

It is important to avoid generalizing about people with mental illnesses and to treat each individual case with sensitivity and understanding. Addressing the correlation between mental illness and crime requires a multi-faceted approach that involves improving access to mental health care, reducing stigmatization, providing adequate housing and support systems, and implementing diversion programs when appropriate. Additionally, a strong focus on early intervention and prevention can help reduce the likelihood of criminal behavior among those with mental health conditions.

Key Takeaways

Click on the > to expand the related statement.



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=224#h5p-40>

Key Terms/Concepts

Click on the following key term/concept to view the definition:

Casey v. Lewis (1990)

Community Linkage

Community Supervision

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Deinstitutionalization

Deliberate Indifference

Diversion Program

Dual Diagnosis

Gaol Act of 1774

"hands-off doctrine"

Mental Health Courts

Mental Illness

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Act of 2003

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Recidivism

Second Chance Act

Standards for the Mentally Ill in Jails

Wyatt v. Stickney (1972)

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 13: [Mental Illness and Crime](#) by Scott Blough, Tiffin University

- Print a copy or have access to this reading via a digital device for in class review and discussion.
- To support the student's reading of the article, they can listen to a recorded version of the same. Note that listening to the article is not a substitute for a careful and directed reading of the document.

PART 1:



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PART 2:



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<https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=224#h5p-42>

This chapter:

- discusses the historical treatment of individuals with mental illness, noting a shift from institutionalization to community-based care, which led to challenges like increased homelessness and interactions with the criminal justice system.
- highlights the significant presence of mental illness among inmates, with statistics showing that over half of state and local jail inmates report mental health issues, contributing to a cycle of recidivism and

extended incarceration.

- outlines the challenges faced by law enforcement when interacting with mentally ill individuals, emphasizing the importance of specialized training programs like the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) to improve response and safety.
- explores the role of mental health courts, which offer a problem-solving approach to handling cases involving mentally ill defendants, aiming to reduce repeated offenses and facilitate access to treatment and support services.
- underscores the financial and operational impact on correctional facilities, noting that mentally ill inmates are more expensive to house and often require more resources due to longer stays and higher rates of disciplinary issues.

2. Read [*How Nellie Bly went undercover to expose abuse of the mentally ill*](#) (PBS News Hour, May 5, 2018).

a. In 1887, journalist Nellie Bly conducted an undercover investigation into the New York City Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell’s Island, exposing severe mistreatment of patients. Her findings, published in the New York World and later in her book *Ten Days in a Mad-House*, led to significant reforms in mental health care.

b. Bly’s work remains a classic in psychiatric history, highlighting the need for humane treatment of the mentally ill. Her daring approach not only brought attention to the plight of asylum patients but also showcased the power of investigative journalism in effecting social change.

2. Read RAND Corporation’s, [*Is Mental Illness a Risk Factor for Gun Violence?*](#) (Rajeev Ramchand, Lynsay Ayer, April 2021).

3. Review the National Alliance on Mental Illness ([NAMI](#)) website.

a. NAMI is the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

b. NAMI formed an advocacy center called the Law and Criminal Justice Action Center.

4. Review the Prison Policy Initiative’s [*Mental Health Policies and practices surrounding mental health*](#) (last accessed November 2024).

a. The non-profit, non-partisan Prison Policy Initiative produces cutting edge research to expose the broader harm of mass criminalization, and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society.

b. The Prison Policy Initiative’s research and advocacy is at the center of the national conversation about criminal justice reform and over-criminalization. Because essential national and state level data is often completely inaccessible, the Prison Policy Initiative’s insightful data analysis and powerful graphics help fill these gaps to bring in new supporters and help other movement leaders achieve their goals.

5. Watch [*How Memphis has changed the way police respond to mental health crises*](#): (PBS News Weekend, November 7, 2015) [last accessed, November 2024].

6. Watch Rethink Criminal Justice's [Improving Mental Health in Jails and Prisons](#) (Kodrich, A., December 2020) [also embedded below – last accessed, November, 2024].
7. Watch/Listen to Wendy Lindley's [The high price of criminalizing mental illness](#) (TEDxOrangeCoast, October 16, 2013) [also embedded below – last accessed, November 2024].
8. Listen to [Mentally Ill and Incarcerated America's 19th Century Response to Treatment](#) (News Beat A Social Justice Podcast, July 2023) [last accessed, November 2024].



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To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

Discussion Questions

1. Considering the research suggesting a correlation between certain mental illnesses and criminal behavior, what specific mental health conditions are most frequently associated with increased criminal activity, and why?
2. How does the overlap between mental illness and substance abuse complicate the treatment and

management of individuals in the criminal justice system, and what strategies can be implemented to address both issues simultaneously?

3. Discuss how homelessness among individuals with severe mental illnesses contributes to their involvement in criminal activities. What are the key interventions that could reduce this risk?
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of diversion programs that focus on treatment rather than punishment for individuals with mental illness who commit minor offenses. What are the key components of successful programs, and how can they be improved?
5. How does stigmatization of mental illness affect the ability of individuals to access necessary resources and support, potentially leading to criminal behavior?

Supplemental Resources

- [Responding to Individuals Experiencing Mental Health Crises: Police-Involved Programs](#)
- Rethinking interactions between police and the mentally ill – embedded below:



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=224#oembed-3>

- [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#) (last accessed. November 2024).
- National Alliance to End Homelessness, [State of Homelessness: 2024 Edition](#)
- CIT Center – [Memphis Model](#)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) – [Mental Health Courts Program – Overview](#)
- PBS: [Any Given Day | Chicago's Mental Health Court](#)
- [Estelle v. Gamble](#), 429 U.S. 97 (1976)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#))



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=224#oembed-4>

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about College of DuPage's Human Services Program

References

1. Blough, S. (2009). Mental Illness and Crime. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 100-109). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600023/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=bd6d637a

RACE/ETHNICITY AND CRIME

Module 14 considers how the meaning of race impacts criminological theory and criminal justice practice. A brief review of the history of race is used to contextualize how modern criminological theory, e.g., sociobiology, was influenced and contributed to forms of institutional racism. In addition, the module provides a cursory historical review of race in the areas of the American legal system and politics. Moreover, the module includes a review of pre to post Civil War eras, which provided the foundation for several criminal cases brought against private individuals for discrimination. The module concludes with the timeframe of 1960 to the present and includes an essential discussion of the death penalty as an example of racially influenced punishment.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=226#audio-226-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- discuss the history of race as a source of conflict between one human group against another.
- explain how the intersection of race and crime complicate social science inquiry.
- illustrate how race has tainted legal proceedings and enforcement of the criminal law.
- describe how Jim Crow laws were enacted and used to enforce segregation between the white and minority populations.
- discuss the disproportionate involvement of minorities with street crime.
- identify seminal and modern sociobiological theories of crime causation.
- summarize the Human Genome Project (HGP).
- discuss how race is related to the disproportionate number of African Americans who are executed at a rate much greater than whites in the American Criminal Justice System.

Summary

Race/ethnicity and crime remain sensitive and contentious topics that have been subject to extensive research, debate, and public discourse. It is important to approach this discussion with an understanding that crime is a complex issue influenced by multiple factors, and attributing criminal behavior solely to race or ethnicity would be an oversimplification.

Numerous studies have consistently shown that certain racial and ethnic groups, particularly Black and Hispanic individuals, are overrepresented in various stages of the criminal justice system, including arrests, convictions, and incarcerations. These disparities have led to concerns about racial profiling, discrimination, and unequal treatment within the justice system.

Crime rates are closely related to socioeconomic factors, and communities experiencing poverty and limited access to education and job opportunities tend to have higher crime rates. Racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to face economic challenges due to historical and systemic inequalities, which may contribute to higher crime rates in those communities.

There have been well-documented cases of racial bias and discriminatory policing practices, leading to increased scrutiny of law enforcement's treatment of racial and ethnic minorities. Instances of racial profiling and excessive use of force have further strained trust between minority communities and law enforcement agencies.

The history of institutional and structural racism in societies has perpetuated inequalities in education, housing, employment, and economic opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities. These inequalities can contribute to crime by limiting opportunities for advancement and fostering an environment of hopelessness and desperation in some communities.

Media portrayals of crime can perpetuate negative stereotypes about racial and ethnic minorities, leading to biases and prejudice among the public and law enforcement. This can result in biased perceptions of crime and criminality based on race or ethnicity.

It is important to consider intersectionality when discussing race/ethnicity and crime. People who belong to multiple marginalized groups, such as Black women or LGBTQ+ individuals of color, may experience unique challenges that can impact their interactions with the criminal justice system.

The relationship between race/ethnicity and crime is not unique to any specific country. Different societies have their historical and cultural contexts that influence crime rates and patterns, and these factors should also be considered in any analysis.

Addressing race/ethnicity and crime requires a multifaceted and comprehensive approach. This includes addressing systemic racism, promoting equal opportunities and resources, reforming policing practices, investing in education and social services, and supporting community-based interventions. It is essential to foster understanding, empathy, and open dialogue to create a fair and just society that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Key Takeaways

- Studies have found that certain racial and ethnic groups, particularly Black and Hispanic individuals, are disproportionately represented in various stages of the criminal justice system, such as arrests, convictions, and incarcerations.
- Crime rates are closely associated with socioeconomic conditions. Communities that experience poverty and have limited access to education and job opportunities tend to exhibit higher crime rates.
- Racial and ethnic minorities often face greater economic challenges due to historical and systemic inequalities, which may contribute to higher crime rates in these communities.
- There have been documented instances of racial bias and discriminatory policing practices, including racial profiling and excessive use of force.
- Historical institutional and structural racism has perpetuated inequalities in education, housing, employment, and economic opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities.
- Media portrayals of crime often perpetuate negative stereotypes about racial and ethnic minorities, leading to biases and prejudice among the public and within law enforcement.

Key Terms/Concepts

Human Genome Project (HGP)

Institutional Racism

Jim Crow Laws

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Race

Racial Profiling

Segregation

Scottsboro Boys

Sociobiological Theories

Subculture-of-Violence

Modern Application

Douglas Heaven (July 2020) argues that, [Predictive policing algorithms are racist. They need to be dismantled](#) (MIT Technology Review).

- How big data might contribute to effective police work and increase public safety?
- How a predictive algorithm is potentially skewed by arrest rates?
 - According to US Department of Justice figures, you are more than twice as likely to be arrested if you are Black than if you are white.
- According to Dorothy Roberts who studies law and social rights at the University of Pennsylvania, “Racism has always been about predicting, about making certain racial groups seem as if they are predisposed to do bad things and therefore justify controlling them,” she said.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 17: [Race/Ethnicity and Crime](#) by Matthew Pate, State University of New York at Albany & William C. Plouffe Jr., Kutztown University
2. Review the National Human Genome Research Institute’s [Fact Sheet: Human Genome Project](#) (NIH, 2023).
 - a. After the HGP was completed, research began to focus on finding individual variants from the reference human genome. HGP-related information may have significant implications for crime-control policy.
 - b. The human genome refers to a complete copy of the entire set of human gene instructions.
 - c. Genes are made of DNA and carry coded instructions for making everything the body needs.
 - d. The focus has now turned to finding individual differences or variants from the reference human genome that was developed by the HGP.
 - e. Genetic knowledge can have significant implications for criminal justice.

- f. Many of the questions raised about the role of genetics in behavior may be answered by the results of research begun by the HGP.
- g. HGP-related information is expected to support the development of public policy options related to crime prevention and offender treatment.
3. Review the Death Penalty Information Center's (DPIC) Facts about the Death Penalty [Fact Sheet](#)
- According to the [DPIC](#), the death penalty has been imposed disproportionately on racial minorities throughout most of U.S. history.
 - Capital punishment advocates are more concerned with whether the death penalty is fairly imposed than whether there are ethnic differences in the rates of imposition.
 - They say that the focus should be on sentencing those who commit capital crimes to death, regardless of any social characteristic (race, ethnicity, gender, etc.).
 - The Washington-based Constitution Project has recommended that all jurisdictions imposing the death penalty should create mechanisms to help ensure it is not imposed in a racially discriminatory manner.
4. Review [Scottsboro Boys](#) (History, August 20, 2022) [last accessed August 2023]
- The Scottsboro Boys were a group of nine African American teenagers who were falsely accused of raping two white women on a freight train in Alabama in 1931. The case gained national and international attention due to its blatant injustice and racial prejudice, becoming a symbol of the deeply ingrained racism and flawed legal system of the time.
5. Watch [Racial Profiling 2.0](#) (CBS News, February 20, 2020) [last accessed August 2023]
6. Listen to [Why the crack cocaine epidemic hit Black communities 'first and worst'](#)
7. Listen to NPR's Author Interviews, [Why the crack cocaine epidemic hit Black communities 'first and worst'](#) (Mosley, T. July 13, 2023) [last accessed August 2023]

To access the PPT file, click [HERE](#). Note that files are updated regularly and as such might change in content and appearance.

Read, Review, Watch and Listen to all listed materials by the due date listed within the course LMS (i.e., Blackboard) site.

Contact the professor with any course-related questions

Click [HERE](#) to report any needed updates, e.g., broken links.

Discussion Questions

1. How do socioeconomic conditions influence crime rates in racially and ethnically diverse communities, and what specific interventions can be implemented to address these root causes?
2. What evidence supports the claim that racial and ethnic minorities are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, and what are the potential solutions to address these disparities?
3. In what ways have documented cases of racial bias and discriminatory policing practices affected the trust between law enforcement and minority communities, and what steps can be taken to rebuild this trust?
4. How do historical institutional and structural racism contribute to higher crime rates among racial and ethnic minorities, and what long-term strategies are necessary to break this cycle?
5. How do media portrayals of crime shape public perceptions of racial and ethnic groups, and what can be done to ensure more balanced and accurate media representations?

Supplemental Resources

- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics (January 2018), [*Race and Ethnicity of Violent Crime: Offenders and Arrestees, 2018*](#) (Allen J. Beck, Ph.D., BJS Statistician)
- [*Prevalence rate of violent crime in the United States from 2014 to 2022, by race/ethnicity*](#) (Statista, Sep. 2023) [last accessed Nov. 2023]
- [*2019 Crime In the United States: Arrests by Race and Ethnicity*](#) (FBI, 2019) [last accessed, Nov. 2023]

SOCIAL CLASS AND CRIME

Module 15 examines the long-standing debate in criminology regarding the relationship between social class and crime. It also investigates the potentially incorrect causal relationship between lower social classes and criminality, which has profoundly impacted criminal justice policy and practice. Particular attention is given to the examination of social class as a construct that attempts to differentiate social groups according to their access to economic, social, political, cultural, or lifestyle resources.



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://cod.pressbooks.pub/criminology/?p=228#audio-228-1>

Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you should be able to:

- discuss the relationship between social class and crime.
- recognize those most notable aspects of the relationship between social class and crime; that is, how social class shapes the definition of crime, how social class influences patterns of victimization and wrongful behavior, and how the commonly held perception that crime is predominantly a lower-class problem.
- identify social class and why it is important.
- discuss the social class-crime link.
- explain the relation between social class and criminality.
- identify factors that establish the perception of crime as a lower-class phenomenon.
- illustrate how social class and criminal victimization are related.
- discuss the nexus between social class, crime, and policy.
- analyze how crimes of the financial and political elite potentially cause more harm than those who commit various forms of street crime.

Summary

The relationship between social class and crime has been a topic of considerable debate and research in sociology and criminology. Various studies have explored the correlations and potential causal links between socioeconomic status (SES) or social class and criminal behavior. While it is essential to note that crime is a complex and multi-faceted phenomenon influenced by numerous factors, including individual, social, and economic elements, there are some notable patterns regarding social class and crime.

Research has consistently found a positive correlation between lower socioeconomic status and higher rates of involvement in criminal activities. People from lower social classes, who often face economic hardships, limited access to education, and fewer opportunities for legitimate means of income, may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior as a means of survival or to achieve their material goals.

Structural theorists argue that crime rates are influenced by the structural inequalities prevalent in society. According to this perspective, individuals from lower social classes are more likely to experience strain and frustration due to their limited access to resources, leading to higher levels of deviance and criminality as a coping mechanism.

Opportunity theory suggests that crime rates are influenced by the availability of criminal opportunities. People from lower social classes may be more exposed to crime-prone environments, making them more likely to engage in criminal activities as they perceive a lack of legitimate opportunities to improve their lives.

Labeling theorists argue that individuals from lower social classes may be more likely to be labeled as criminals by the authorities and society due to the negative stereotypes associated with their class. This labeling can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where individuals internalize the criminal identity imposed on them and engage in further criminal behavior.

While crime is often associated with lower social classes, white-collar crime refers to nonviolent offenses committed by individuals in higher social classes, such as corporate fraud, embezzlement, and insider trading. White-collar crime can cause significant financial harm but is often treated differently by the criminal justice system compared to street crimes.

It is crucial to avoid oversimplifying the relationship between social class and crime. Not everyone from a lower social class engages in criminal behavior, and crime is not exclusive to any particular social class. There are many law-abiding individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who rise above their circumstances through hard work, determination, and access to opportunities. Additionally, there are wealthy individuals who engage in criminal activities despite their privilege.

To address crime effectively, it is essential to consider and address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior, rather than solely focusing on punitive measures. Policies aimed at reducing crime should focus on improving educational opportunities, providing access to employment, reducing economic inequality, and creating safer and more supportive communities for everyone.

Key Terms/Concepts

Cultural Capital

Lifestyle Resources

Marxian Model of Social Class

Moral Poverty

Political Resources

Social Interactionist Theories

Social Resources

Weberian Model of Social Class

Read, Review, Watch and Listen

1. Read Chapter 19: [Social Class and Crime](#) by Michael T. Costelloe and Raymond J. Michalowski, Northern Arizona University
2. Review the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) [Employment of State and Federal Prisoners Prior to Incarceration, 2016](#) (Maruschak, L.M. and Snell, T.L., February 2023) [last accessed August 2023]
 - a. Social structure theories emphasize social structure as the root cause of crime. Therefore, they suggest policies that emphasize social action would be the best approach to ameliorating the crime problem.
 - b. Social changes and governmental policy initiatives based on these theories would focus on alleviating the social conditions believed to produce crime, such as income inequality, educational deprivation, racism, social injustice, and other economic and social inequities. These programs would focus on increasing the availability of socially approved opportunities for success and increasing the availability of meaningful employment. Some programs of this type have been shown to be effective in reducing rates of delinquency and crime.
3. Review the Prison Policy Initiative's [Prisons of Poverty: Uncovering the pre-incarceration incomes of the imprisoned](#) (Bernadette Rabuy and Daniel Kopf, July 2015) [last accessed August 2023]
4. Review the U.S. Bureau of Census' [Income in the United States: 2021-Current Population Reports](#) (Jessica Semega and Melissa Kollar, September 2022) [last accessed August 2023]
 - a. Social structure theories have influenced social policy, through programs such as the Chicago Area Project, Mobilization for Youth, and the War on Poverty. The social structural perspective is closely associated with the social problems approach and negates the claims of the social responsibility perspective.
 - b. The social problems perspective sees crime as a manifestation of underlying social problems

(poverty, discrimination, inequality of opportunity, the poor quality of education in some parts of the country, etc.).

c. This perspective suggests that we need to deal with crime the same way we deal with public health concerns.

d. Solutions to the crime problem are seen as coming from large-scale government expenditures supporting social programs that address the issues that are at the root of crime.

e. This is a macro approach because it sees individual behavior (crime) as resulting from widespread and contributory social conditions that enmesh unwitting individuals in a causal nexus of uncontrollable social forces.

5. Watch [*US: Probation, Parole Feed Mass Incarceration Crisis*](#) (Human Rights Watch, July 31, 2020)

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Discussion Questions

1. How can we measure and compare the harms caused by different types of crimes?
2. How can we reduce the social and economic inequalities that contribute to crime and victimization?
3. How can we ensure that the criminal justice system is fair and impartial to all social classes?

Supplemental Resources

- Added by the professor if/when deemed relevant to the module.

References

1. Costelloe, M. T., & Michalowski, R. J. (2009). Social Class and Crime. In J. M. Miller (Ed.), *21st Century Reference Series. 21st Century Criminology. A Reference Handbook* (Vol. 1, pp. 153-161). SAGE Reference. https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3201600029/GVRL?u=cod_lrc&sid=bookmark-GVRL&xid=66606965

"hands-off doctrine"

An approach that allowed prisons and jails in the United States to operate in relative obscurity because the courts believed that correctional administrators were better equipped than the judicial system to govern the operation of prisons and jails.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

An international association established in 1963 to foster professional and scholarly activities in the field of criminal justice. ACJS promotes criminal justice education, research, and policy analysis within the discipline of criminal justice for both educators and practitioners.

Activation

A key concept to the life course perspective and describes the ways that delinquent behaviors, once initiated, are stimulated and the processes by which the continuity, frequency, and diversity of delinquency are shaped.

Age Graded Theory

Also known as Age-Graded Social Control Theory, is a criminological theory developed by Robert J. Sampson and John H. Laub. This theory focuses on the role of social bonds and life events at different stages of an individual's life in shaping their involvement in criminal behavior. It emphasizes that various life events and experiences can influence an individual's propensity to engage in criminal activities over time.

Age of Reason (also known as the age of Enlightenment)

An important social movement in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Key thinkers whose ideas were the foundation for the Enlightenment were Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), John Locke (1632-1704), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778).

Age-Crime Curve

Also known as the age-crime relationship or the age-crime pattern, is a significant concept in criminology that describes the relationship between a person's age and their involvement in criminal activities. This

curve illustrates the fluctuating rates of criminal behavior based on age and has been widely observed and studied in various societies and historical periods.

Agency Practice

Describes methods and approaches that criminal justice agencies, i.e., law enforcement, courts, corrections, rely on during prevention, enforcement, and punishment activities.

Aggravation

A key concept to the life course perspective and describes the existence of a developmental sequence of activities that escalate or increase in seriousness over time.

Aging Effects

Refers to the changes in criminal behavior and patterns that occur as individuals grow older. These aging effects are crucial to understanding how criminal involvement evolves over the course of a person's life.

Albert Bandura

Albert Bandura was a prominent psychologist best known for his work on social learning theory, which later evolved into the broader framework of social cognitive theory. Bandura made significant contributions to the field of psychology through his research on the processes through which individuals learn in social contexts.

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

An international organization whose members pursue scholarly, scientific, and professional knowledge concerning the measurement, etiology, consequences, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency.

Anomie

A concept originally introduced by French sociologist Émile Durkheim, refers to a state of normlessness or a breakdown in the norms and values that guide individuals' behavior in society. In a state of anomie, there is a lack of social cohesion and regulation, leading to a sense of disconnection, confusion, and uncertainty among individuals about what is expected of them.

Antisocial Personality

Refers to a psychological disorder characterized by a persistent pattern of disregard for and violation of

the rights of others. Individuals with antisocial personality typically demonstrate a lack of empathy and remorse for their actions, along with a tendency to engage in impulsive and irresponsible behavior. This disorder is also known as antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) and is often associated with behaviors such as lying, manipulation, aggression, and a disregard for social norms and rules.

Applied Criminology

Applied criminology is a multidisciplinary field that utilizes theories, research methods, and practical knowledge to address and solve real-world problems related to crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. It involves the practical application of criminological theories and concepts to develop strategies and interventions that can prevent crime, reduce criminal behavior, and improve the functioning of the criminal justice system.

Applied criminology draws from various disciplines such as sociology, psychology, law, anthropology, and public policy. Its primary focus is on practical outcomes and the implementation of evidence-based practices to create safer communities, enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, and promote social justice.

Professionals working in applied criminology may engage in a range of activities, including conducting research to evaluate the effectiveness of crime prevention programs, analyzing crime patterns and trends, developing policies and interventions to address specific crime issues, providing expertise and guidance to law enforcement agencies, advocating for criminal justice reform, and working with communities to implement crime prevention strategies.

Overall, applied criminology aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, with the goal of reducing crime, improving the criminal justice system, and creating safer societies.

At-Risk

Refers to young individuals who face a higher probability of experiencing negative life outcomes due to various factors, circumstances, or behaviors that put them in vulnerable situations. These young people may be at risk of engaging in behaviors that can lead to personal, social, and academic difficulties, potentially hindering their overall development and success.

Attachment Theory

Suggests that healthy personality development in young children requires a warm, intimate, and continuous relationship with the primary caregiver. Children lacking such a relationship are more likely to engage in maladjusted behavior.

Attachment theory postulates three forms of attachment. Secure attachment is a healthy form of attachment and develops when a child is confident that the mother figure will be responsible and available

when needed. Anxious-avoidant attachment develops when children feel rejection and develop a lack of confidence in the support and care of the parent. Anxious-resistant attachment develops from similar experiences and results in feelings of uncertainty, causing the child to feel anxious, to become fearful of his or her environment, and to cling to potential caregivers and partners. The latter two forms of attachment are non-secure and may lead to delinquent behavior.

Authoritarian Parents

Characterized by their strict and controlling parenting style. They tend to have high expectations for their children and enforce rules and discipline rigorously.

Authoritative

A style of parenting that is both high on responsiveness and demandingness.

Behavioral Conditioning

Emphasizes the concept of operant behavior: behavior choices operate on the environment to produce consequences for the individual. When behavior results in rewards or desirable feedback, the behavior is reinforced and will probably become more frequent. When behavior results in punishment, the frequency of that behavior decreases. There are four conceptual categories of rewards and punishments:

1. Positive rewards
2. Negative rewards
3. Positive punishments
4. Negative punishments

Behavior theory differs from other psychological theories in that the major determinants of behavior are in the surrounding environment rather than in the individual.

Behavioral Theory

The second main thrust of early psychological theorizing, built upon the concept of conditioned behavior, particularly concept of classical conditioning demonstrated by Pavlov. Researchers such as B.F. Skinner further developed the theory, which involves the use of rewards and punishments to control a person's responses, or operant behavior. One of the earliest learning theories was Gabriel Tarde's theory, which was based on imitation and suggestion. Albert Bandura's social cognition theory of aggression suggests that people learn to act by observing others; observation of aggressive behavior teaches one how to behave aggressively.

Behaviorism

A psychological theory and approach that focuses on the study of observable behaviors rather than mental processes or internal states. It emerged as a dominant school of thought in the early 20th century, particularly with the work of behaviorist pioneers such as Ivan Pavlov, John B. Watson, and B.F. Skinner.

Benchmark

Refers to a standard or point of reference against which the performance or characteristics of something can be measured or evaluated. Benchmarks are commonly used to assess the relative performance or quality of data, processes, systems, or investments.

Big Five Model of Personality

Also known as the Five-Factor Model (FFM), is a widely accepted and influential framework for understanding and categorizing human personality traits. It proposes that personality can be described and organized into five broad dimensions, or factors, which capture the most important and distinctive aspects of an individual's personality. These five factors are often referred to by the acronym OCEAN.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

BJS is the primary statistical agency of the Department of Justice. It is one of the thirteen principal federal statistical agencies throughout the Executive Branch, agencies whose activities are predominantly focused on the collection, compilation, processing, or analysis of information for statistical purposes.

Campbell Collaboration

The Campbell Collaboration is an international social science research network that produces high quality, open and policy-relevant evidence syntheses, plain language summaries and policy briefs.

Casey v. Lewis (1990)

This case 1990 was brought by female inmates in the Arizona Prison system. The plaintiff class alleged that the defendants are deliberately indifferent to their serious health care needs including medical, dental, and mental health care needs.

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)

Cesare Bonesana, Marchese di Beccaria, was an Italian philosopher, criminologist, and jurist. Beccaria is best known for his influential work in the field of criminology, particularly for his groundbreaking treatise titled "On Crimes and Punishments" ("Dei delitti e delle pene" in Italian), which was first published in

1764. In "On Crimes and Punishments," Beccaria argued against the prevalent and harsh penal practices of his time and advocated for a more humane and rational approach to criminal justice. He criticized the use of torture, the death penalty, and other cruel forms of punishment that were common in Europe during the 18th century. Beccaria believed that punishment should be based on the principle of utility, aiming to deter crime and protect society while avoiding unnecessary cruelty.

Beccaria proposed that punishment should be severe enough to deter individuals from committing crimes, but it should not be excessively cruel. He argued that the certainty of punishment is more effective in deterring crime than its severity.

Beccaria emphasized the importance of equality before the law, advocating for a legal system that treats all individuals equally regardless of their social status or wealth.

Beccaria urged for quick and transparent trials, ensuring that justice is delivered promptly and that the public can trust the legal system.

Beccaria strongly opposed the use of the death penalty, arguing that it was neither effective in deterring crime nor in achieving justice.

Charles Goring (1870-1919)

Was a British psychiatrist and criminologist who is known for his research on the relationship between crime and intelligence. He conducted a significant study that focused on the connection between criminality and intellectual abilities.

Goring's most famous work is "The English Convict: A Statistical Study," which was published in 1913. In this extensive study, Goring examined the characteristics and backgrounds of over 3,000 prisoners in English prisons. He compared these characteristics with those of non-criminals to determine whether there was a significant difference in intelligence between the two groups.

Goring's research aimed to investigate the prevalent eugenic theories of his time, which suggested that there was a hereditary basis for criminality and that criminals were more likely to have lower intelligence. However, his study did not support these ideas. He found that there was no evidence of a direct link between criminal behavior and low intelligence. In fact, Goring's research indicated that criminals did not differ significantly from non-criminals in terms of intelligence.

This finding challenged the eugenic views of his era, which had proposed that criminality was largely inherited and associated with low intelligence. Goring's work contributed to a more nuanced understanding of the complex factors that contribute to criminal behavior, including social, environmental, and psychological factors. His research played a significant role in shifting the focus of criminology away from simplistic notions of biological determinism and toward a broader exploration of the causes of crime.

Chicago School

Was a major sociological movement that emerged in the early 20th century at the University of Chicago. It is recognized for its pioneering contributions to the field of sociology and its innovative research on urban social issues. Led by prominent sociologists such as Robert Park, Ernest Burgess, and Louis Wirth, the Chicago School focused on the study of urban life and social dynamics in rapidly growing cities.

Chicago School of Social Ecology

Chicago School of Social Ecology also known as the Chicago School of Sociology, refers to a sociological tradition that emerged in the early 20th century at the University of Chicago. It is recognized as a prominent and influential approach within the field of sociology.

The Chicago School of Social Ecology emphasized the importance of studying social phenomena within their specific social and physical environments. Its scholars sought to understand how social structures, urban environments, and community dynamics influenced individual behavior and social interactions.

The school's researchers conducted groundbreaking studies, particularly in the areas of urban sociology and criminology, focusing on the city of Chicago as their primary laboratory. Their work explored the relationship between social disorganization, urbanization, and crime rates, as well as the impact of community structures and institutions on individual behavior.

Notable scholars associated with the Chicago School of Social Ecology include Robert E. Park, Ernest Burgess, Louis Wirth, and Clifford Shaw. Their studies often involved conducting field research, employing qualitative methods, and employing concepts such as social disorganization, urban ecology, and the concentric zone model.

The Chicago School's ideas and research methods had a profound influence on the development of sociology, criminology, and urban studies. The school's emphasis on the importance of social context and environmental factors in shaping human behavior continues to inform research in these fields today.

Child Maltreatment

Refers to any form of abuse or neglect directed towards children under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another individual in a position of responsibility. Child maltreatment encompasses a range of harmful actions and omissions that can have severe and lasting consequences on a child's physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. It is a significant social issue that requires attention and intervention to protect vulnerable children.

Classical Criminology

A school of thought in criminology that emerged during the 18th century as a response to the harsh

and arbitrary legal systems of that time. It is considered one of the foundational theories in the field of criminology and marks a significant departure from earlier approaches to crime and punishment.

Classical School of Criminology

Classical school of criminology is a theory of crime and punishment that originated in the 18th century and was developed by various Enlightenment thinkers, most notably Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham. It is considered one of the foundational theories of criminology.

The classical school of criminology is based on the idea of free will and rational choice. It posits that individuals are rational beings who weigh the potential benefits and costs of their actions before engaging in criminal behavior. According to this perspective, people choose to commit crimes when the perceived benefits outweigh the potential risks or punishments.

Key principles and concepts of the classical school of criminology include the hedonistic calculus, a focus on deterrence, an exploration and emphasis on the efficacy of punishment, and the promotion of legal equity.

The classical school of criminology had a significant impact on the development of modern criminal justice systems. Its principles have influenced the establishment of legal codes, the design of punishment systems, and the focus on deterrence in criminal justice policies. While the classical school has been criticized and supplemented by other theories over time, its emphasis on rationality, free will, and deterrence remains influential in the field of criminology.

Clearance Rates

Represent the percentage of reported crimes that result in an arrest, charge, or other form of resolution by law enforcement. Clearance rates can indicate the effectiveness of police investigations and the likelihood of holding offenders accountable.

Clifford R. Shaw and Henry D. McKay (1942)

Published a groundbreaking research paper titled "Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas: A Study of Rates of Delinquents in Relation to Differential Characteristics of Local Communities in American Cities." This study laid the foundation for the social disorganization theory, which sought to explain the relationship between neighborhood characteristics and crime rates.

Coercion model of Antisocial Behavior

A psychological theory that seeks to explain the development of aggressive and disruptive behaviors in individuals, particularly in the context of family interactions. It was first proposed by researchers Gerald Patterson and John Reid in the 1970s and has since been widely studied and supported by empirical

evidence. According to the Coercion Model, the development of antisocial behavior is a result of a coercive cycle that occurs within family relationships.

The Coercion Model highlights the importance of early intervention and prevention strategies to disrupt the coercive cycle and promote positive parenting practices. Interventions often focus on teaching parents more effective and positive discipline techniques, improving communication skills, and fostering a supportive and nurturing family environment. By breaking the cycle of coercion, it is possible to reduce the risk of antisocial behavior development and improve the long-term outcomes for at-risk children and adolescents.

Cognitive Theory

A psychological perspective that focuses on the study of mental processes, such as thinking, memory, perception, problem-solving, and decision-making. Unlike behaviorism, which emphasizes observable behaviors, cognitive theory looks at the internal mental processes that influence how people perceive and interact with the world.

Cohort Effects

In criminology studies refer to the impact of a specific group of individuals, often born during the same time, sharing common experiences or historical events that influence their criminal behavior. These cohorts may display unique patterns of criminal involvement compared to individuals from different generations, and studying cohort effects can help criminologists understand how historical, social, and cultural factors shape criminality.

Collective Efficacy

In the context of sociology and criminology, refers to the shared belief and social cohesion within a community that enables its members to work together to achieve common goals and effectively address social problems, including crime and disorder. It is a concept developed by sociologists Albert Bandura and Francesca S. Yang.

Common Couple Violence

Occurs infrequently, does not escalate over time, and rarely results in physical injury or psychological trauma.

Community Linkage

The strategy of connecting released inmates, particularly those with mental health issues, to community-

based services to facilitate their transition and reduce recidivism, highlighted in cases like *Dunn v. Voinovich* and *Brad H. v. City of New York*.

Community Supervision

Also known as probation or parole, is a legal arrangement in which individuals convicted of certain crimes are allowed to serve part of their sentence under the supervision of authorities while residing in the community instead of being incarcerated in prison. It is an alternative to incarceration that aims to provide rehabilitation and reintegration into society while ensuring public safety.

Comparative Criminology

A field of study within criminology that involves the systematic comparison of criminal justice systems, crime rates, and related phenomena across different countries or regions. This interdisciplinary field draws on principles from sociology, law, political science, anthropology, and other disciplines to analyze and compare various aspects of crime and criminal justice.

Researchers in comparative criminology aim to understand the similarities and differences in the patterns of crime, the effectiveness of criminal justice policies, and the social, economic, and cultural factors that may contribute to variations in criminal behavior and law enforcement practices. By examining these factors across different contexts, scholars in comparative criminology seek to identify commonalities and unique features that can inform theories and policies aimed at preventing and controlling crime.

Conflict Perspective

A theoretical framework in criminology that views crime and the criminal justice system as products of social conflicts and power struggles within society. It emerged as a response to the limitations of other criminological theories, such as the consensus or functionalist perspectives, which tended to focus on social cohesion and stability. The conflict perspective, instead, emphasizes the role of inequality, social divisions, and power differentials in shaping crime, law enforcement, and criminal justice policies.

Consensus Perspective

A theoretical framework in criminology that focuses on the idea of social cohesion and shared values within a society. It emphasizes the existence of a consensus among members of society regarding what is considered morally right and wrong, and how these shared values are reflected in the creation and enforcement of laws. This perspective assumes that most individuals in society agree on what constitutes criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system serves to maintain social order and protect common values.

Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote and advance the social and behavioral sciences in federal policymaking. Headquartered in Washington, DC, COSSA serves as a united voice for organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. COSSA's policy experts work with a broad network of advocates to ensure sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and the widespread use of our sciences in policymaking. Join our team of professional associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, U.S. colleges and universities, and private sector partners to help raise the profile of social and behavioral science research.

Constitutive Theory

A philosophical approach to understanding the nature and meaning of social practices, such as language, law, politics, art, etc. It argues that these practices are not simply given by nature or convention, but are actively constituted by the participants who engage in them. Constitutive theory draws on the later work of Ludwig Wittgenstein, who suggested that language is not a fixed system of rules and representations, but a dynamic and creative activity that shapes our understanding of reality.

Containment Theory

Developed by sociologist Walter C. Reckless in the 1960s, is a criminological theory that seeks to explain why some individuals are more resistant to social pressures and less likely to engage in deviant or criminal behavior despite facing external and internal pressures. The theory posits that various factors can act as buffers or containment forces, preventing individuals from succumbing to delinquent temptations.

Contextual Constructionism:

A version of social constructionism that accepts that some underlying reality exists but argues that humans build social constructions that vary depending on the social and cultural context.

Control Balance Theory

Developed by Charles R. Tittle in the 1990s. It offers an explanation of deviant and criminal behavior by examining the balance of control that individuals have over their own lives and the control they exert over others.

Convict Criminology

An emerging field within the broader discipline of criminology that focuses on the experiences and

perspectives of formerly incarcerated individuals, commonly referred to as ex-convicts or ex-offenders. Unlike traditional criminology, which often analyzes crime and criminal behavior from an outsider's perspective, convict criminology seeks to integrate the insights and voices of those who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system.

Corporal Punishment

A disciplinary method that involves the use of physical force to inflict pain or discomfort as a means of correcting or controlling a person's behavior. It is often used as a form of punishment for children, students, or individuals who are perceived to have misbehaved or violated rules.

Correlation

Correlation refers to a statistical measure that quantifies the relationship or association between two or more variables. It describes the extent to which changes in one variable are related to changes in another variable. Correlation does not imply causation, meaning that a correlation between two variables does not necessarily indicate that one variable causes the other to change. Correlation analysis is widely used in various fields, including statistics, social sciences, economics, and medical research. It helps researchers and analysts understand the degree and direction of association between variables, identify patterns, make predictions, and guide decision-making. However, it is important to note that correlation alone does not establish a cause-and-effect relationship between variables, as other factors or variables may be involved.

Crime

Refers to any behavior or action that is considered illegal, prohibited, or punishable by law. It involves the violation of societal norms, rules, and regulations established by the government or governing authorities. Criminal acts are generally harmful or detrimental to individuals, communities, or society as a whole and are subject to various legal consequences, such as fines, probation, imprisonment, or other forms of punishment.

Crimes can encompass a wide range of behaviors, from minor offenses like traffic violations or petty theft to more serious offenses like assault, robbery, murder, or fraud. The definition of crime may vary across jurisdictions, as different countries or states may have specific laws and statutes that determine what actions are considered criminal within their legal framework.

Crimes are typically classified into two main categories: misdemeanors and felonies. Misdemeanors are less serious offenses and are generally punishable by fines, community service, or short-term imprisonment. Felonies, on the other hand, are more severe offenses and often involve more extended periods of imprisonment or other severe penalties.

Crime Mapping

Involves the visualization of crime data on maps, allowing analysts to identify crime hotspots, patterns, and trends. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology is often used to map crime data, enabling law enforcement agencies to allocate resources efficiently.

Criminal Career

Refers to the pattern of an individual's involvement in criminal behavior over time. It involves the series of criminal acts or offenses committed by a person during their lifetime. Just as a person's career typically encompasses a sequence of jobs and positions held over the course of their working life, a criminal career describes the various criminal activities a person engages in from their first criminal act to their potential cessation or desistance from criminal behavior.

Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice refers to the system of practices and institutions established by governments to maintain social order, deter and control crime, and administer justice to those who violate the law. It encompasses a broad range of processes, organizations, and individuals involved in the detection, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of criminal offenses.

The criminal justice system typically consists of three main components: (1) law enforcement, (2) courts, and (3) corrections.

Criminologist

A criminologist is a professional who studies the causes, consequences, prevention, and control of criminal behavior. Criminology is a multidisciplinary field that draws from various disciplines, including sociology, psychology, law, anthropology, and criminal justice. Criminologists apply scientific methods and theories to analyze and understand crime patterns, criminal behavior, and the functioning of the criminal justice system.

The work of a criminologist can vary depending on their specialization and the context in which they operate. Some common roles and responsibilities of criminologists include (1) Social Research, (2) Crime Prevention through public policy, (3) Policy Analysis, (4) Criminal Profiling, (5) Education and Advocacy, and more!

Overall, criminologists play a crucial role in understanding, analyzing, and addressing issues related to crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system. Their work aims to inform policy, improve crime prevention strategies, and contribute to the development of effective and fair criminal justice practices.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

A specialized program in law enforcement designed to improve the way police respond to incidents involving individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. CIT programs aim to enhance public safety, reduce the risk of violence, and ensure appropriate and compassionate handling of individuals with mental health issues.

Critical Criminology

A theoretical approach within the field of criminology that seeks to examine and challenge the social, economic, and political structures that contribute to crime, deviance, and the functioning of the criminal justice system. It emerged in the late 1960s as a response to traditional criminological perspectives that often overlooked or downplayed the underlying causes of crime and the role of power dynamics in shaping criminal behavior and social responses to it.

Cultural Capital

A sociological concept developed by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in the 1970s. It refers to the non-financial social assets that individuals acquire through their socialization, education, and exposure to various cultural practices. This concept is essential for understanding how social inequality is perpetuated and how different forms of capital (economic, social, and cultural) contribute to an individual's social status and opportunities in life.

Culture Conflict Theory

Also known as Cultural Deviance Theory, is a criminological perspective that focuses on the clash between the cultural values and norms of different groups within a society. This theory posits that criminal behavior can arise when individuals from subcultures or marginalized groups adopt norms and values that deviate from the dominant culture.

Cyberpsychology

A study of the human mind and behavior in the context of human-technology interaction, particularly focusing on how digital technologies, the Internet, and virtual environments influence psychological processes, emotions, and social behaviors. This interdisciplinary field combines elements from psychology, computer science, and information technology to explore a wide range of topics, including online identity, digital communication patterns, cyberbullying, online addiction, virtual reality, and the impact of social media on mental health.

Daniel Nagin

A prominent criminologist who has conducted extensive research on the empirical status of deterrence theory and the role of choice in criminological theory.

Deinstitutionalization

The process of replacing long-term psychiatric hospitals with community-based mental health services, which led to many mentally ill individuals transitioning to community care without sufficient support, contributing to homelessness and criminal justice involvement.

Deliberate Indifference

A legal standard established in *Estelle v. Gamble* (1976), holding that a lack of adequate medical care, including mental health treatment, can be considered "cruel and unusual punishment" under the Eighth Amendment.

Demandingness

Within the context of parenting, refers to the level of expectations, rules, and control that parents exert over their children's behavior and activities through supervision, disciplinary efforts, and a constant imposition of consequences for failing to meet expectations. It is one of the two main dimensions of parenting style, with the other being responsiveness.

Desistance

A key concept to the life course perspective and describes a reduction in offending; that is, deceleration, specialization, and deescalation. Deceleration is a slowing down in the frequency of offending. Specialization is a slowing down in the variety of offending. Deescalation is a slowing down in the seriousness of the offenses committed.

Determinism

Determinism is a philosophical concept that posits that every event or phenomenon, including human actions and choices, is causally determined by preceding events and conditions. It suggests that there is a fixed chain of cause and effect in the universe, and given the same circumstances, the same outcome will always occur.

According to determinism, free will is an illusion, and human behavior is ultimately governed by factors beyond individual control, such as genetics, environment, upbringing, and societal influences. It

suggests that individuals do not have true autonomy or the ability to make choices that are independent of causal factors.

Deterrence

A concept in the fields of international relations and criminology that refers to the use of threats or the imposition of costs to prevent others from taking certain actions or engaging in undesirable behavior. The idea behind deterrence is to discourage potential adversaries or individuals from pursuing a course of action by making them believe that the costs or consequences of their actions will outweigh any potential benefits.

Developmental and Life Course (DLC) Paradigm

A framework integrating psychological, social, and biological factors to understand crime over a lifespan.

Deviance

Refers to any behavior, belief, or characteristic that deviates from the norms, values, and expectations of a particular society or social group. In simpler terms, deviance refers to actions or attributes that are considered different, unusual, or even unacceptable within a given cultural context.

Deviance is a relative concept because what is considered deviant can vary across different cultures, societies, and historical periods. Certain behaviors or attributes that are considered normal or acceptable in one society may be seen as deviant in another. Additionally, the definition of deviance can evolve over time as societal norms and values change.

Differential Association

One of the most influential forms of learning theory, developed in 1939 by Edwin H. Sutherland. It suggests that criminality is learned through a process of differential association with others who communicate criminal values and advocate the commission of crimes. Sutherland suggested that all significant human behavior is learned, and that crime is not substantively different from any other form of behavior.

Differential Association-Reinforcement Theory

Combines elements of both Differential Association Theory and Social Learning Theory. This theory, developed by Ronald Akers in the 1970s, seeks to explain how individuals learn criminal behavior through interactions with others and how they are reinforced or punished for their actions.

Differential Identification

A concept introduced by sociologists Daniel Glaser and William Glaser in the context of social learning theory. It is an extension of Edwin H. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory and emphasizes the role of identification with significant others in the process of learning deviant or criminal behavior.

Differential Opportunity

A criminological perspective that builds upon the concept of strain theory and expands it to explain how individuals may turn to criminal behavior because of limited legitimate opportunities. This theory, developed by Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin in the 1960s, suggests that access to illegitimate opportunities can influence whether individuals choose conventional or deviant paths to achieve their goals.

Disaggregate

Means to break down or divide something into its individual components, parts, or smaller units. This term is often used in various fields, including statistics, economics, data analysis, and decision-making, to gain a more detailed or granular understanding of a larger entity or dataset.

Diversion Program

An alternative approach to the traditional criminal justice system, designed to provide certain offenders with opportunities for rehabilitation and community-based interventions instead of proceeding with formal prosecution and sentencing. The primary goal of diversion programs is to address the root causes of criminal behavior, promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and prevent the unnecessary incarceration of individuals who may benefit more from treatment and support.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.®)

A validated, copyrighted, comprehensive drug and violence prevention education program for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. D.A.R.E.® represents a collaborative effort between school and law enforcement personnel. The program is nationally coordinated by D.A.R.E.® America, with input received from State and local agencies and communities.

Dual Diagnosis

Also known as co-occurring disorders, refers to a situation in which an individual is experiencing both a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder simultaneously. This term is commonly used in the context of mental health and addiction treatment.

In the past, mental health and substance abuse issues were often treated separately, but it was discovered that individuals with these conditions often have overlapping symptoms and need integrated treatment approaches. Dual diagnosis recognizes that both conditions can interact and exacerbate each other, leading to more complex challenges for the individual's overall well-being.

Edwin Lemert (1967)

Was an American sociologist known for his work in the field of criminology and deviance. In 1967, he published a book titled "Human Deviance, Social Problems, and Social Control." This book expanded upon his earlier ideas about primary and secondary deviance, concepts he introduced in his earlier work "Social Pathology: A Systematic Approach to the Theory of Sociopathic Behavior" (1951).

Edwin Sutherland

Edwin Sutherland (1883-1950) was an influential American sociologist and criminologist who made significant contributions to the field of criminology. He is best known for developing the theory of differential association, which has had a lasting impact on our understanding of crime and delinquency.

One of Sutherland's most notable contributions was the development of the theory of differential association. In 1939, he published his influential book "Principles of Criminology," where he introduced this theory. The theory proposes that criminal behavior is learned through social interaction and communication with others. According to Sutherland, individuals acquire criminal attitudes, values, techniques, and motives through their associations with others who engage in criminal behavior.

Sutherland's theory challenged the prevailing views of his time, which focused primarily on individual traits and biological factors as the primary causes of crime. His differential association theory emphasized the importance of social and environmental influences on criminal behavior, highlighting the role of interpersonal relationships, peer groups, and subcultures in shaping individuals' propensity for criminality.

In addition to his work on differential association, Sutherland made significant contributions to the study of white-collar crime. He coined the term "white-collar crime" to refer to offenses committed by individuals of higher social and economic status during their occupational activities. His research and writings on this topic shed light on the prevalence and impact of corporate and financial crimes, challenging the notion that crime is solely a product of lower-class or marginalized individuals.

Edwin Sutherland's work continues to be highly influential in the field of criminology, shaping our understanding of the social and environmental factors that contribute to criminal behavior. His focus on the importance of social learning and the role of influential social groups has informed subsequent research and theories in the field.

Efficiency Analysis

Not as common as other forms of program evaluation in criminal justice as impact and cost are often of greater significance. Cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis are two basic types and used to determine whether the benefits gained from a particular program/initiative justify the cost.

Émile Durkheim (1858-1917)

Was a prominent French sociologist who is often regarded as one of the founding figures of modern sociology. His work laid the foundation for the systematic study of society and social phenomena as distinct fields of academic inquiry. Here are some key aspects of Émile Durkheim's life and contributions:

Evaluation Research

Refers to a systematic and objective investigation conducted to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, and impact of a program, policy, intervention, or project. It aims to gather evidence and information that can inform decision-making, improve program design and implementation, and ultimately contribute to better outcomes.

Evaluation research involves the use of various research methods, such as surveys, interviews, observations, and data analysis, to collect and analyze data related to the specific program or intervention under examination. The key focus is on evaluating the extent to which the program or intervention achieves its stated objectives and desired outcomes, and identifying factors that contribute to its success or failure.

The evaluation process typically includes defining clear evaluation questions, developing appropriate evaluation designs and methods, collecting, and analyzing data, interpreting findings, and providing actionable recommendations. It may also involve assessing the program's efficiency in terms of resource utilization, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability.

Evaluation research plays a crucial role in informing evidence-based decision-making, improving program effectiveness, and facilitating accountability. It is widely used in various fields, including education, healthcare, social sciences, public policy, and nonprofit organizations, to evaluate the impact and outcomes of interventions, policies, and initiatives.

Evidence-Based Criminology

An approach that requires that high-quality evaluation research form the basis of policy or practice in the field of criminology and criminal justice.

Evolutionary Ecology

A significant part of life course researchers. Through a method of cohort analysis designs, it traces the

development from birth to some predetermined age of a population whose members share common characteristics. Marvin Wolfgang's analysis of a birth cohort in the 1960s found that a small number of chronic juvenile offenders (6% of the cohort) accounted for a disproportionately large number of juvenile arrests (52%). Lawrence Cohen and Richard Machalek's evolutionary ecology approach attempts to explain how people acquire criminality, when and why they express it as crime, how those crimes are responded to, and how all these factors interact.

Expert Testimony

Refers to the presentation of specialized knowledge or opinions by a qualified expert during a legal proceeding, such as a trial, hearing, or legislative session. Expert witnesses are individuals, e.g., criminologists, with recognized expertise and experience in a specific field or subject matter relevant to the case at hand. They are called upon to provide their professional opinions, interpretations, or analysis to assist the court or jury in understanding complex issues or technical matters beyond the understanding of the average person.

Farrington's Delinquent Development Theory

Developed by criminologist David P. Farrington and is a prominent longitudinal study that explores the factors influencing the development of delinquent behavior from childhood to adulthood. This theory is based on extensive research that followed individuals over an extended period to understand the patterns and risk factors associated with delinquency and crime. Farrington's Delinquent Development Theory has significantly contributed to the field of criminology by providing a comprehensive understanding of the complex and dynamic nature of delinquent behavior. Its longitudinal approach and identification of key risk and protective factors have informed evidence-based practices for preventing and reducing delinquency and guiding individuals toward positive life trajectories.

Feminist Criminology

A branch of criminology that examines crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system through a gendered lens, with a particular focus on the experiences and perspectives of women. It emerged in the 1970s as part of the larger feminist movement, aiming to address the historical neglect of gender issues in traditional criminology and to challenge the male-centric assumptions and biases in the study of crime.

Focal Concerns

Sets of values, beliefs, and attitudes that were introduced by Walter B. Miller, an American sociologist, in his influential work "Lower-Class Culture as a Generating Milieu of Gang Delinquency" (1958). Focal concerns refer to a set of values, beliefs, and attitudes that are prevalent among lower-class individuals,

particularly those in urban settings. Miller argued that these focal concerns play a significant role in shaping the behavior and social interactions of individuals in lower-class communities.

Formative Evaluations

In the context of program evaluation, are assessments conducted during the development and implementation phases of a program or intervention. These evaluations are primarily focused on providing feedback, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and informing ongoing improvements to the program. Formative evaluations are an essential component of the evaluation process, as they help shape and refine the program as it evolves.

Frank Tannenbaum (1938)

Was a prominent sociologist and criminologist known for his work in the early 20th century. While he is not particularly known for a publication in 1938, one of his significant works is "Crime and the Community" (1938). In "Crime and the Community," Tannenbaum explored the social and cultural aspects of crime and delinquency. He argued that society's reaction to criminal behavior often played a crucial role in shaping the behavior of individuals labeled as criminals.

Full-Participation Agency

NIBRS participating agencies that submit data on all Group A and B offenses.

Gabriel Tarde

Was a French sociologist, criminologist, and social psychologist. He is known for his significant contributions to the field of sociology, particularly in the areas of social theory, social psychology, and the study of social phenomena. Tarde suggested that the basis of society was imitation, and he developed a theory of behavior built upon three laws of imitation and suggestion: (1) People in close contact tend to imitate each other's behavior, (2) Imitation moves from the top down, and (3) New acts and behaviors either reinforce or replace old ones.

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.®)

An evidence-based and effective gang and violence prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curricula. The Program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior.

Gary Beker (1968)

An influential American economist known for his pioneering work in the field of economics. Becker made significant contributions to various areas of economics, particularly in the areas of human capital theory, labor economics, and the economics of discrimination. Some of his most notable contributions and ideas include human capital theory, economics of discrimination, economic approaches to family and household, and rational choice theory. Gary Becker received numerous awards and honors during his lifetime, including the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 1992. His work continues to be a foundation for research in economics and has had a lasting impact on the field.

General Strain Theory (GST)

A criminological theory developed by sociologist Robert Agnew in the early 1990s. GST builds upon earlier strain theories, such as the work of Robert Merton, and offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the link between strain, negative emotions, and criminal behavior.

General Theory of Crime (GTC)

Also known as Self-Control Theory, is a prominent criminological theory developed by Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi in 1990. The theory posits that the primary cause of criminal behavior is low self-control, which is formed early in childhood and remains relatively stable throughout an individual's life.

Goal Act of 1774

The result of the testimony that John Howard provided to a committee of the House of Commons, Parliament passed the 1774 Gaol Act. The terms of this legislation abolished gaolers' fees and suggested ways for improving the sanitary state of prisons and the better preservation of the health of the prisoners.

Homo Economicus

Often referred to as "economic man," is a theoretical concept in economics that represents an idealized and simplified model of human behavior within economic contexts. It is not a description of how real people always behave, but rather a simplifying assumption that helps economists analyze and understand economic decision-making.

Hotel Rule

Within the context of the UCR, means that if a number of units under a single manager are burglarized and the offenses are most likely to be reported to the police by the manager rather than the individual

tenants, the burglary must be reported as a single offense. Burglaries of hotels, motels, lodging houses, or other places where lodging of transients is the main purpose can present reporting problems to law enforcement.

Howard Becker (1963)

A prominent American sociologist known for his significant contributions to the field of sociology, particularly in the areas of labeling theory and the sociology of deviance. In 1963, Becker published a groundbreaking book titled "Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance." This book is considered one of his most influential works and had a significant impact on the field of sociology.

Human Genome Project (HGP)

The HGP was an international scientific research initiative that aimed to map and sequence the entire human genome. It was one of the most significant and ambitious scientific endeavors in history, spanning several countries and involving thousands of researchers and institutions.

The primary goal of the Human Genome Project, which was officially launched in 1990, was to identify and determine the sequence of all the genes in the human genome and to analyze their functions. The human genome is the complete set of genetic information present in human DNA, and it contains all the instructions necessary for building and maintaining a human being.

Impact Evaluation

A specific type of evaluation research that focuses on assessing the causal impact or effects of a program, policy, intervention, or project. It aims to determine whether and to what extent the intervention has achieved its intended outcomes, and whether any observed changes can be attributed to the intervention rather than other factors.

The primary goal of an impact evaluation is to understand the cause-and-effect relationship between the intervention and the observed outcomes. It involves comparing the outcomes of the group or individuals who received the intervention (the treatment group) with those who did not (the control group) or with a baseline measure before the intervention was implemented.

Impact evaluations employ rigorous research methods and techniques to ensure that the observed changes can be confidently attributed to the intervention. Commonly used methods include randomized controlled trials (RCTs), quasi-experimental designs, and matching techniques. These methods aim to minimize biases and confounding factors, allowing for a more accurate estimation of the intervention's impact.

The evaluation process typically involves defining clear evaluation questions, developing appropriate research designs, collecting data through surveys, interviews, observations, or other means, analyzing data

using statistical or qualitative techniques, interpreting the findings, and drawing conclusions about the intervention's impact.

Impact evaluations are frequently conducted in various fields, including education, healthcare, social services, development programs, and public policy. They provide valuable evidence on the effectiveness, efficiency, scalability, and sustainability of interventions, helping policymakers, program implementers, and funders make informed decisions about allocating resources, improving program design, and maximizing desired outcomes.

Institutional Racism

Also known as systemic racism, is a form of racism that is embedded within the policies, practices, and structures of social institutions, leading to the perpetuation of racial disparities and inequalities. Unlike individual acts of racism, which involve prejudiced beliefs or discriminatory actions by individuals, institutional racism operates at a broader societal level and affects entire communities or racial/ethnic groups.

Intensive Supervision Programs (ISP)

Also known as Intensive Supervision Probation (ISP), is an approach to community-based supervision of individuals who have been convicted of a crime and are serving a probation sentence. ISP aims to provide a higher level of supervision and support than traditional probation while still allowing the individuals to remain in the community instead of being incarcerated.

ISP typically involves more frequent and intensive contact between probation officers and probationers compared to standard probation. The specific components and requirements of ISP can vary depending on jurisdiction and the nature of the offense, but common features may include: (1) increased supervision, (2) enhanced surveillance, (3) treatment and support services, and (4) case management.

Intersectionality

A concept within third-wave feminism that examines how overlapping social identities, including gender, race, and class, affect individuals' experiences and opportunities.

Intimate Partner Violence

Also known as domestic violence and intimate terrorism, is a pattern of abusive behavior that occurs within a romantic or intimate relationship. It involves the use of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or economic tactics to control and dominate one's partner. IPV can occur in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships and affects individuals of all ages, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Invariance

Refers to the quality or state of being unchanging or constant in a specific context or situation. It is a concept used in various fields, including mathematics, physics, statistics, and social sciences, to describe properties, relationships, or principles that remain consistent and unaffected by certain transformations, variations, or conditions.

Invisible Offender

A way to describe the context of studying females and crime. It refers to the idea that female offenders are often overlooked or underestimated in criminological research and the criminal justice system. It suggests that female involvement in criminal activities may be less visible, less recognized, or less studied compared to male offenders.

Historically, criminology has predominantly focused on male offenders due to higher overall crime rates among men. As a result, female criminal behavior has received comparatively less attention, leading to an incomplete understanding of the factors contributing to female criminality.

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

Was an influential British philosopher, jurist, and social reformer. He is best known for his contributions to the fields of ethics, political philosophy, and legal theory. Bentham was a leading figure of the utilitarian movement and is often considered the father of utilitarianism.

Jim Crow Laws

A series of state and local laws enacted in the United States from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. These laws enforced racial segregation and discrimination, primarily targeting African Americans and other racial minorities, particularly in the Southern states.

The term "Jim Crow" originated from a caricature of a Black man used in minstrel shows in the 19th century, which perpetuated racial stereotypes. The Jim Crow laws were a response to the Reconstruction Era (1865-1877), during which significant efforts were made to establish civil rights for African Americans following the abolition of slavery. As Reconstruction ended, Southern states began enacting laws to establish a system of racial segregation and disenfranchisement.

Jock Young

A pioneer in critical criminology, particularly with his work on left realism and the causes of crime.

Just Deserts

A concept in criminal justice that refers to the idea that individuals who commit crimes should receive punishments that are commensurate with the severity of their offenses. In other words, it means that the punishment should be proportional and fair, reflecting the moral responsibility of the offender for their actions.

Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment

Conducted between 1972 and 1973, was a landmark study in the field of policing and crime prevention. The experiment aimed to evaluate the impact of different levels of police presence, specifically preventive patrol, on crime rates and public perception of safety.

The experiment was designed and implemented by researchers from the Kansas City Police Department, in collaboration with criminologists. The study divided the city into three groups: one group received traditional levels of police patrol, another group experienced greatly increased patrol, and a third group had almost no patrol presence. The experiment employed a randomized control trial design, with different areas assigned to each group.

The key findings of the Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment challenged the conventional wisdom that a high level of police presence, in the form of preventive patrol, was necessary to deter crime and enhance public safety.

Labeling Theory

Also known as Social Reaction Theory or Interactionist Perspective, is a criminological and sociological theory that focuses on how social labels and societal reactions can influence an individual's self-identity and behavior. The theory suggests that when individuals are labeled as deviant or criminal by society, it can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy, where they internalize and embrace the label, resulting in increased deviant or criminal behavior.

Lawrence Kohlberg (1927-1987)

Was an American psychologist known for his research and theory on moral development. He was a professor at Harvard University and is best known for his work in the field of developmental psychology, particularly his theory of moral development, which expanded on the ideas of Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget.

Kohlberg's theory of moral development proposed that individuals progress through distinct stages of moral reasoning as they mature. He identified six stages of moral development, which were grouped into three main levels:

Preconventional Level:

- a. Stage 1: Obedience and Punishment Orientation
- b. Stage 2: Individualism and Exchange
 - Conventional Level:
 - a. Stage 3: Interpersonal Relationships and "Good Boy/Girl" Orientation
 - b. Stage 4: Maintaining Social Order and Authority Orientation
 - Postconventional Level:
 - a. Stage 5: Social Contract and Individual Rights
 - b. Stage 6: Universal Principles

Kohlberg's theory suggested that moral development is a lifelong process, and individuals may not necessarily progress through all the stages. He argued that individuals move through these stages as they encounter moral dilemmas and engage in moral reasoning.

Left-Realist Criminology

A criminological perspective that emerged in the 1980s as a response to criticisms of both conservative and liberal approaches to crime and crime control. Left-Realists seek to address the issue of crime in a more practical and policy-oriented manner, combining a concern for social justice with a focus on the real experiences of crime and victimization in local communities.

Legislative Process

Refers to the series of steps and procedures followed by a legislative body, such as a parliament, congress, or legislature, to propose, debate, amend, and enact laws. It involves the development, consideration, and approval of legislation, including bills and resolutions, that govern various aspects of a country's legal framework.

Life Course Criminology

A criminological approach focused on understanding the development of criminal behavior over an individual's lifespan.

Lifestyle Resources

Refers to the degree to which group-based patterns of behavior and belief are valued or devalued within a society, e.g., modes of speech, style of dress, attitudes and values, etc.

Limited-Participation Agency

A NIBRS participating agency unable to meet the offense-reporting requirements of full-participation agencies. That is, these agencies submit detailed incident information only on Part I UCR offenses.

Mala In Se

A Latin term that translates to "wrong or evil in itself." It refers to acts or behaviors that are universally considered inherently immoral or wrong, regardless of the laws and social norms of a particular society.

Crimes that are considered mala in se are offenses that are fundamentally wrong from a moral standpoint, reflecting a broad consensus across cultures and societies. Examples of mala in se crimes include murder, rape, theft, and assault. These offenses are universally condemned because they violate basic ethical principles and human rights.

Maladaptation

Refers to a condition or response that is not well-suited or appropriate for the given situation or environment. In various fields, such as psychology, biology, and ecology, the term is used to describe instances where an organism or individual exhibits behaviors, traits, or characteristics that hinder their ability to function effectively or adapt to their surroundings.

Male-Based Criminology

Refers to the historical focus of criminology on male scholars seeking to explain the criminality of men, often excluding female offenders from research and analysis.

Marxian Model of Social Class

Developed by the German philosopher and economist Karl Marx, is a key component of Marxist theory. Marx's analysis of class focuses on the relationship between the means of production, the ruling class, and the working class, providing insights into the dynamics of capitalist societies and the inherent conflict between different social classes.

Marxist Thought

The body of social, political, and economic ideas developed by Karl Marx (1818–1883) and his collaborator Friedrich Engels, which critique capitalism and propose an alternative socialist and eventually communist society. Marxism is rooted in a materialist understanding of history and focuses on class struggle as the engine of social change. It emphasizes the dynamics of economic systems, the nature of social power, and the possibility of revolutionary transformation.

Maturation Reform

A type of biological explanation that refers to the process of maturing.

Mechanical Solidarity

A concept introduced by French sociologist Émile Durkheim in his seminal work, "The Division of Labor in Society" (1893). It refers to a form of social cohesion and solidarity that is characteristic of traditional, preindustrial societies, where individuals are bound together by a shared collective conscience and a strong sense of shared values, norms, and beliefs.

Mental Health Courts

Specialized court programs that aim to address the needs of individuals with mental health disorders who have become involved in the criminal justice system. These courts provide an alternative approach to traditional criminal courts by focusing on rehabilitation, treatment, and support rather than solely on punitive measures. Mental Health Courts are part of the broader movement towards diversion programs that aim to address the underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior.

Mental Illness

Refers collectively to all diagnosable mental disorders characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior that cause deviations from normal behavior.

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Act of 2003

A significant piece of legislation aimed at addressing the needs of individuals with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system. The Act was introduced in the United States Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush on July 25, 2003.

Michel Foucault

Known for his ideas about power, social control, and punishment, Foucault's theories are central to critical criminological thought.

Middle-Class Measuring Rod

A concept that was introduced by sociologist Paul L. Wirth in his article "The Measurement of Social Status in the United States" published in 1938. The Middle-Class Measuring Rod refers to the tendency of people to evaluate social status, success, and well-being based on middle-class norms and values.

Modeling Theory

Within the context of psychology, refers to a framework for understanding how individuals learn and acquire new behaviors, attitudes, and emotional responses through observation and imitation of others.

Rooted in the principles of social learning theory, particularly as developed by Albert Bandura, modeling theory posits that people can learn not only through direct experience but also by observing the actions and outcomes of others' behaviors. This process involves attention to the model's behavior, retention of the observed behaviors, reproduction of the behavior, and motivation to replicate the behavior based on the observed consequences. Modeling theory has broad applications, including understanding the acquisition of social skills, the impact of media on behavior, therapeutic interventions, and educational strategies. It underscores the significant influence that societal, familial, and media models have on an individual's development and behavior.

Moffitt's Dual Taxonomic Theory

Developed by criminologist Terrie E. Moffitt, is a prominent theory within the field of criminology that seeks to explain the different trajectories of criminal behavior observed in individuals. The theory proposes two distinct subgroups of offenders based on their patterns of antisocial behavior: life-course persistent offenders (LCP) and adolescence-limited offenders (AL).

Moral Crusader

Refers to an individual or group who passionately and actively advocates for a particular moral or ethical cause, often with a strong sense of righteousness and conviction. Moral crusaders are driven by a deep belief in the rightness of their cause and seek to promote and enforce their moral values within society.

These individuals or groups may engage in various activities to advance their moral agenda, such as public advocacy, lobbying for legislative changes, organizing protests or demonstrations, and attempting to influence public opinion through media and social platforms.

Moral Panic

A term used to describe a social phenomenon characterized by an exaggerated, widespread, and often irrational fear or concern over a perceived threat to societal values, norms, and moral order. It typically involves the amplification and sensationalization of a specific issue or group, often fueled by all forms of media, public opinion, and authorities.

Moral Poverty

A concept that refers to the lack or deficiency of moral values, ethical principles, and empathy in individuals or societies. It suggests that individuals or communities may experience poverty not only in material or economic terms but also in their moral and ethical development.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

A nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. It was founded in 1979 by a group of volunteers and individuals with mental health conditions who sought to create a support network and advocate for better mental health services and policies.

NAMI's mission is to provide support, education, and advocacy for people living with mental health conditions and their families. The organization works to promote awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to mental health services across the country.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

A civil rights organization in the United States. It was founded on February 12, 1909, in response to widespread racial violence and discrimination against African Americans, particularly the 1908 race riot in Springfield, Illinois.

The NAACP's mission is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all people and to eliminate race-based discrimination. The organization has been instrumental in advocating for civil rights and working towards the elimination of segregation and other forms of racial injustice.

The NAACP uses a variety of strategies to achieve its goals, including legal action, advocacy, lobbying, and public education. Throughout its history, the NAACP has played a crucial role in landmark civil rights cases, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, which led to the desegregation of public schools, and it has been involved in numerous other efforts to combat discrimination and promote equal rights for all citizens. The organization continues to be active in addressing contemporary civil rights issues.

National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS)

Conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in the United States, gathers information on criminal victimization, regardless of whether it was reported to law enforcement. The survey collects data through interviews with individuals, aiming to capture crimes that may go unreported to the police.

National Crime Victim Survey (NVCS)

Conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in the United States, gathers information on criminal victimization, regardless of whether it was reported to law enforcement. The survey collects data through interviews with individuals, aiming to capture crimes that may go unreported to the police.

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

An advanced method of crime data collection and reporting developed by the Federal Bureau of

Investigation (FBI) in the United States. Since January 2021, NIBRS replaced the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) as it was designed to provide a detailed and comprehensive review of crime, victims, and more nuanced factors. That is, it provides more detailed and comprehensive information about crimes and incidents.

Unlike the UCR, which only captures summary data on a limited number of offenses, NIBRS collects data on each reported incident and includes a wide range of offense types, such as crimes against persons, property crimes, and crimes against society. It captures extensive details about the incident, the victim(s), the offender(s), and other pertinent factors related to the crime.

Natural Law

The philosophical perspective that certain immutable laws are fundamental to human nature and can be readily ascertained through reason. In contrast, human-made laws are said to derive from human experience and history, both of which are subject to continual change.

Needs Assessment

A systematic process used to identify and evaluate the needs, gaps, and priorities of a specific target population or community. It involves gathering information and analyzing data to understand the current situation, assess the needs and challenges faced by the population, and determine the resources and interventions required to address those needs effectively.

A needs assessment is a valuable tool used in various fields, such as public health, education, social services, community development, and organizational planning. It helps ensure that resources are allocated efficiently, interventions are tailored to the specific needs of the population, and desired outcomes are achieved effectively.

Neglectful/Rejecting Parents

Characterized by a lack of emotional involvement, attention, and support for their children. This parenting style is associated with a failure to meet the child's physical and emotional needs.

Neoclassical Criminology

A kind of middle ground between the total free will of the classical perspective and the hard determinism of positivism. It differs from the classical perspective in that it focuses on the importance of character and the dynamics of character development, but also incorporates classical concepts by considering the rational choices people make when faced with opportunities for crime. Essentially, it is a modern-day application of classical principles to current problems of crime and crime control in contemporary society.

Neutralization Theory

Also known as Techniques of Neutralization, is a criminological theory developed by David Matza and Gresham Sykes in the 1950s. The theory explores how individuals rationalize and justify their deviant or criminal behavior while still adhering to societal norms and values. It suggests that people use various psychological and cognitive techniques to neutralize the guilt or shame associated with their actions.

Nominalist Philosophy

A philosophical position that denies the existence of abstract, universal, or real essences for general categories or concepts. According to nominalism, these general categories or universals are merely names or labels

Objective Deterrence

Refers to a concept in criminology and criminal justice that focuses on reducing or preventing criminal behavior by creating an environment where potential offenders perceive a high likelihood of getting caught and facing severe consequences for their actions. It is a theory that relies on the objective elements of deterrence rather than the subjective motivations of individual offenders.

Onset

Refers to the initiation of criminal behavior.

Organic Solidarity

A sociological concept introduced by French sociologist Émile Durkheim in his seminal work, "The Division of Labor in Society" (1893). It refers to a form of social cohesion and solidarity that is characteristic of modern, industrial societies, where individuals are bound together by their interdependence and specialization in different roles and functions.

Pathways Perspective

A theoretical framework that examines the unique life experiences and factors that lead women to commit crimes, emphasizing the role of gender-related risk factors.

Patriarchy

A social system characterized by male dominance and privilege, which feminist criminologists argue shapes opportunities and social participation in ways that disadvantage women.

Peacemaking Criminology

A theoretical perspective within the field of criminology that seeks to promote peace, social justice, and non-violent conflict resolution as alternatives to punitive and retributive approaches to crime and justice. It emerged as a response to traditional criminological theories and criminal justice practices that often prioritize punishment and retribution over rehabilitation and healing.

Peer Review

A rigorous evaluation process used to assess the quality, validity, and credibility of scholarly work before it is published. It involves having experts in the relevant field, known as peers or referees, review and provide feedback on an author's work, such as research articles, conference papers, or book manuscripts. The purpose of peer review is to ensure that published research meets high academic standards and contributes to the advancement of knowledge.

Perceptual Deterrence

Also known as subjective deterrence, is a concept in criminology and criminal justice that focuses on how individuals' perceptions and beliefs about the likelihood of getting caught and the severity of punishments influence their decision-making regarding criminal behavior. Unlike objective deterrence, which emphasizes the actual, observable aspects of law enforcement and punishment, perceptual deterrence centers on the subjective factors that affect an individual's choice to engage in or abstain from criminal acts.

Period Effects

Refers to the impact or influence of living within a particular historical period.

Permissive Parents

Also known as indulgent parents, exhibit a lenient and non-authoritarian parenting style. They are characterized by their high levels of warmth, responsiveness, and support but their relatively low levels of control and discipline.

Persistence

Refers to the continuation or duration of an offending career.

Pluralist Perspective

A theoretical approach in criminology that acknowledges the existence of multiple competing interests,

values, and power structures within society. This perspective recognizes that different groups and individuals have diverse viewpoints and may vie for influence and control over the creation and enforcement of laws and the criminal justice system.

Political Resources

Refers to the exercise of power outside of government.

Positivism

Positivism within criminology refers to a theoretical approach that emphasizes the application of scientific methods and empirical observation in the study of crime and criminal behavior. It emerged in the late 19th century as a response to the limitations of earlier philosophical and moralistic explanations of crime.

Positivist criminology rejects the idea that crime is solely a result of individual choices or moral failings. Instead, it seeks to understand crime as a social phenomenon influenced by various factors, including biological, psychological, and social determinants. Positivist criminologists believe that scientific methods can uncover the underlying causes of criminal behavior and inform effective crime prevention and control strategies.

The key principles of positivist criminology include: (1) empiricism, (2) determinism, and (3) objectivity, and (4) use of the scientific method.

Positivist criminology has led to advancements in the understanding of crime through the use of empirical research and statistical analysis. It has influenced the development of various subfields within criminology, such as biosocial criminology, psychological criminology, and sociological criminology. Positivist perspectives have also influenced the development of evidence-based policies and interventions in the field of criminal justice.

Post Modern Criminology

A theoretical approach within the field of criminology that emerged in the late 20th century and is influenced by postmodern philosophy. This perspective challenges the assumptions and methods of traditional criminology and questions the notion of a universal and objective truth. Instead, postmodern criminologists emphasize the subjectivity of knowledge and the complexities of crime, deviance, and the criminal justice system.

Postmodernist Constructionism

A version of social constructionism that challenges the modernist assumptions of universal truth, rationality, and progress, and instead emphasizes the diversity, complexity, and contingency of social reality.

Process Evaluation

A systematic assessment and analysis of the implementation, delivery, and operations of a program, intervention, or policy. It focuses on understanding how the program is being implemented and the processes involved in delivering the intended services or activities. The primary aim of process evaluation is to provide insights into program operations, identify areas for improvement, and assess fidelity to the program model.

Psychoanalytic Perspective

Refers to a psychological approach that was developed by Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis. It is a theory of personality and a method of psychotherapy that focuses on the unconscious mind and its influence on human behavior. The core ideas of the psychoanalytic perspective revolve around the role of unconscious thoughts, feelings, and motivations in shaping human experiences and behaviors.

Psychopath

Also known as a sociopath, is an individual who exhibits a cluster of personality traits and behaviors associated with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). Psychopathy is a term commonly used in forensic psychology and criminology to describe individuals who display a specific set of characteristics, which often include manipulateness, a lack of empathy, shallow emotions, and a propensity for engaging in impulsive and antisocial behaviors.

Public Policy

Refers to the decisions, actions, and guidelines adopted by governments or public authorities to address societal issues, regulate behavior, and promote the collective well-being of the public. It encompasses a wide range of laws, regulations, programs, and initiatives that shape and guide the actions of governments and public institutions.

Race

A social construct used to categorize and classify human populations based on physical characteristics such as skin color, hair texture, and facial features. The concept of race has been historically used to distinguish and group people into distinct categories, often with the assumption of inherent biological or genetic differences between racial groups.

It is important to understand that race is a social construct and not a biological or scientific category. While there are variations in physical traits among human populations, genetic variation does not align neatly with traditional racial classifications. In fact, genetic differences between individuals within a racial group are often greater than differences between racial groups.

The understanding of race and racial categories varies across different cultures and societies, and classifications have changed over time. Racial categories can also be influenced by cultural, historical, and political factors.

Due to its social nature, race has been used as a basis for discrimination, inequality, and prejudice throughout history. However, it is crucial to recognize that race should not be used to determine intelligence, character, or other inherent qualities of individuals or groups. Acknowledging the social construct of race is essential in promoting a more inclusive and equitable society that respects the diversity of human populations and values the dignity and rights of all individuals, regardless of their racial background.

Racial Profiling

A law enforcement practice in which individuals are targeted or treated differently by law enforcement solely based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, or perceived racial characteristics. It involves the use of race or ethnicity as a factor in making decisions about whom to stop, question, search, or investigate, without any specific evidence of criminal activity or wrongdoing.

Radical Constructionism

A version of social constructionism that completely rejects the idea of an objective reality and sees everything as socially constructed, including one's own analysis.

Radical Criminology

A theoretical approach within the field of criminology that seeks to address crime and social deviance from a structural and critical perspective. It focuses on the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that contribute to crime, rather than solely focusing on individual motivations and actions. Radical criminology emerged in the 1960s and 1970s as a response to the limitations of traditional criminological theories, particularly those that ignored the role of power dynamics and social inequalities in shaping criminal behavior and the criminal justice system.

Rational Choice Theory

Rational Choice Theory is a perspective within criminology that suggests individuals make decisions and engage in behavior based on a rational calculation of costs and benefits. It is a framework that assumes individuals act in their own self-interest and seek to maximize their personal advantages while minimizing potential disadvantages.

According to rational choice theory, individuals consider the potential rewards and risks associated with a particular action before deciding whether to engage in it. They weigh the expected benefits, such as financial gain or personal satisfaction, against the potential costs, such as legal consequences or physical

harm. The theory posits that individuals make rational choices by comparing the potential outcomes and selecting the course of action that offers the greatest net benefit.

Rational Choice Theory (RTC)

Developed out of the neoclassical school of criminology and is based on the belief that criminals make a conscious, rational, and at least partially informed choice to commit crime after weighing the costs and benefits of available alternatives. The two main varieties of choice theory are routine activities theory and situational choice theory.

Reaction Formation

A psychological defense mechanism identified by Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis. It refers to a process in which an individual unconsciously adopts beliefs, attitudes, or behaviors that are the opposite of their true feelings or desires. This defense mechanism operates to manage anxiety or internal conflicts by presenting an outward expression that is socially acceptable or morally aligned, despite conflicting thoughts or emotions within the individual.

Recidivism

The tendency of a convicted individual to reoffend. Studies indicate higher recidivism rates among inmates with mental health conditions compared to the general prison population.

Reification

A concept that refers to the process of treating abstract or conceptual ideas as if they were concrete, tangible, or real entities. It involves attributing a higher degree of concreteness or objectivity to something that is abstract or subjective in nature.

In the context of social theory, reification often involves treating social constructs or relationships as if they are natural or inherent aspects of reality, rather than recognizing them as socially constructed and contingent upon human interpretation and interaction. This can lead to the perception that social structures or categories, such as race, gender, or social classes, are fixed and unchangeable, rather than being socially constructed and subject to change.

Reintegrative Shaming

A concept developed by Australian criminologists John Braithwaite as part of their theory of restorative justice. Reintegrative shaming is a form of social control that aims to address and reduce criminal behavior by using shame in a way that promotes the reintegration of offenders back into society.

Relative Deprivation

In the context of sociology and social psychology, refers to the perception or feeling of being disadvantaged or deprived in comparison to others. It occurs when individuals or groups believe that they are not receiving their fair share of resources, opportunities, or rewards, which can lead to feelings of frustration, resentment, and discontent.

Replacement Theory

A political ideology that claims that the ethnic and cultural identity of a certain group of people is being threatened or erased by the influx and integration of another group of people, usually of a different race, religion, or culture. Replacement theory also accuses the elites or the authorities of facilitating or encouraging this process, either deliberately or negligently.

Resilient Empirical Regularity

A way to describe the curvilinear relationship between age and crime.

Responsiveness

A dimension of parenting that refers to the level of warmth, emotional support, and sensitivity that parents show in response to their children's needs and emotions. It is one of the two main dimensions of parenting style, with the other being demandingness.

Responsive parents are attuned to their children's feelings, desires, and developmental stages, and they provide appropriate support and guidance. They actively listen to their children, validate their emotions, and offer comfort and understanding during times of distress. Responsive parents also foster open communication, allowing children to express themselves freely without fear of judgment or punishment.

Risk and Protective Factors

Variables that increase or decrease the likelihood of criminal behavior; often assessed at different life stages.

Robert E. Park and Ernest W. Burgess (1928)

Prominent sociologists associated with the Chicago School of Sociology, a major sociological tradition that emerged in the early 20th century, primarily at the University of Chicago. Their collaboration and research made significant contributions to the fields of urban sociology, social ecology, and human ecology.

Robert K. Merton (1910-2003)

Was an influential American sociologist renowned for his contributions to the field of sociology and the development of various sociological theories. He made significant contributions in the areas of social theory, the sociology of science, and the sociology of deviance.

Ronald Clarke and Derek Cornish

Leading scholars of RCT who have proposed a framework for modeling offenders' decisions and have applied RCT to various types of crimes and crime prevention strategies.

Ronald L. Akers (1966)

A criminologist who is known for his work in the area of social learning theory. He developed and expanded upon Edwin Sutherland's differential association theory. Akers argued that criminal behavior is learned through social interactions and that individuals are more likely to engage in criminal activities if they associate with others who have pro-criminal attitudes and behaviors. His work emphasizes the role of reinforcement and punishment in shaping criminal behavior and has had a lasting influence on the understanding of how individuals acquire criminal values and engage in criminal acts.

Routine Activities Theory

Examines the interaction of motivated offenders, capable guardians, and suitable targets as an explanation of crime and suggests that an individual's everyday activities contribute significantly to the likelihood of his or her victimization.

Scottsboro Boys

A landmark legal case in the United States that exposed racial injustice and highlighted the deep racial prejudices and flaws in the American justice system during the 1930s. The case involved the wrongful arrest, trial, and conviction of nine African American teenagers on false charges of raping two white women.

Second Chance Act

Authorizes federal grants to government agencies and community faith-based organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victim support, and other services intended to reduce recidivism.

Segregation

Refers to the enforced separation of different racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups in a community, organization, or society. This separation can occur in various aspects of life, such as housing, education, employment, and public facilities. Historically, segregation has been most prominently associated with racial segregation, particularly in the United States during the era of Jim Crow laws, where laws and policies enforced the separation of African Americans from white Americans in various public spaces.

Segregation can take different forms, including *de jure* segregation, which is segregation imposed by law, and *de facto* segregation, which occurs without explicit legal mandates but as a result of social and economic factors. Efforts to combat segregation and promote integration have been central to various civil rights movements around the world. The goal is to create more inclusive and equitable societies where individuals from different backgrounds have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Self Control Theory

Another descendant of classical criminology that argues that low self-control, a stable personality trait, predisposes individuals to crime and other present-oriented activities.

Self-Report Surveys

Involves individuals reporting their own involvement in criminal activities. These surveys are typically conducted anonymously and can provide insights into less detected or unreported crimes. They are often used to study juvenile delinquency and certain types of offenses.

Sigmund Freud

Was an Austrian neurologist and the founder of psychoanalysis, a groundbreaking approach to understanding the human mind and behavior. He is considered one of the most influential figures in the field of psychology and his ideas have had a profound impact on various disciplines, including psychology, psychiatry, and cultural studies.

Simmelian Thought

The social and philosophical ideas developed by the German sociologist and philosopher Georg Simmel (1858–1918). His work explores the nature of society, social interactions, culture, and the relationships between individuals and social structures. Simmel is considered one of the founding figures of sociology, but his approach is distinct from that of his contemporaries, such as Max Weber or Émile Durkheim, due to his focus on the dynamic, fluid nature of social life.

Situational Crime Control

Shifts the focus of crime prevention away from the offender and onto the context in which crime occurs. Instead of focusing on why people commit crime, it looks primarily at why crime occurs in specific settings. It emphasizes the concept of opportunity – reduce opportunities for crime in specific situations to prevent crime. Situational crime control works by removing or reducing criminal opportunity.

Social Bond Theory

Also known as Social Control Theory, is a criminological theory developed by Travis Hirschi in 1969. The theory proposes that the strength of an individual's social bonds to society plays a crucial role in determining their propensity to engage in deviant or criminal behavior. It suggests that individuals with strong social bonds are less likely to commit crimes because they have more to lose by engaging in such behavior.

Social Construction

Refers to the idea that many aspects of our reality, including concepts, categories, identities, and even certain behaviors, are not inherent or naturally occurring but are instead created, shaped, and maintained by society and culture. These constructs are not objective or universal truths but are rather products of human perception, interpretation, and interaction.

Social Constructionism

A theoretical perspective that argues that what counts as reality is the outcome of social processes through which humans interactively create and negotiate meaning about the world.

Social Control Theories

A group of criminological theories that focus on the mechanisms and processes by which societies regulate and control individual behavior to prevent deviance and criminality. These theories suggest that the presence of social bonds, attachments, and conformity to societal norms play a crucial role in deterring individuals from engaging in deviant behavior.

Social Deviance

Refers to behaviors, actions, or characteristics that violate social norms, values, or expectations within a particular society or culture. Deviance is a relative concept, as what is considered deviant in one society may be accepted or even encouraged in another. The concept of social deviance is essential for understanding how societies define and enforce acceptable behavior.

Social Disorganization

A criminological theory that focuses on the influence of neighborhood characteristics and social factors on crime and deviance. Developed by sociologists at the University of Chicago, particularly Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay, in the early 20th century, this theory examines how certain neighborhood attributes can contribute to higher rates of crime and a breakdown in social control.

Social Ecology

An interdisciplinary field that studies the complex interactions between human societies and their environment. It draws from sociology, anthropology, geography, urban planning, and other disciplines to understand how social and environmental factors influence each other and shape human behavior and social organization.

Social Interactionist Theories

A set of sociological perspectives that focus on the role of social interactions in shaping human behavior, language development, and the construction of social reality. These theories emphasize how individuals develop a sense of self and meaning through their interactions with others and the larger social

Social Learning Theory

Also known as Social Cognitive Theory or Social Learning Socialization Theory, is a psychological and criminological theory developed by Albert Bandura in the 1960s. The theory proposes that individuals learn new behaviors, attitudes, and values by observing and imitating others, particularly those they perceive as role models or authority figures. Social Learning Theory emphasizes the importance of the social environment in shaping human behavior and focuses on how learned behaviors influence future actions.

Social Resources

Also known as social capital, refer to the network of relationships and connections that individuals and groups have in a society. These resources include both tangible and intangible assets that arise from social interactions and can provide various advantages and opportunities for individuals and communities. Social resources are essential for personal and collective well-being, as they facilitate access to information, support, and resources that may not be available through other means.

Sociobiological Theories

Also known as evolutionary psychology or sociobiology, are theoretical frameworks that seek to explain

human behavior and social phenomena by integrating evolutionary biology and genetics with social and cultural factors. These theories propose that certain behavioral and social traits in humans have evolved through natural selection, as they provided survival and reproductive advantages to our ancestors.

Spouse Abuse or Battering

Often referred to as domestic violence, is a pattern of abusive behavior or mistreatment that occurs within an intimate or familial relationship, typically between spouses or partners. It involves the use of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or economic tactics to exert power and control over the other person.

Standards for the Mentally Ill in Jails

Provides for the Basic Mental Health Services standard (F-03 in the 2018 manuals for jails and prisons) and is meant to ensure that individuals with mental health problems are able to maintain their best level of functioning. The immediate goal of treatment is to alleviate symptoms of serious mental disorders and to prevent relapse.

Stanley Cohen (1995)

Was a renowned sociologist and criminologist known for his work on social reactions to deviant behavior and moral panics. In 1995, he published a book titled "Visions of Social Control: Crime, Punishment, and Classification." In this book, Cohen explored various aspects of social control, including how societies define, classify, and respond to deviance and criminal behavior.

Strain Theory

A criminological and sociological perspective that seeks to explain the relationship between social structure, cultural goals, and the occurrence of deviant behavior. The theory, first proposed by sociologist Robert K. Merton in the 1930s, suggests that individuals may turn to deviance and criminal behavior when they experience strain or stress resulting from the discrepancy between culturally prescribed goals and the means available to achieve those goals.

Stuart Hall

A key figure in cultural studies and critical criminology, Hall's work on media, crime, and race is influential.

Subculture Theory

A sociological and criminological perspective that explores how certain social groups develop distinct norms, values, beliefs, and practices that differ from those of the dominant culture. These subcultures

can emerge as a response to social and economic conditions, creating unique ways of life and patterns of behavior that may sometimes lead to deviance or criminal activities.

Subculture-of-Violence

A sociological concept that proposes the existence of certain subcultures or social groups within a society that promote and accept violence as a means of resolving conflicts and gaining social status. This theory was first introduced by Marvin Wolfgang and Franco Ferracuti in the 1960s as an attempt to explain the high rates of violent crime in urban areas.

Subjective Utility Model

A concept in economics and decision theory that focuses on how individuals make choices based on their subjective evaluations of the utility, or satisfaction, they expect to derive from different options or outcomes. This model is a fundamental component of microeconomics and helps explain how individuals make rational decisions by weighing the benefits and costs of various alternatives.

Summative Evaluations

In the context of program evaluation, summative evaluations play a crucial role in assessing the overall effectiveness and impact of a program. They provide insights into whether the program's objectives and goals have been achieved and whether the intended outcomes have been realized. Summative evaluations are typically conducted at the conclusion of the program's implementation and focus on making judgments about the program's success or effectiveness.

Supplemental Homicide Report

A specialized dataset and reporting tool used to collect detailed information about homicides in the United States. It is part of the broader UCR program administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The UCR SHR is designed to provide law enforcement agencies with a more comprehensive and detailed picture of homicides in their jurisdiction. While the standard UCR report collects basic information about crimes, including the number of homicides, the SHR goes further by collecting extensive details about each homicide incident.

Symbolic Interaction

A sociological perspective that focuses on the study of how individuals create and interpret symbols to develop shared meanings and construct their social reality. It is a micro-level theory that examines the everyday interactions between people and how these interactions shape their perceptions, identities, and social behavior.

Symbolic Interactionism

A sociological perspective and theoretical framework that focuses on the role of symbols and human interaction in shaping society and individual behavior. It emerged as a prominent school of thought in sociology during the early 20th century, primarily associated with scholars like George Herbert Mead and Herbert Blumer.

Temporal Ordering

Also known as temporal precedence or time order, is a fundamental concept in research and science that refers to the chronological sequence of events or occurrences. It asserts that there is a clear cause-and-effect relationship between two variables, with one variable (the cause) preceding the other variable (the effect) in time.

To establish causal relationships between variables, temporal ordering is essential. For a cause to truly lead to an effect, the cause must happen before the effect. This principle is a crucial criterion in experimental and quasi-experimental research designs, where researchers manipulate an independent variable (the cause) to observe its impact on a dependent variable (the effect) while ensuring that the cause precedes the effect in time.

Theoretical Criminology

Theoretical criminology provides a framework for understanding the complex causes of crime and helps generate hypotheses and guide empirical research. By studying these theories, criminologists seek to develop effective crime prevention strategies, inform policy decisions, and contribute to the broader understanding of crime and criminal justice.

Theoretical criminology encompasses a wide range of perspectives and theories, each offering different explanations and insights into criminal behavior. Some prominent theoretical perspectives within criminology include: (1) Classical Criminology, (2) Biological and Biosocial, (3) Psychological, (4) Social Structure, (5) Social Process, (6) Strain, and (7) Critical/Radical criminology.

Theory

Succinctly, an explanation. Also, a part of everyday life and an attempt to identify and explain the order of natural occurrences through statements about correlations between observable events that would be otherwise unexplainable.

Thornberry's Interactional Theory

A criminological theory developed by Marvin D. Thornberry. It provides a comprehensive framework

for understanding delinquent behavior by examining the complex interaction between individual characteristics and social factors over time.

Trait Theory

Also known as personality trait theory, is a psychological perspective that focuses on identifying and describing the enduring patterns of behavior, thoughts, and emotions that make up an individual's personality. According to trait theory, individuals possess characteristic traits or predispositions that influence how they perceive, interpret, and respond to the world around them.

Trajectories

Long-term pathways of behavior, including the progression or cessation of criminal activity.

Turning Points

Refers to significant life events or experiences that have the potential to alter an individual's trajectory away from delinquent behavior. These events can act as pivotal moments that lead to desistance or a reduction in criminal involvement.

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

Under the leadership of the Attorney General of the United States, the Justice Department is composed of more than 40 separate component organizations and more than 115,000 employees. Headquartered at the Robert F. Kennedy Building in Washington, D.C., the Department maintains field offices in all states and territories across the United States and in more than 50 countries around the world.

Uniform Crime Report (UCR)

Was a program, maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States, collects and publishes data on reported crimes. It includes information on various crimes, such as murder, robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft, providing statistics at the national, state, and local levels.

Variables

Variables in the social science refers to a measurable or observable concept or characteristic that can vary or take on different values. Variables are used to study and understand the relationships between different phenomena or concepts. Variables can be classified into two main types; that is independent and dependent.

Victimization Rates

Measures the frequency of individuals or households experiencing crime. These rates provide an understanding of the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime within a given population.

Weberian Model of Social Class

Proposed by the German sociologist Max Weber, is a theoretical framework that emphasizes the multidimensional nature of social stratification. Unlike Karl Marx, who focused primarily on economic factors as the basis of social class, Weber argued that social class should be understood as a combination of three interrelated dimensions: class, status, and party.

Weberian Thought

Refers to the sociological and philosophical ideas of the German sociologist Max Weber (1864–1920). Weber's work addresses the nature of society, the process of rationalization, and the role of religion, authority, and economics in shaping social structures.

What-Works Movement

A paradigm that draws on an evidence-based criminological approach to identify and promote effective programs and practices for preventing and controlling crime.

White Papers

Detailed and authoritative documents that presents information, analysis, and proposals on a particular topic or issue. It is typically produced by a government, organization, or company to educate readers, provide insights, and offer recommendations or solutions related to a specific subject.

White papers are often used to address complex problems, introduce new policies or strategies, or present research findings. They serve as informative and persuasive documents, aiming to influence opinions, shape debates, and guide decision-making. White papers are widely used in various fields, including government, business, technology, healthcare, and education.

Wyatt v. Stickney (1972)

The right to treatment for people with mental illness was first recognized in this 1972 case within Alabama. The court concluded that there were many treatment options for individuals with mental illness that did not involve warehousing in large state institutions.

Zone in Transition

Also known as the "Zone of Transition" or the "Transitional Zone," is a term used in urban sociology and criminology. It refers to a specific area within a city that experiences rapid demographic and social changes, often associated with high levels of crime, poverty, and urban decay.