

The University of Arizona School of Sociology  
Comprehensive Examination Reading List: Criminology  
(Revised May 2025)

All readings within each subsection are listed in chronological order by year of publication

**AN OVERVIEW & HISTORY OF CRIMINOLOGICAL THOUGHT**

Lilly, Robert J., Francis T. Cullen, and Richard A. Ball. 2018. *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences* (Seventh Edition). Sage Publications.

Cullen, Francis T., Robert Agnew, and Pamela Wilcox. 2022. *Criminological Theory: Past to Present* (Seventh Edition). Oxford University Press.

\*Cullen, Agnew, and Wilcox (2022) include excerpts from many of the books on this list. Lilly, Cullen, and Ball (2018) provide an excellent overview of the social contexts in which key theoretical developments emerged within Criminology. We strongly recommend you secure copies of both books.

**EARLY FOUNDATIONAL READINGS**

*The Classical School*

Beccaria, Cesare. 1783 [1775]. *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments*. Brookline Village, MA: Branden Press. [Excerpt in Cullen, Agnew, and Wilcox (2022)]

Bentham, Jeremy. 1789 [1789]. *A Fragment on Government and an Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*. Basil Blackwell.

*Sociology*

\*Durkheim, Emile. 1895. "The Functions of Crime." In: *Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*. Eds. John J. Macionis and Nijole V. Benokraitis. New York, NY: Prentice Hall. Pp. 141-143.

\*Note: This excerpt stems from Chapter 3 of Durkheim's (1895) *The Rules of Sociological Method*. titled "The Rules for Distinguishing the Normal from the Pathological."

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1899. "The Negro Criminal." In *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social study*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press

*The Italian School*

Lombroso, Cesare. 1911. *Criminal Man*. G.P Putnam's Sons. [Excerpt in Cullen, Agnew, and Wilcox (2022)]

*The Classic Statement*

Sutherland, Edwin H. 1940. "White-Collar Criminality." *American Sociological Review* 5 (February): 1-12.

### **CHICAGO SCHOOL/SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY**

- Shaw, Clifford R. and Henry D. McKay. 1942. *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas*. University of Chicago Press.
- Bursik, Robert J. 1988. "Social Disorganization theories of crime and delinquency: Problems and Prospects." *Criminology* 26:519-552.
- Sampson, Robert J. and W Byron Groves. 1989. "Community structure and crime: Testing social-disorganization theory." *American Journal of Sociology* Vol 94(4): 774-802.
- Bursik, Robert J. Jr. and Hardo G. Grasmick. 1993. *Neighborhoods and Crime: The Dimensions of Effective Community Control*. Lexington Books.
- Sampson, Robert J., Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 1997. "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy." *Science* 227(5328): 918-924.
- Pattillo, Mary E. 1998. "Sweet Mothers and Gangbangers: Managing Crime in a Black Middle-Class Neighborhood." *Social Forces* 76(3): 747-774.
- Osgood, Wayne D. and Jeff M. Chambers. 2000. "Social Disorganization Outside the Metropolis: An Analysis of Rural Youth Violence." *Criminology* 38(1): 81-116.
- Carr, Patrick J. 2003. "The New Parochialism: The Implications of the Beltway Case for Argument Concerning Informal Social Control." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(6): 1249-1291.
- Krivo, Lauren J., Ruth D. Peterson, and Danielle C. Kuhl. 2009. "Segregation, Racial Structure, and Neighborhood Violent Crime." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(6): 1765-1802.
- Kirk, David S. and Andrew V. Papachristos. 2011. "Cultural Mechanisms and the Persistence of Neighborhood Violence." *American Journal of Sociology* 116: 1190-1233.

### **DIFFERENTIAL ASSOCIATION THEORY/SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY**

- Sutherland, Edwin H. and Donald R. Cressey. 1960. "A Theory of Differential Association" in *Principles of Criminology*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition by Elaine S. Cressey.
- Burgess, Ronald L., and Akers, Ronald L. 1966. "A Differential Association Reinforcement Theory of Criminal Behavior." *Social Problems* 14:128-147.
- Akers, Ronald, Marvin Krohn, L. Lanza-Kaduce, and M. Radosevich. 1979. "Social Learning and Deviant Behavior: A Specific Test of a General Theory." *American Sociological Review* 44:636-655.
- Akers, Ronald L. 1994. *A Social Learning Theory of Crime*. Roxbury Publishing Company.

Brauer, Jonathan. 2009. Testing social learning theory using reinforcement's residue: A multilevel analysis of self-reported theft and marijuana use in the National Youth Survey. *Criminology* 47: 929-966.

Pratt, T.C., Cullen, F.T., Sellers, C.S., Winfree, Jr., T., Madensen, T.D., Daigle, L.E., Fearn, N.E., and Gau, J.M. 2010. "The Empirical Status of Social Learning Theory: A Meta-Analysis." *Justice Quarterly* 27:765-802.

### **(SUB)CULTURAL THEORY**

Cohen, Albert K. 1955. *Delinquent Boys: The Culture of the Gang*. The Free Press.

Cloward, Richard, and Lloyd Ohlin. 1960. *Delinquency and Opportunity*. New York: Free Press.

Anderson, Elijah. 2000. *The Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. WW Norton & Company.

Kubrin, Charis E., and Ronald Weitzer. 2003. "Retaliatory Homicide: Concentrated Disadvantage and Neighborhood Culture." *Social Problems* 50:157-180.

Jones Nikki. 2009. *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers Univ Press.

Duck, Waverly. 2016 "Becoming a Neighborhood Drug Dealer: Local Interaction Orders and Criminal Careers." *Critical Sociology* 42(7-8): 1069-1085.

Fader, Jamie J., and Kenneth Sebastian Leon. 2024. "Code of the Street 25 Years Later: Lasting Legacies, Empirical Status, and Future Directions." *Annual Review of Criminology* 7:19-38.

### **ANOMIE/STRAIN THEORY**

Merton, Robert K. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3(5): 672-682.

Agnew, Robert. 1992. "Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency." *Criminology* 30(1):47-88.

Messner, Steven. F. and Richard Rosenfeld. 2001. *Crime and the American Dream*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Agnew, Robert. 2006. *Pressured Into Crime: An Overview of General Strain*. Roxbury Publishing Company.

Tittle, Charles, Lisa Brody, and Marc Gertz. 2008. "Strain, Crime and Contingencies." *Justice Quarterly* 25:283-312.

## **SOCIAL CONTROL AND SELF-CONTROL THEORY**

Hirschi, Travis. 1969. *Causes of Delinquency*. Taylor and Francis LLC Books.

Gottfredson, Michael R. and Travis Hirschi. 1990. *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford University Press.

Pratt, Travis C. and Francis T. Cullen. 2006. "The Empirical Status of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime: A Meta-Analysis." *Criminology* 38(3): 931-964.

Costello, Barbara, and John H. Laub. 2020. "Social Control Theory: The Legacy of Travis Hirschi's *Causes of Delinquency*." *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 21-41.

Burt, Callie H. 2020. "Self-Control and Crime: Beyond Gottfredson & Hirschi's Theory." *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 43-73.

## **LABELING, SOCIAL REACTION, AND REINTEGRATIVE SHAMING**

Sykes, Gresham M. and David Matza. 1957. "Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency." *American Sociological Review* 22(6): 664-670.

Chambliss, William J. 1973. "The Saints and the Roughnecks." *Society* 11(1): 24-31.

Becker, Howard. 1973. *Outsiders: Studies in the sociology of deviance*. Revised edition. New York: Free Press.

Braithwaite, John. 1989. *Crime, Shame, and Reintegration*. Cambridge University Press.

Maruna, Shadd. 2000. *Making Good. How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives*. American Psychological Association.

## **CONFLICT & CRITICAL THEORY**

Bonger, William. 1916. *Criminality and Economic Conditions*. Indiana University Press.

Chambliss, William. 1964. "A Sociological Analysis of the Law of Vagrancy." *Social Problems* 12(1): 67-77.

Currie, Elliot. 1997. "Market, crime and community: Toward a mid-range theory of post-industrial violence." *Theoretical criminology* 1(2): 147.

Kramer, Ronald C., Raymond J. Michalowski, and David Kaurzlarich. 2002. "The Origins and Development of the Concept and Theory of State-Corporate Crime." *Crime & Delinquency* 48: 263-282.

## **FEMINIST CRIMINOLOGY & THE GENDERING OF CRIME**

Adler, Freda. 1975. *Sisters in Crime*. McGraw-Hill.

Chesney-Lind, Meda. 1989. "Girls' Crime and Women's Place: Toward a Feminist Model of Female Delinquency." *Crime and Delinquency* 35: 5-29.

Hagan, John. A.R. Gillis, and John Simpson. 1990. "Clarifying and Extending Power-Control Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 95(4): 1024-1037.

Messerschmidt, James W. 1993. *Masculinities and Crime: Critique and Reconceptualization of Theory*. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield.

Richie, Beth E. 1996. *Compelled to crime: The Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women*. Burns & Oates.

Schwartz, Martin D., Walther S. DeKeseredy, David Tait, and Shahid Alvi. 2001. "Male Peer Support and a Feminist Routine Activities Theory: Understanding Sexual Assault on the College Campus." *Justice Quarterly* 18(3):623-649.

Miller, Jody. 2008. *Getting Played: African American Girls' Urban Inequality and Gendered Violence*. New York: New York University Press.

Giordano, Peggy C. and Jennifer E. Copp. 2019. "Girls' and Women's Violence: The Question of General Versus Uniquely Gendered Causes." *Annual Review of Criminology* 2:167-189.

## **BLACK & LATINA/O/X CRIMINOLOGY**

Sampson, Robert J., and William Julius Wilson. 1995. "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime and Urban Inequality." In John Hagan and Ruth D. Peterson (eds.), *Crime and Inequality*, pp. 37-54. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Unnever, James D., and Shaun L. Gabbidon. 2011. *A Theory of African American Offending: Race, Racism, and Crime*. New York: Routledge.

Unnever, James D., and Akwasi Owusu-Bempah. 2018. "A Black Criminology Matters" In *Building A Black Criminology*, Eds. James D. Unnever, Shaun L. Gabbidon, and Cecilia Chouhy.

Bell, Jeannine. 2018. "Dead Canaries in the Coal Mines: The Symbolic Assailant Revisited." *Georgia State University Law Review* 34(3): 513-579.

Hinton, Elizabeth and DeAnza Cook. 2021. "The Mass Criminalization of Black Americans: A Historical Overview." *Annual Review of Criminology* 4; 261-286.

Vélez, María and Anthony A. Peguero. 2023. "LatCrit and Criminology: Towards a Theoretical Understanding of Latino/a/x Crime and Criminal Legal System Involvement." *Annual Review of Criminology* 6:307-338.

## **IMMIGRATION AND CRIME**

- Martinez, Ramiro, Jacob I. Stowell, and Matthew T. Lee. 2010. "Immigration and Crime In An Era of Transformation: A Longitudinal Analysis of Homicides in San Diego Neighborhoods, 1980-2000." *Criminology* 48(3): 797-829.
- Lyons, Christopher J., María B. Vélez, and Wayne A. Santoro. 2013. "Neighborhood Immigration, Violence, and City-Level Immigrant Political Opportunities." *American Sociological Review* 78(4): 604-632.
- Bersani, Bianca E. 2014. "An Examination of First and Second Generation Immigrant Offending Trajectories." *Justice Quarterly* 31(2): 315-343,
- Light, Michael T. 2017. "Re-Examining the Relationship Between Latino Immigration and Racial/Ethnic Violence." *Social Science Research* 65: 222-239.
- Ousey, Graham C. and Charis E. Kubrin. 2018. "Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Contentious Issue." *Annual Review of Criminology* 1:63-84.
- Light, Michael T. and Ty Miller. 2018. "Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Violent Crime?" *Criminology* 56(2): 370-401.
- Martinez-Schuldt, Ricardo D. and Daniel E. Martinez. 2019. "Sanctuary Policies and City-Level Incidents of Violence, 1990 to 2010." *Justice Quarterly* 36(4):567-593.
- Kubrin, Charis E. and Bradley J. Bartos. 2020. "Sanctuary Status and Crime in California: What's the Connection?" *Justice Evaluation Journal* 3(2): 115-133.
- Light, Michael T., Jingyin He, and Jason P. Robey. 2020. "Comparing Crime Rates Between Undocumented Immigrants, Legal Immigrants, and Native-Born US Citizens in Texas." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(51): 32340-32347.
- Martinez-Schuldt, Ricardo D. and Daniel E. Martinez. 2021. "Immigrant Sanctuary Policies and Crime Reporting Behavior: A Multilevel Analysis of Victims' Reports of Crime Victimization to Law Enforcement, 1980-2004." *American Sociological Review* 86(1):154-185

## **POLICING & MASS INCARCERATION**

- Wacquant, Loic. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3(1): 95-133.
- Beckett, Katherine, and Bruce Western. 2001. "Governing Social Marginality: Welfare, Incarceration, and the Transformation of State Policy." *Punishment & Society* 3(1): 43-59.
- Garland, David. 2002. *The Culture of Control: Crime and Social Order in Contemporary Society*. Oxford University Press.

- Pager, Devah. 2003. "The Mark of a Criminal Record." *American Journal of Sociology* 108(5): 937-975.
- Britton, Dana. 2003. *At Work in the Iron Cage*. New York University Press.
- Pettit, Becky, and Bruce Western. 2004. "Mass Imprisonment and the Life Course: Race and Class Inequality in U.S. Incarceration." *American Sociological Review* 69 (April):151-169.
- Clear, Todd R. 2007. *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.
- Haney, Lynne. 2010. *Offending Women: Power, Punishment and the Regulation of Desire*. University of California Press.
- Baryne, Sarah. 2017. "Big Data and Surveillance: The Case of Policing." *American Sociological Review* 82(5): 977-1008.
- Butler, Paul. 2017. *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*. The New Press.
- Miller, Reuben Jonathan. 2021. *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*. Little Brown and Co.
- Clear, Todd R. 2021. "Decarceration Problems and Prospects." *Annual Review of Criminology* 4: 239-260.
- Lanuza, Yader R., Nick Petersen, and Marisa Omori. 2023. "Colorism in Punishment Among Hispanics in the Criminal Justice System." *Social Problems*, 70(2):275-296.
- Sierra-Arévalo, Michael. 2024. *The Danger Imperative: Violence, Death and the Soul of Policing*. Columbia University Press.
- Simon, Samantha J. 2024. *Before the Badge: How Academy Training Shapes Police Violence*. New York University Press.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL/LIFE-COURSE THEORY**

- Sampson, Robert, and John Laub. 1990. "Crime and Deviance Over the Life Course." *American Sociological Review* 55(5): 609-627.
- Sampson, Robert, and John Laub. 1993. *Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
- Moffitt, Terrie. 1993. "Adolescence-Limited and Life-course-Persistent Antisocial Behavior: A Developmental Taxonomy." *Psychological Review* 100: 674-701.

Farrington, David R. 1995. "The Development of Offending and Antisocial Behaviour from Childhood: Key Findings from the Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development." *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* 36(6): 929-964.

Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 2003. *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Paternoster, Raymond, and Shawn Bushway. 2009. "Desistance and the Feared Self: Toward an Identity Theory of Criminal Desistance." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 99: 1103-1156.

### **CONSERVATIVE/NEOCLASSICAL/SITUATIONAL THEORIES**

Cohen, Lawrence E. and Felson, Marcus. 1979. "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activities Approach." *American Sociological Review* 44: 588-608.

Wilson, James Q. and George L. Kelling. 1982. "Broken Windows." *The Atlantic Monthly* 249(3):29-38.

Piliavin, I. Gartner, R., Thornton, C., and Matsueda, R.L. 1986. "Crime, Deterrence, and Rational Choice." *American Sociological Review* 51:101-119

Cornish, Derek B. and Ronald V. Clarke. 1986. *The Reasoning Criminal*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

Safford, Mark C. and Mark Warr. 1993. "A Reconceptualization of General and Specific Deterrence." *The Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 30(2): 123-135.

Osgood, D. W., J. K. Wilson, P. M. O'Malley, J. G. Bachman, and L. D. Johnston. 1996. "Routine Activities and Individual Deviant Behavior." *American Sociological Review* 61(4):635-55.

Felson, Marcus. 2000. *Crime and Everyday Life*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Tyler, Tom R. 2004. "Enhancing Police Legitimacy." *The ANNALS of the American Association of Political and Social Sciences* 593:84-99.

Lanfear, Charles C., Ross L. Matsueda, and Lindsey R. Beach. 2020. "Broken Windows, Informal Social Control, and Crime: Assessing Causality in Empirical Studies." *Annual Review of Criminology* 3: 97-120.