

**MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Michaelmas Term 2016**

**Core course
Explanation and understanding in criminology**

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Objectives and organization

This first half of the Core Course (taught in Michaelmas Term) seeks to develop understanding of the organizing categories and central claims of a range of modern criminological perspectives of crime and social control. It equips students to recognize the main problems, questions, dichotomies and ideas that have shaped modern criminological thought, and to understand the nature of 'theory' and 'explanation' within criminology. Throughout attention is paid to the contexts that shape the emergence and reception of modern criminological theory and to the modes of social intervention that different criminological perspectives expressly or implicitly propose.

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students should be able to:

- i) recognize the main problems, questions, dichotomies and ideas that have shaped modern criminological thinking;
- ii) assess the organizing concepts and substantive claims of competing theoretical perspectives within criminology;
- iii) grasp the nature of 'understanding' and 'explanation' within criminology;
- iv) appreciate the social, cultural and political contexts that condition the emergence, development and effects of different perspectives within criminology;
- v) Understand the modes of social intervention that different criminological perspectives expressly or implicitly propose.

The course is comprised of the following components:

- Two introductory lectures delivered in Week -1 of Michaelmas Term.
- In Weeks 1-6 and 8 of Michaelmas Term seven 90-minute seminars that take place on Mondays from either 10:00 – 11:30 or 12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E in the Manor Road Building. Each seminar is devoted to discussing a significant theoretical perspective in criminology, the discussion being organized around a set of questions that helps draw out the key ideas/concepts of the theories under review.
- A revision tutorial in Week 7.

Reading and preparation

Students are expected to come to classes *having read and digested the reading for each seminar marked 'essential'*. They should be prepared to participate in discussion of the seminar questions, and any other issues that may have arisen from their reading, with the course tutor and other members of the class. Students may also be expected to prepare specific contributions to the class at various points throughout the course.

Students will get most out of this course by reading *original* accounts of the theories that are being discussed, rather than textbook summaries of them, and the reading lists will, as far as possible, be organised to reflect this. The **essential readings** will thus usually take the form of extracts from key criminological texts, or original articles from leading criminology journals. The majority of these will be reproduced in a Reading Pack which can be purchased from the Graduate Studies Administrator. The rest are journal articles which are available electronically.

Students are also advised to keep abreast of the main criminology journals that can be found in either the Social Science Library or the Bodleian Law Library (they can also be accessed electronically on SOLO). The most useful are *British Journal of Criminology*, *Theoretical Criminology*, *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, *Punishment & Society*, *European Journal of Criminology*, *Global Crime*, *Crime, Media, Culture, Criminology*, and *Crime and Delinquency*.

The **general overviews** will offer students introductory summaries of the key perspectives under discussion. There is, in this regard, a criminological theory reader which contains extracts from the work of many theorists we shall be considering on the course, as well as a recent handbook of the field. Students may therefore find it useful to have access to them:

McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (2003) (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage.

McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.

There are also a number of available criminology textbooks that students new to criminological theory might find of some value. The best of an expanding bunch include:

- Downes, D. and P. Rock (2007) *Understanding Deviance* (5th edn). Oxford: Clarendon.
Einstadter, W. and S. Henry (2006) *Criminological Theory: An Analysis of Its Underlying Assumptions* (2nd edn). London: Harcourt Brace.
Lilly, R., F. Cullen and R. Ball (2007) *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences* (4th edn). London: Sage.
Tierney, J. (2005) *Criminology: Theory and Context* (2nd edn) London: Prentice-Hall.
Vold, G., T. Bernard, and J. Snipes (2001) *Theoretical Criminology* (5th edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The **further/contextual readings** will generally take the form of commentaries on the theoretical perspectives under discussion and their wider intellectual and social contexts. In this vein the supplementary texts students will find most in keeping with the spirit of the course are:

- Melossi, D. (2008) *Controlling Crime, Controlling Society: Thinking About Crime in Europe and America*. Cambridge: Polity.
Sumner, C. (1994) *The Sociology of Deviance*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
Garland, D. and R. Sparks (2000) (eds.) *Criminology and Social Theory*. Oxford: Clarendon.

For students new to criminology, the Melossi text offers the best single introduction to the history of criminological theorizing in Europe and the US and the intellectual and social contexts out of which different ways of thinking about crime have emerged.

Assessment

The course is assessed in the following ways. Students may select to write the compulsory formative 1,500-word essay from the core course.

There is an unseen two-hour, two-question examination for this course taken in Week 0 of Hilary term at the Examination Schools. This is provisionally scheduled for Friday 13th January 2017 (time and date to be confirmed).

(A second two-hour unseen written examination covering the topics taught by Professor Julian Roberts in Hilary Term will take place in Week 0 of Trinity Term 2017.)

Teaching schedule

Week -1

Monday 26th September 14.00-15.30 - Seminar Room G

Introductory lecture I: The field of criminology

Wednesday 28th September 10.00 – 11.30 – Seminar Room G

Introductory lecture II: Key dichotomies in criminological theory

Week 1

Seminar 1: Criminal Environments

*Monday 10th October 10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 2

Seminar 2: The Making and Unmaking of Criminal Persons

*Monday 17th October 10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 3

Seminar 3: Crime Events and Situations

*Monday 24th October 10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 4

Seminar 4: Economy, Inequality and Opportunity

*Monday 31st November 10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 5

Seminar 5: Cultures of Transgression

Monday 7th November *10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 6

Seminar 6: Social Reactions to Crime

Monday 14th November *10:00 – 11:30 in Seminar Room E, or
12:00 – 1:30 in Seminar Room E*

Week 7

Revision tutorials – preparing for the examination in January.
Time and venue TBC.

**** Please also use weeks 6-7 to read for the seminar in Week 8 ****

Week 8

Seminar 7: Intersectionality and Criminological Theory in a Global Age

Monday 28th November *10.00 – 11.30 in Seminar Room E, or
12.00 – 1.30 in Seminar Room E*

Reading lists and seminar questions

This opening lecture is concerned with the following questions: what is criminology is for? What do criminologists do? To help us begin to think about these questions you should examine two or three recent editions of one or more of the following journals (by at least reading the abstracts):

The British Journal of Criminology – <http://bjc.oxfordjournals.org/>

The European Journal of Criminology – <http://euc.sagepub.com/>

Theoretical Criminology - <http://tcr.sagepub.com/>

Criminology & Criminal Justice - <http://crl.sagepub.com/>

Criminology – <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0011-1384>

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology –

<http://www.australianacademicpress.com.au/Publications/Journals/Criminology/Criminology.htm>

What do they tell us about the issues, problems and dilemmas that are tackled by criminologists today? What does it mean to think about these issues and problems ‘criminologically’? Do criminologists treat their subject matter differently from other scholars or social commentators on crime? How does criminology differ from other sources of knowledge and opinion about crime and punishment? How would you describe the purposes and parameters of the subject?

These questions will form the basis of the lecture and discussion in this session. In thinking about them you may also find the following useful:

Bosworth, M. and Hoyle, C. (2010) ‘What is Criminology? An Introduction’ in Bosworth, M. and Hoyle, C. (eds.) *What is Criminology?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Garland, D. and R. Sparks (2000) ‘Criminology, Social Theory and the Challenge of Our Times’ in D. Garland and R. Sparks (eds.) *Criminology and Social Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Loader, I. and R. Sparks (2012) ‘Situating Criminology: On the Production and Consumption of Knowledge about Crime and Justice’ in Maguire, M., R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (5th edn)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sutherland, E. and D. Cressey (1955) *Principles of Criminology (5th edn)*. Chicago: Lippincott (ch. 1)

Cohen, S. (1988) *Against Criminology*. New Brunswick: Transaction Books (ch. 6).

Introductory lecture II: Key dichotomies in criminological theory

In this session, we use the example of the riots of Summer 2011 in England as a 'way into' some key issues and dilemmas that confront criminologists as they attempt to understand and explain crime, criminal justice, punishment and social control. The lecture and discussion will focus on those dilemmas. In so doing, we consider the ways in which it is possible to understand 'theory' in criminology, and the issues that are inescapably at stake when we think about crime and its control.

Please read consult the materials on this web page produced by The Guardian and LSE on the 2011 Summer Riots in England: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/series/reading-the-riots>

Among the questions to think about are these:

1. Is it useful to try to understand the historical context of these riots?
2. How can one best explain the outbreak and spread of disorder?
3. Are some criminological theories better equipped than other to offer such an explanation?
4. How do we determine the 'best' explanation? What will be the practical implications of that explanation?
5. Do we need to construct local (jurisdiction specific) explanations or can we develop a single explanatory account of public disorder?
6. What are the implications of different theoretical accounts for both the maintenance of public order and for crime control?
7. What are strengths and weaknesses of the research conducted by The Guardian and the LSE? See the full report here:

[http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/46297/1/Reading%20the%20riots\(published\).pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/46297/1/Reading%20the%20riots(published).pdf)

8. What further research might be done to expand our understanding of the riots?

You may also find the following useful as introductory reading:

Young, J. (1981) 'Thinking Seriously About Crime: Some Models of Criminology' in M. Fitzgerald *et al.* (eds.) *Crime and Society: Readings in History and Theory*. London: RKP.

Einstadter, W. and S. Henry (2006) *Criminological Theory: An Analysis of its Underlying Assumptions* (2nd edn). Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace (ch. 1).

Bottoms, A. (2007) 'The Relationship between Theory and Research in Criminology' in R. King and E. Wincup (eds.) *Doing Research on Crime and Justice* (2nd edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Rock, P. (2007) 'Sociological Theories of Crime', in Maguire, M., R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (4th edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Seminar 1: Criminal Environments

Our concern this week is with those criminologists and sociologists – from the Chicago School onwards – who have focused on the spatial dimensions of crime and social control. These ‘environmental’ criminologists argue that something essential is lost from the analysis of crime unless regard is paid to its spatial dimensions, and to concepts of place, neighbourhood and community. The explanatory and interpretive concern here has been twofold. The first has been to document and explain the spatial distribution of offenders and offences between locations. This raises two questions for us to think about:

1. Why should criminologists concern themselves with the social structure and life of cities?
2. Is crime and disorder located in particular urban locations? If so, why and with what consequences?

The second has been to understand what distinguishes high crime from low crime neighbourhoods and to identify ‘neighbourhood effects’ on patterns of offending. Much of this work has focused on the concepts of ‘social disorganization’ and – latterly – ‘collective efficacy’ and ‘social capital’. The question this raises is:

3. Can ‘high crime areas’ plausibly be claimed to be ‘socially disorganized’ or to exhibit low levels of ‘collective efficacy’?

Finally, in this session we need to think about two challenges that have been addressed to spatial theories of crime. One line of criticism is made by criminologists who begin from either structural or individualist positions. A second asks about the implications for environmental criminology of processes of globalization. The questions that result are:

4. Can environmental criminologies defend themselves against the charges levelled by theorists who place explanatory emphasis on social structure on the one hand, or the individual on the other?
5. How, if at all, can one practise the criminology of place in a world of global networks and flows?

READING

Essential reading

Bottoms, A. (2012) ‘Developing Socio-spatial Criminology’ in Maguire, M., R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (5th edn)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Brunton-Smith, I, Jackson, J. and Sutherland, A. (2014) ‘Bridging Structure and Perception: On the Neighbourhood Ecology of Beliefs and Worries about Violent Crime’, *British*

- Shaw, C. and McKay (1942) *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas* (pp. 164-70, 435-41). Chicago: CUP.
- Kornhouser, R. (1978) *Social Sources of Delinquency*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (ch. 3).
- Sampson, R. (1995) 'The Community', in J. Petersilia and J. Q. Wilson (eds) *Crime*. San Francisco: University of California Press.
- Sampson, R. (2006) 'Does Community Context Matter?: Social Mechanism and the Explanation of Crime Rates, in P.O. Wikstrom and R. Sampson (eds.) *The Explanation of Crime*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Sampson, R. (2009) 'Disparity and Diversity in the Contemporary City: Social (Dis)Order Revisited', *British Journal of Sociology*, 60/1: 1-31.

General overviews

- Bottoms, A. and P. Wiles (2003) 'Explanations of Crime and Place' in McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage.
- Downes, D. and P. Rock (2007) *Understanding Deviance* (5th edn). Oxford: Clarendon. (ch. 3).

Further/contextual reading

- Baumgartner. M. (1988) *The Moral Order of a Suburb*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Bottoms, A., R. Mawby and P. Xanthos (1989) 'A Tale of Two Estates', in D. Downes (ed.) *Crime and the City*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Bourgois, P. (1996) 'In Search of Masculinity: Violence, Respect and Sexuality among Puerto Rican Crack Dealers in East Harlem', *British Journal of Criminology*, 36/3: 412-27.
- Damer, S. (1980) 'Wine Alley: The Sociology of a Dreadful Enclosure' in P. Wiles (ed.) *The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency in Britain: Vol. 2 - The New Criminologies*. London: RKP.
- Melossi, D. (2008) *Controlling Crime, Controlling Society: Thinking About Crime in Europe and America*. Cambridge: Polity, ch. 5.
- Park, R. (1925) 'The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behaviour in the Urban Environment' in R. Park, E. Burgess and R. McKenzie (eds.) *The City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sampson, R., and S. Raudenbush and (1999) 'Systematic Social Observation of Public Spaces: A New Look at Social Disorder in Urban Neighbourhoods', *American Journal of Sociology*, 105/3: 603-51.
- Sutherland, A., Brunton-Smith, I. and Jackson, J. (2013) 'Collective Efficacy, Deprivation and Violence in London', *British Journal of Criminology*, 53, 1050-1074.

British Journal of Sociology (2009) 60/1, Commentaries on Sampson by Gilroy, Bottoms, Sennett, Wikstrom, Body-Gendrot, Wiles and reply to critics by Sampson.

Seminar 2: The Making and Unmaking of Criminal Persons

Our focus this week is on those criminological theories that address the question of why some individuals become offenders (while others do not) or persist in offending (while others desist). One such theory comes at these questions by asking why individuals conform. This is a position known as 'control theory' and has been most closely associated with Travis Hirschi. Hirschi has at different times formulated different versions of control theory, one focused on the 'social bonds' that conduce individuals to be law-abiding, the second (in a book co-authored with Gottfredson) on the significance of 'self-control' and its absence for crime and anti-social behaviour. A second body of work – often called 'developmental' or 'life course' criminology - is interested in locating the 'risk factors' associated with the onset and duration of criminal careers (and with the kinds of intervention that can 'protect' individuals from crime). Two questions arise from consideration of these perspectives:

1. Is conformity a product of either 'social bonds' or a developed capacity for 'self-control'? What do you understand by these terms? Are the two ideas reconcilable?
2. What 'risk factors' are most closely associated with criminal behaviour? How useful is it to think about crime in this way?

This work has generated much debate and has great practical import. Some writers, such as Sampson and Laub, argue that more attention needs to be paid to change across the life course, and to the significance of 'turning points' in people's lives. Others have seen in these perspectives the resources for explaining one of the central facts of criminology – that criminal offending is mainly an activity of males. In the light of this we need to ask:

3. Can control theory and developmental criminology adequately account for the onset, duration and termination of criminal careers, and for differential rates of offending between men and women?

These theories also prompt us to consider two underlying controversies that run like a thread through the history of criminological thought – namely, the relationship between (anti-social) beliefs and (criminal) behaviour and the question of whether such beliefs and behaviour are confined to a crime-prone sub-set of the population. Here the work of David Matza remains an important and challenging counter to the assumptions of control and developmental perspectives. We might also consider the image of crime and representation of offenders that is to be found within these theories, and ask:

4. Is offending the activity of a minority of individuals who are deficient in the things that the law-abiding majority possess?

READING

Essential reading

- Hirschi, T. (1969) *Causes of Delinquency*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (ch. 2)
- Hirtenlehner, H., Pauwels, L.J.R., and Mesko, G. (2014) 'Is the Effect of Perceived Deterrence on Juvenile Offending Contingent on the Level of Self-Control?', *British Journal of Criminology*, 54: 128-150
- Gottfredson, M. and T. Hirschi (1990) *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (ch. 5)
- Farrington, D. (2002) 'Developmental and Life Course Criminology: Key Theoretical and Empirical Issues', *Criminology*, 41/2: 221-255.
- Moffitt, T. (1993) 'Adolescence-limited and Life-course Persistent Antisocial Behaviour: A Developmental Taxonomy', *Psychological Review*, 100: 674-701.
- Laub, J. and R. Sampson (1997) 'Turning Points in the Life Course' in S. Henry and W. Einstadter (eds.) *The Criminology Theory Reader*. New York: NYU Press; **OR**
- Sampson, R. and J. Laub (1993) *Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points through the Life Course*. Camb. Mass.: Harvard University Press (esp. ch. 1, see also chs. 7 and 10)
- Sykes G. and D. Matza (2003) 'Techniques of Neutralization', in McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage.
- Karstedt, S. and S. Farrell (2006) 'The Moral Economy of Everyday Crime: Markets, Consumers and Citizens', *British Journal of Criminology*, 46/6: 1011-36.

General overviews

- Smith, D. (2007) 'Crime and the Life Course' in M. Maguire, R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (4th edn)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Farrington, D. (2010) 'Life Course and Developmental Theories', in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
- Paternoster, R. and R. Bachman (2010) 'Control Theories' in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.

Further/contextual reading

- Geis, G. (2000) 'On the Absence of Self-control as the Basis for a General Theory of Crime: A Critique', *Theoretical Criminology*. 4/1: 35-54
- Hirschi, T. and M. Gottfredson (2000) 'In Defence of Self-Control', *Theoretical Criminology*. 4/1: 55-70.
- Taylor, C. 'The Relationship Between Social and Self-control: Tracing Hirschi's Criminological Career', *Theoretical Criminology*, 5/3: 369-388.
- Hirschi, T. and M. Gottfredson (1995) 'Control Theory and the Life Course Perspective', *Studies on Crime Prevention*, 4/2: 131-42.
- Farrington, D. and B. Welsh (2007) *Saving Children from a Life of Crime*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Maruna, S. and H. Copes (2005) 'What Have we Learned from Five Decades of Neutralization Research', in M. Tonry (ed.) *Crime and Justice – Vol. 32*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wouters, C. (1999) Changing Patterns of Social Controls and Self-Controls: On the Rise of Crime since the 1950s and the Socio-genesis of a 'Third Nature', *British Journal of Criminology*, 39/3: 416-432.

Seminar 3: Crime Events and Situations

Our concern this week is with two close theoretical cousins – rational choice and routine activities theory. Both these perspectives start from a critique of structural or 'dispositional' theories of crime (with their search for 'root causes') in favour of an approach which focuses on the decision-making of individual offenders and the situations in which offending takes place. The watchword of each is: 'opportunity is the root cause of crime'. Rational choice theory imports into criminology an economic view of human behaviour and challenges us to think about offending and crime control as if individuals weighed up the cost and benefits of offending and acted accordingly. The questions this poses for discussion are:

1. What reasons are there to think that crime is the result of rational choice? What does it mean to say this and what are its practical implications?

Routine activities theory views crime as the product of the coming together in crime and space of a motivated offender, a suitable target and the absence of a capable guardian (what Felson calls 'the chemistry of crime'). This can be understood as a micro account of how criminal events occur in particular situations (and how controls can be put in place to prevent them). But there is also in Felson's work a macro story about the rise of crime in western societies in the second half of the twentieth century. Our discussion therefore needs to address Felson's work at both micro and macro levels – giving rise to the following questions:

2. How convincing is Felson's claim that 'opportunity is the root cause of crime'?
3. Are the social routines of contemporary western societies crime-producing? If so, what are the consequences of this for crime reduction?

At first blush, rational choice and routine activities theory appear to re-introduce the individual offender and his or her choices into criminological theorizing. But they introduce a formal model of offender decision-making and in fact display relatively little interest in investigating offender motivations. In fact, these perspectives shift the focus of criminological enquiry away from offenders and why they offend towards a focus on criminal *events*, *how* they happen and what *practical* steps can be taken to prevent them. Here we need to ask:

4. What are the implications of this shift of focus? What is the value, and what are the limits, of a science of criminal events?

Essential reading

- Clarke, R. (2003) 'Situational Crime Prevention: Theory and Practice' in McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage. (also in *British Journal of Criminology*, 1980, 20/2: 136-147).
- Clarke, R. and Cornish, D. (1985) 'Modeling Offenders' Decisions' in M. Tonry and N. Morris (eds.) *Crime and Justice - Volume 6*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Felson, M. (2002) *Crime and Everyday Life (3rd edn)*. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge. (esp. ch. 2, also chs 1, 3, 10 and 11).
- Felson, M. (2003) 'The Routine Activity Approach as General Theory', in McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage.
- Huisman, W. and van Erp, J. (2013) 'Opportunities for Environmental Crime: A Test of Situational Crime Prevention Theory', *British Journal of Criminology*, 53: 1178-1200
- Tilley, N. and G. Laycock (2007) 'From Crime Prevention to Crime Science', in G. Farrell, K. Bowers, S. Johnson and M. Townsley (eds) (2007) *Imagination for Crime Prevention*. Cullompton: Willan.
- Farrell, G., N. Tilley, A. Tseloni and J. Mailley (2011) 'The Crime Drop and The Security Hypothesis' *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.
- Zedner, L. (2009) 'Opportunity Makes the Thief-Taker: The Influence of Economic Analysis on Crime Control', in T. Newburn and P. Rock (eds.) *The Politics of Crime Control: Essays in Honour of David Downes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

General overviews

- Chamard, S. (2010) 'Routine Activities Theory' in Paternoster, R. and R. Bachman (2010) 'Control Theories' in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
- Clarke, R. (2010) 'Crime Science' in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.

Further/contextual reading

- Becker, G. (1968) 'Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach', *The Journal of Political Economy* 76: 169-217.
- Clarke, R. (1988), 'The British Gas Suicide Story and its Criminological Implications', in M. Tonry (ed.), *Crime and Justice: An Annual Review of Research*, Vol. 10, 79-116.
- Clarke, R. and Felson, M. (1993), 'Criminology, Routine Activity, and Rational Choice' in R. Clarke and M. Felson (eds.), *Routine Activity and Rational Choice* (Advances in Criminological Theory), 5: 1-14.
- Garland, D. (1996) 'The Limits of the Sovereign State: Strategies of Crime Control in Contemporary Societies', *British Journal of Criminology*, 36/4: 445-71.
- von Hirsch, A. D. Garland, and A. Wakefield (eds.), *Ethical and Social Perspectives on Situational Crime Prevention*. Oxford: Hart (chs. by Garland and Hope and Sparks).
- Laycock, G. (2005) 'Defining Crime Science' in M. Smith and N. Tilley (eds.) *Crime Science*. Cullompton: Willan.

Seminar 4: Economy, Inequality and Opportunity

This seminar focuses on a different sense of 'opportunity' – economic opportunity – and returns us to macro/structural explanations of offending. We concentrate here on those criminological perspectives that are interested in the relationship between crime and economic conditions. Some of this work is Marxist in theoretical orientation (notably that of the early 20th century Dutch criminologist Willem Bonger). But much of it today draws inspiration from Robert Merton's re-working of the Durkheimian notion of 'anomie' and his account of the discrepancy between socially-induced expectations and the distribution of legitimate opportunities to meet them. So, to begin with, two questions arise:

1. Is there a relationship between crime and economic conditions? If so, how is that relationship to be understood?
2. What resources does Merton's 'anomie' theory offer for understanding the relationship between crime and social stratification in contemporary societies?

Recent work from this perspective has taken a number of - related - forms. Some recent authors have used Merton's work to develop 'institutional anomie' theory – this theoretical account, it is claimed, can explain crimes among the powerful as well as the powerless. Others have addressed what they see as the crime-producing implications of the emergence since the 1970s of market *societies*. Others have focused on relative deprivation – the experience of inequality rather than absolute deprivation – as a key explanatory factor. Common to all these perspectives is the importance of culture – the question of how inequality/blocked opportunity are experienced and interpreted – as a mediating factor between social structure and individual action. This gives rise to the following questions for us to consider:

3. How convincing is the claim made by Currie, Messner, Rosenfeld and others that market societies are 'criminogenic'?
4. What is 'relative deprivation' and what are its connections to crime and crime control?

Finally, in this session, we need to address the criticisms that have been levelled at 'crime and inequality' perspectives by those working in other traditions – whether they be Hirschi, or Felson or conservative writers such as James Q. Wilson. In other words:

5. Can the political economy of crime explain what Wilson once called the paradox of 'crime amidst plenty' – the mix of rising living standards and rising crime levels that characterized most western societies from the 1950s to the 1990s?

READING

Essential reading

- McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (2003) (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage. (ch. by Bonger).
- Merton, R. (1938) 'Social Structure and Anomie' *American Sociological Review*, 3: 672-82 (reprinted in S. Cote (ed.) *Criminological Theories: Bridging the Past to the Future*. London: Sage).
- Murphy, D. and M. Robinson (2008) 'The Maximizer: Clarifying Merton's Theory of Anomie and Strain', *Theoretical Criminology*, 12/4: 501-521.
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- Wolfe, S.E. and Pyrooz, D.C. (2014) 'Rolling Back Prices and Raising Crime Rates? The Walmart Effect on Crime in the United States' *British Journal of Criminology*, 54: 199-221

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- Reiner, R. (2012) 'Casino Capital's Crimes: Political Economy, Crime and Criminal Justice', in Maguire, M., R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (5th edn)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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- Karstedt, S. (2010) 'New Institutionalism in Criminology', in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
- Downes, D. and P. Rock (2007) *Understanding Deviance (5th edn)*. Oxford: Clarendon. (chs. 5-6).

Further/contextual reading

- Melossi, D. (2008) *Controlling Crime, Controlling Society: Thinking About Crime in Europe and America*. Cambridge: Polity, ch. 6.
- Cullen, F. and S. Messner (2007) 'The Making of Criminology Revisited: An Oral History of Merton's Anomie Paradigm' *Theoretical Criminology*, 11/1: 5-38.
- Cohen, A. (1955) *Delinquent Boys*. New York: Free Press (ch. III and pp. 121-37)
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- Young, J. (1999) *The Exclusive Society*. London: Sage. (chs. 2 and 3).
- Hall, S., S. Winlow and C. Ancrum Hall, S. *Criminal Identities and Consumer Culture*. Cullompton: Willan (esp. ch. 3).

Seminar 5: Cultures of Transgression

Our concern this week is with those criminological perspectives that *do* make individual motivation central to criminological theory and research, and focus on the ‘cultures’ (whatever that might turn out to mean) that give rise to criminal transgression. These perspectives have roots in the sociology of deviance of the 1960s with its humanistic concern – in David Matza’s terms - to appreciate (rather than correct) deviant behaviour. It is worth pausing for a moment to reflect on this starting point, and asking:

1. Should criminology seek to understand or ‘appreciate’, rather than ‘correct’, criminal behaviour? Are these objectives reconcilable?

This starting point has given rise to perspectives and ethnographic research on offenders and their motivations, and more generally to a re-discovery of the role of emotions in crime and public responses to it. Criminology, so the argument runs, needs to account for the ‘seductions of crime’, the thrill of transgression, and for the range of moral emotions that give rise to offending or emerge in its wake. This prompts the following questions:

2. What are the strengths and limitations of the ‘return to motivation’ in criminological theory?
3. What place should human emotions be accorded in the understanding and explanation of offending?
4. Does good criminological theory require ‘Merton with Energy, Katz with Structure’, as Jock Young puts it?

In recent years, these concerns have been re-articulated by a number of authors seeking to develop a ‘cultural criminology’. In thinking about what is new or valuable in this perspective, it is worth asking the following overarching question:

5. What role can and should the concept of culture place in the social analysis of crime?

READING

Essential reading

Matza, D. (1969) *Becoming Deviant*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. (esp. ch. 2)

Matza, D. and G. Sykes (1961) ‘Juvenile Delinquency and Subterranean Values’, *American Sociological Review*, 26/5: 712-719.

Farrell, G. (2010) ‘Situational Crime Prevention and its Discontents: Rational Choice and Harm Reduction versus “Cultural Criminology”’, *Social Policy and Administration*, 44/1: 40-66

Jacobs, B. and R. Wright (1999) ‘Stick-Up, Street Culture and Offender Motivation’,

Criminology, 37/1: 149-173.

- Katz, J. (2003) 'Seductions and Repulsions of Crime', in McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and Katz, J. (1988) *The Seductions of Crime*. New York: Basic Books (Introduction, ch. 9 and *passim*).
- Haan de, W. and J. Vos (2003) 'A Crying Shame: The Over-Rationalized Conception of Man in the Rational Choice Perspective' *Theoretical Criminology*, 7/1 29-54.
- Haywood, K. (2007) 'Situational Crime Prevention and its Discontents: Rational Choice Theory versus the "Culture of Now"', *Social Policy and Administration*, 41/3: 232-50 (available at: http://kar.kent.ac.uk/261/1/hayward2007spol_550.pdf)
- G. Hughes (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage. **or**, Walters, M.A. and Tumath, J. (2014) 'Gender 'Hostility', Rape, and the Hate Crime Paradigm' *Modern Law Review*, 77(4) 563-596
- Young, J. (2003) 'Merton with Energy, Katz with Structure: The Sociology of Vindictiveness and the Criminology of Transgression', *Theoretical Criminology* 7/3: 389-414.

General overviews

- Haywood, K. and Young, J. (2012) 'Cultural Criminology' in Maguire, M., R. Morgan and R. Reiner (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology* (5th edn). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Ferrell, J. (2010) 'Cultural Criminology', in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.

Further/contextual reading

- Melossi, D. (2008) *Controlling Crime, Controlling Society: Thinking About Crime in Europe and America*. Cambridge: Polity, ch. 7.
- Loader, I. and de Haan, W. (2002) 'On the Emotions of Crime, Punishment and Social Control', *Theoretical Criminology*, 6/3: 243-53.
- Katz, J. (2002) 'Start Here: Social Ontology and Research Strategy', *Theoretical Criminology*, 6/3: 255-79.
- Katz, J. (1999) *How Emotions Work*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (ch. 1)
- Wright, R. and S. Decker (1994) *Burglars on the Job*. Boston: Northeastern Press. (chs. 2 and 7)
- O'Brien, M. (2008) 'What is Cultural About Cultural Criminology?', *British Journal of Criminology*, 45/5: 599-612.

Seminar 6: Social Reactions to Crime

Our attention shifts in this seminar away from theories claiming to explain crime and its causes to those which focus on social reaction to crime, and the ways in which 'crime' (now in scare quotes) is defined and caught up in social processes of meaning creation, labelling and boundary maintenance. The focus, in other words, is not on the behaviour of offenders but on understanding those who define some acts as crime and respond accordingly – whether victims, witnesses, the media, the 'public' or, crucially, the state.

The starting point for all these theories is that basic but crucial question: what is crime? For many writers considered this week crime is not a self-evident set of facts – it has no 'ontological reality', as Hulsman puts it. Rather, crime is socially constructed through the application of meaningful categories. So our first question needs to be:

1. What does it mean to say that crime is 'socially constructed' and what are the practical implications of saying so?

From this perspective the analytical and research focus is on processes of social reaction – with the question of why and with what consequences certain events are publicly 'named' as crime and responded to as such. Various theoretical resources and ideas have been deployed in this regard to explain both the criminalization of (some) individuals and groups, and the way in which crime is used to 'frame' public problems and mobilize attention and resources. Two concepts have remained significant within this body of work – 'labelling' and 'moral panics', which leads us to ask:

2. How useful are notions of 'labelling' and 'moral panic' in the analysis of public reactions to crime and disorder?

The central insight of much of this work is that social reactions to crime cannot be explained solely by the acts to which they are, ostensibly, a response. The source of those reactions lies elsewhere. For those working in a neo-Durkheimian tradition reactions to crime are part of a process of social perception and boundary maintenance through which 'we' define ourselves by drawing lines of affiliation and opposition between us and various categories of 'them'. Those working in a neo-Marxist frame focus rather more on how crime functions ideologically to buttress the interests of powerful social groups – especially during moments of economic and social crisis. In either case, it is claimed that studying social reactions to crime tells us a great deal about values, divisions and organization of particular societies. Here the following questions arise for consideration and discussion:

3. How convincing do you find the claim that crime and punishment function as categories through which communities re-affirm their external boundaries and internal divisions?
4. What are the practical implications of thinking sceptically and sociologically about state/public responses to crime?

READING

Essential reading

- Becker, H. (1963) *Outsiders*. New York: Free Press. (esp. chs. 3 and 4).
- Cohen, S. (2002) 'Moral Panics as Cultural Politics', Introduction to Third Edition of *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*. London: Martin Robertson. (also ch. 1 and passim).
- David, M., Rohloff, A. , Petley, J. and Hughes, J. (2011) 'The idea of moral panic - ten dimensions of dispute' *Crime Media Culture* 7: 215
- Erikson, K. (1966) *Wayward Puritans: A Study in the Sociology of Deviance*. London: Macmillan (ch. 1).
- Garland, D. (2008) 'On the Concept of Moral Panic', *Crime, Media, Culture*. 4/1: 9-30.
- Hall, S. et al. (1978) *Policing the Crisis*. Basingstoke: Macmillan. (esp. ch. 3).
- Loader, I. Girling, E. and Sparks (2000) 'After Success?: Anxieties of Affluence in an English Village', in T. Hope and R. Sparks (eds) *Crime, Risk and Insecurity: Law and Order in Political Discourse and Everyday Life*, London: Routledge.
- McLaughlin, E., J. Muncie M. and G. Hughes (2003) (eds.) *Criminological Perspectives: Essential Readings*. London: Sage. (chs. by Becker, Hulsman, Taylor, Walton and Young).

General overviews

- Muncie, J. (2010) 'Labelling, Social Reaction and Social Constructionism', in McLaughlin, E. and T. Newburn (eds.) (2010) *The SAGE Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
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- Downes, D. and P. Rock (2007) *Understanding Deviance* (5th edn). Oxford: Clarendon. (chs. 7-8 and 10).

Further/contextual reading

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- Goode, E. and Ben-Yehuda, N. (1994) *Moral Panics: The Social Construction of Deviance*. Cambridge, Mass. Blackwell.
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- Young, J. (1971) 'The Role of the Police as Amplifiers of Deviance' in S. Cohen (ed.) *Images of Deviance*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

*****Week 7: revision tutorials and reading for week 8*****

Seminar 7 (Week 8): Intersectionality and Criminological Theory in a Global Age

In our final seminar we return to two key themes of the course which have huge implications for how we understand criminological theory and the ways in which we evaluate the explanatory power of criminological theories in the contemporary world. First, we examine in greater depth the notion of intersecting identities, and a growing body of work which emphasises the importance of integrating intersectionality into criminological theory.

We will consider the historical development of feminist perspectives in criminology and the feminist critique of criminological theory; the development of perspectives that focused on both masculinities and femininities in seeking to explain crime and responses to it; and more recent developments which have sought to integrate an understanding of intersecting identities of race and ethnicity, gender, social class, sexualities, and global location.

1. What does it mean to integrate intersecting identities into criminological theories? Why is this important? Is it possible to have 'universal' criminological theories that don't make these distinctions?
2. What does the critique of identity-blindness and power-blindness from intersectional perspectives mean for the criminological theories we have considered during this course. Can these theories still have relevance in the contemporary world?

Next, we focus upon the global nature of the contemporary world and its implications for criminological theory. We will consider the neglect of global issues within criminology and criminological theory; the dominance and privileging of the global North in the production of criminological knowledge; and the need for a criminology of globalization, attending to questions of global justice and security.

3. In an age of increasing global interconnectedness, can criminological theories that ignore or neglect these patterns continue to have explanatory power?

To conclude the course, we will return to the question posed throughout the course:

4. What makes a good criminological theory? How well equipped is contemporary criminological theory to explain crime and its control in the contemporary world?

READING

A) Intersectionality

- Carrington, K. (2015) *Globalising Feminist Criminology*. Routledge. Chapter 2 'Globalizing Feminist Criminology'.
- Daly, K. (2010) 'Feminist Perspectives in Criminology: A Review with Gen Y in Mind', in McLaughlin, E. and Newburn, T. (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
- Henne, K. and Troshynski, E. (2013) 'Mapping the Margins of Intersectionality: Criminological Possibilities in a Transnational World', *Theoretical Criminology*, 17(4): 455-473.
- Potter, H. (2015) *Intersectionality and Criminology: Disrupting and Revolutionizing Studies of Crime*. Routledge. Chapter 3 'Reduxing Criminology'.

Further reading

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- Potter, H. (2015) *Intersectionality and Criminology: Disrupting and Revolutionizing Studies of Crime*. Routledge.
- Carrington, K. (2015) *Globalising Feminist Criminology*. Routledge.
- Connell, R.W. and Messerschmidt, J.W. (2005) 'Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept', *Gender and Society*, 19(6): 829-59
- Hudson, B. (2008) 'Difference, Diversity and Criminology: The Cosmopolitan Vision', *Theoretical Criminology*, 12(3): 275-292

B) Criminological theory in a global age

- Aas, K.F. (2010) 'Global Criminology', in McLaughlin, E. and Newburn, T. (eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Criminological Theory*. London: Sage.
- Aas, K.F. "The Earth is One but the World is Not': Criminological Theory and Geopolitical Divisions', *Theoretical Criminology*. 16(1): 5-20
- Carrington, K., Hogg, R., and Sozzo, M. (2015) 'Southern Criminology', *British Journal of Criminology*. Advanced access, published 20th August 2015.
- Connell, R. (2014) 'Using Southern Theory: Decolonizing Social Thought in Theory, Research and Application', *Planning Theory*, 13(2): 210-233

Further reading

Aas, K.F. (2007) *Globalization and Crime*. London: Sage.

Bosworth, M., Bowling, B. and Lee, M. (2008) Special Issue on Globalization, Ethnicity and Racism. *Theoretical Criminology*. 12(3).

Fraser, A. (2013) 'Ethnography at the Periphery: Redrawing the Borders of Criminology's World Map' *Theoretical Criminology*. 17(2): 251-260

Friedrichs, O. (2007) 'Transnational Crime and Global Criminology: Definitional, Typological, and Contextual Conundrums', *Social Justice*. 32(2): 4-18

Lee, M. and Laidler, K.J. (2013) 'Doing Criminology from the Periphery: Crime and Punishment in Asia', *Theoretical Criminology*. 17(2) & other articles in the special issue.

Larsen, N. and Smandych, R. (eds.) (2007) *Global Criminology and Criminal Justice: Current Issues and Perspectives*. Broadview Press.