

## **Criminological Theory Comprehensive Exam Reading List**

### **Textbooks / Works for Reference in Preparation for the Exam**

1. Williams, Frank P. and Marilyn McShane (Eds.) 1998. *Criminological Theory: Selected Classic Readings* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
2. Lilly, J. Robert, Francis T. Cullen, and Richard A. Ball. 2024. *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Sage.
3. Kubrin, Charis E., Thomas D. Stucky, and Marvin D. Krohn. 2009. *Researching Theories of Crime and Deviance*. Oxford University Press.
4. Cullen, Francis T., John Paul Wright, and Kristie R. Blevins (Eds.). 2008. *Taking Stock: The Status of Criminological Theory—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 15*. Transaction.
5. Cullen, Francis T., Pamela Wilcox, Robert J. Sampson, and Brendan D. Dooley (Eds.). 2015. *Challenging Criminological Theory: The Legacy of Ruth Kornhauser—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 19*. Routledge.

### **Historical Origins and Theoretical Foundations**

1. Beirne, Piers. 1987. "Adolphe Quetelet and the Origins of Positivist Criminology." *American Journal of Sociology* 92(5):1140-1169.
2. Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 1991. "The Sutherland-Glueck Debate: On the Sociology of Criminological Knowledge." *American Journal of Sociology* 96(6):1402-1440.
3. Kornhauser, Ruth R. 1978. *Social Sources of Delinquency: An Appraisal of Analytic Models*. University of Chicago Press.
4. Bernard, Thomas J. and Jeffrey B. Snipes. (1996). "Theoretical Integration in Criminology." *Crime and Justice* 20:301-348.

### **Social Disorganization Theory**

1. Shaw, Clifford R. and Henry D. McKay. 1942. *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas*. University of Chicago Press.
2. Bursik, Robert J. 1988. "Social Disorganization and Theories of Crime and Delinquency: Problems and Prospects." *Criminology* 26(4):519-552.
3. Kelling, George L. and James Q. Wilson. 1982. "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety" *Atlantic Monthly* 249(3):29-38.
4. Sampson, Robert J., Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 1997. "Neighborhoods and Violent Crime: A Multilevel Study of Collective Efficacy." *Science* 227:918-924.
5. Kubrin, Charis E. and Ronald Weitzer. 2003. "New Directions in Social Disorganization Theory." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 40:374-402.
6. Sharkey, Patrick T. 2006. "Navigating Dangerous Streets: The Sources and Consequences of Street Efficacy." *American Sociological Review* 71(5):826-846.

### **Subcultural Perspectives**

1. Miller, Walter B. 1958. "Lower Class Culture as Generating a Milieu of Gang Delinquency." *Journal of Social Issues* 14(3):5-19.
2. Nisbett, Richard E. and Dov Cohen. 1996. *Culture of Honor: The Psychology of Violence in the South*. Westview Press.

3. Anderson, Elijah. 1999. *The Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. W.W. Norton.
4. Harding, David J. 2009. "Violence, Older Peers, and the Socialization of Adolescent Boys in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods." *American Sociological Review* 74(3):445-464.
5. Kirk, David S. and Andrew V. Papachristos. 2011. "Cultural Mechanisms and the Persistence of Neighborhood Violence." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(4):1190-1233.
6. Lindegaard, Marie Rosenkrantz, Jody Miller, and Danielle M. Reynald. 2013. "Transitory Mobility, Cultural Heterogeneity, and Victimization Risk among Young Men of Color: Insights from an Ethnographic Study in Cape Town, South Africa." *Criminology* 51(4):967-1008.

### **Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, and Crime**

1. Wilson, William Julius. 2009. *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City*. WW Norton.
2. Peterson, Ruth D. and Lauren J. Krivo. 2010. *Divergent Social Worlds: Neighborhood Crime and the Racial-Spatial Divide*. Russel Sage Foundation.
3. Sampson, Robert J. and William Julius Wilson. 1995. "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime, and Urban Inequality." In John Hagan and Ruth Peterson (Eds.), *Crime and Inequality*. Stanford University Press.
4. Sampson, Robert J., William Julius Wilson, and Hanna Katz. 2018. Reassessing "Toward a Theory of Race, Crime, and Urban Inequality": Enduring and New Challenges in 21st Century America. *Du Bois Review*, 15(1): 13-34.
5. Ousey, Graham C. and Charis E. Kubrin. 2018. "Immigration and Crime: Assessing a Contentious Issue." *Annual Review of Criminology* 1:63-84.
6. Light, Michael T. and Ty Miller. 2018. "Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Violent Crime?" *Criminology* 56(2):370-401.

### **Social Control Theory**

1. Reiss, Albert J. 1951. "Delinquency as the Failure of Personal and Social Controls." *American Sociological Review* 16(2):196-207.
2. Briar, Scott and Irving Piliavin. 1965. "Delinquency, Situational Inducements, and Commitment to Conformity." *Social Problems* 13(1):35-45.
3. Hirschi, Travis. 1969. *Causes of Delinquency*. University of California Press.
4. Britt, Chester L. and Michael R. Gottfredson (Eds.). 2003. *Control Theories of Crime and Delinquency—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 12*. Transaction.
5. Unnever, James D., Francis T. Cullen, Scott A. Mathers, Timothy E. McClure, and Marisa C. Allison. 2009. "Racial Discrimination and Hirschi's Criminological Classic: A Chapter in the Sociology of Knowledge." *Justice Quarterly* 26(3):377-409.
6. Costello, Barbara and John Laub. 2020. Social Control Theory: The Legacy of Travis Hirschi's *Causes of Delinquency*. *Annual Review of Criminology* 3:21-41.

### **Self-Control Theory**

1. Gottfredson, Michael R. and Travis Hirschi. 1990. *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford University Press.
2. Pratt, Travis C. and Francis T. Cullen. 2000. "The Empirical Status of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime: A Meta-Analysis." *Criminology* 38(3):931-964.

3. Hay, Carter and Walter Forrest. 2008. "Self-Control Theory and the Concept of Opportunity: The Case for a More Systematic Union." *Criminology* 46(4):1039-1072.
4. Forrest, Walter, Carter Hay, Alex O. Widdowson, and Michael Rocque. 2019. "Development of Impulsivity and Risk-Seeking: Implications for the Dimensionality and Stability of Self-Control." *Criminology* 57(3):512-543.
5. Burt, Callie H. 2020. "Self-Control and Crime: Beyond Gottfredson & Hirschi's Theory." *Annual Review of Criminology* 3:43-73.
6. Sampson, Robert J. and L. Ash Smith. 2021. "Rethinking Criminal Propensity and Character: Cohort Inequalities and the Power of Social Change." *Crime and Justice* 50:3-76.

### **Differential Association and Social Learning**

1. Sutherland, Edwin. 1947. *Principles of Criminology* (4th ed.). J. B. Lippincott. Chapter 1.
2. Sykes, Gresham and David Matza. (1957). "Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency." *American Sociological Review* 22:664-670.
3. Matsueda, Ross L. 1988. "The Current State of Differential Association Theory." *Crime and Delinquency* 34(3):277-306.
4. Thornberry, Terence P. 1987. "Toward an Interactional Theory of Delinquency." *Criminology* 25(4):863-892.
5. Akers, Ronald L. 1998. *Social Learning and Social Structure: A General Theory of Crime and Deviance*. Northeastern University Press. Chapters 1-3.
6. Warr, Mark. 2002. *Companions in Crime: The Social Aspects of Criminal Conduct*. Cambridge University Press.
7. McGloin, Jean Marie. 2009. "Delinquency Balance: Revisiting Peer Influence." *Criminology* 47(2):439-477.
8. McGloin, Jean Marie and Kyle J. Thomas. 2019. "Peer Influence in Criminology." *Annual Review of Criminology* 2:241-264.

### **Strain Theories**

1. Merton, Robert. 1938. Social structure and anomie. *American Sociological Review*.
2. Baumer, Eric P. 2007. Untangling research puzzles in Merton's multilevel anomie theory. *Theoretical Criminology* 11:63-93.
3. Baumer, Eric P. and Regan Gustafson. 2007. Social organization and instrumental crime: assessing the empirical validity of classic and contemporary anomie theories. *Criminology*
4. Messner, Steven and Richard Rosenfeld 2013. *Crime and the American Dream* (5th ed.). Wadsworth.
5. Agnew, Robert. 1992. "Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency." *Criminology* 30(1):47-88.
6. Broidy, Lisa and Robert Agnew. 1997. "Gender and Crime: A General Strain Theory Perspective." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 34(3):275-306.
7. Agnew, Robert. 2001. "Building on the Foundation of General Strain Theory: Specifying the Types of Strain Most Likely to Lead to Crime and Delinquency." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 38(4):319-361.

## Deterrence and Rational Choice

1. Paternoster, Raymond, Linda E. Saltzman, Gordon P. Waldo, and Theodore G. Chiricos. 1983. "Perceived Risk and Social Control: Do Sanctions Really Deter?" *Law and Society Review* 17(3):457-479.
2. Cornish, Derek B. and Ronald V. Clarke. 1986. *The Reasoning Criminal: Rational Choice Perspectives on Offending*, edited by Derek B. Cornish and Ronald V. Clarke. Springer-Verlag. Chapter 1.
3. Matsueda, Ross L., Derek A. Kreager, and David Huizinga. 2006. "Deterring Delinquents: A Rational Choice Model of Theft and Violence." *American Sociological Review* 71(1):95-122.
4. Anwar, Shamina and Thomas A. Loughran. 2011. "Testing a Bayesian Learning Theory of Deterrence among Serious Juvenile Offenders." *Criminology* 49(3):667-698.
5. Nagin, Daniel S., Francis T. Cullen, and Cheryl Lero Jonson (Eds). 2018. *Deterrence, Choice, and Crime: Contemporary Perspectives—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 23*. Routledge.

## Situational and Opportunity Perspectives

1. Cohen, Lawrence E. and Marcus Felson. 1979. "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activities Approach." *American Sociological Review* 44:588-608.
2. Osgood, D. Wayne, Janet K. Wilson, Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerald G. Bachman, and Lloyd D. Johnston. 1996. "Routine Activities and Individual Deviant Behavior." *American Sociological Review* 61(4):635-655.
3. Wilcox, Pamela and Francis T. Cullen. 2018. "Situational Opportunity Theories of Crime." *Annual Review of Criminology* 1:123-148.
4. Hoebe, Evelien M. and Frank M. Weerman. 2016. "Why is Involvement in Unstructured Socializing Related to Adolescent Delinquency?" *Criminology* 54(2):242-281.
5. Berg, Mark T. and Christopher J. Schreck. 2022. "The Meaning of the Victim-Offender Overlap for Criminological Theory and Crime Prevention Policy." *Annual Review of Criminology* 5:277-297

## Gender and Crime

1. Adler, Freda. 1975. *Sisters in Crime: The Rise of the Female Criminal*. McGraw-Hill
2. Messerschmidt, James W. 1993. *Masculinities and Crime: Critique and Reconceptualization of Theory*. Rowman & Littlefield.
3. Steffensmeier, Darrell and Emilie Allan. 1996. "Gender and Crime: Toward a Gendered Theory of Female Offending." *Annual Review of Sociology* 22:459-487.
4. Kruttschnitt, Candace and Kristin Carbone-Lopez. 2006. "Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: Women's Subjective Accounts of their Violent Crime." *Criminology* 44:321-352.
5. Kruttschnitt, Candace. 2013. "Gender and Crime." *Annual Review of Sociology* 39:291-308.
6. De Coster, Stacy and Lisa Broidy. 2024. "Current Perspectives on Female Offending." In Sandra L. Browning, Leah C. Butler, and Cheryl Lero Jonson (Eds.), *Gender and Crime: Contemporary Theoretical Perspectives—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 30*. Routledge.

## Biological Influences

1. Rafter, Nicole. 2004. "Earnest A. Hooton and the Biological Tradition in American Criminology." *Criminology* 42(3):735-771.
2. Fishbein, Diana H. 1990. "Biological Perspectives in Criminology." *Criminology* 28(1):27-72.
3. Sampson, Robert J. and Alix S. Winter. 2018. "Poisoned Development: Assessing Childhood Lead Exposure as a Cause of Crime in a Birth Cohort Followed Through Adolescence." *Criminology* 56(2):269-301.
4. Simons, Ronald L., Man Kit Lei, Steven R. H. Beach, Gene H. Brody, Robert A. Philibert, and Frederick X. Gibbons. 2011. "Social Environment, Genes, and Aggression: Evidence Supporting the Differential Susceptibility Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 76(6):883-912.

## Life-Course Perspectives

1. Sampson, Robert J. and John H. Laub. 1993. *Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life*. Harvard University Press.
2. Moffitt, Terrie. (1993). "Adolescence-Limited and Life-Course-Persistent Antisocial Behavior: A Developmental Taxonomy." *Psychological Review* 100(4):674-701.
3. Giordano, Peggy, Stephen A. Cernkovich and Jennifer L. Rudolph. 2002. "Gender, Crime and Desistance: Toward a Theory of Cognitive Transformation." *American Journal of Sociology* 107(4):990-1064.
4. Farrington, David P (Ed.). 2005. *Integrated Developmental and Life-course Theories of Offending—Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 14*. Transaction.
5. Paternoster, Ray and Shawn Bushway. 2009. "Desistance and the 'Feared Self': Toward an Identity Theory of Criminal Desistance." *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 99(4): 1103-1156.
6. Cullen, Francis T. 2011. "Beyond Adolescence-Limited Criminology: Choosing Our Future—The American Society of Criminology 2010 Sutherland Address." *Criminology* 49:287-330.
7. Wildeman, Christopher and Robert J. Sampson. 2024. "Desistance as an Intergenerational Process." *Annual Review of Criminology* 7:85-104.

*\*Note: This list is intended to serve as a baseline guide. Students should supplement with additional readings for specific topic areas of interest, with their advisor's approval.*