Foundations in Criminology and Criminal Justice

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This paper provides an introduction to the field of criminology, its debates and challenges, its current research preoccupations and future directions. It aims to enable students to develop an informed and critical appreciation of theories of crime and responses to crime in local and international contexts and a broad understanding of the research issues in the study of crime and criminal justice.

The paper is divided into three parts:
Part I: Criminological concepts and contexts
Part II: Understanding criminal activity
Part III: Criminal justice responses and consequences

The lectures will address these general topics with reference to specific case studies for example, gangs, drugs, terrorism, young people, women. The course is deliberately cross-cultural in focus, covering criminology in different international contexts. It will focus on the acquisition of key concepts, theories and debates, interpretation and critique of these concepts and use of these reflective insights to, solve problems (e.g. how do we reduce knife crime?) and innovate through thought experiments (e.g. What would a society without punishment look like?) The reading list for the lectures is given below. Additional materials will be listed on the paper’s moodle website.

General Readings:
These are some textbooks and reference sources which will serve as a useful background to the paper.


Useful websites for policy on crime and justice in the UK
Home Office: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office
Parliament: https://www.parliament.uk/
Police: https://www.police.uk/
Crown Prosecution Service: https://www.cps.gov.uk/
Some journals worth knowing about:
Asian Journal of Criminology
Australian Journal of Criminology
British Journal of Criminology
Criminal Justice Matters
Criminology
European Journal of Criminology
Punishment and Society
Policing and Society
Prison Service Journal
Theoretical Criminology
The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice

Module 1 – Criminological concepts and contexts

The first part of the course considers definitional and operational issues. What is criminology? How do we generate criminological knowledge? How do we define offenders and victims? What are the consequences of our definitions?

1. What is criminology?
This first lecture provides an introduction to the field of criminology, its disciplinary characteristics, its subject interests and reach. It considers political, social and academic dynamics orienting the field and its current preoccupations. It considers debates on ‘public criminology’ and asks ‘who or what is criminology for’?

Required Reading

Further reading
https://doi.org/10.1177/1748895813509638
2 How is criminological knowledge generated?

This lecture considers the methods of criminological research. It describes different research approaches and the assumptions that underpin them. Using a case study of cyber-crime it discusses the challenges of conducting criminological research, the range of data sources (research-generated and 'official') from which criminologists can collect data and their relative strengths and limitations. It considers broader debates on objectivity and subjectivity, particularity and universality. How do we assess the quality of criminological research?

Required Reading


Further Reading


3 What is crime?

The following four lectures discuss key concepts in the study of criminology. The first asks ‘what is meant by ‘crime’? It considers the strengths and limitations of different approaches from legal definitions to wider conceptualisations of social harm. It addresses debates on crime as a social construct and the ‘reality’ of crime. It considers change and variability in definitions across countries.

Key questions: Which activities are defined as criminal and why? How do definitions change over time? Who and what is criminalised as a consequence? The discussions will consider changing legal responses to homosexuality, and the creation of ‘new crimes’ such as ‘hate crimes’ and ‘crimmigration’.

**Required Reading**


4. Borders of criminology

This lecture extends the discussion in the previous one to consider criminology or criminologies ‘at the edge’. It considers the development of ‘green criminologies’ and arguments to move beyond the concept of crime to a broader conceptualisation of social and environmental harm. What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving beyond ‘crime’ as an orienting definition?

**Required Reading**


Further Reading


5. Who are ‘offenders’?

Lectures 5 and 6 consider definitions of offenders and victims. The first asks ‘who is defined as an offender? The individual law breaker? The group? The organisation? The state? It considers the ways in which people who break the law have been portrayed over time: the ‘outlaw’; the dangerous or risky ‘other’ and debates on the age at which young people are considered to be responsible for criminal activities.

Required Reading


Further Reading


6. Who are ‘victims’?
We consider the ways in which victims have been defined, including different typologies and the concept of victim ‘worthiness’ and the frequent overlap between being a victim and being an offender. It considers research on victims of ‘hidden or invisible’ crimes, such as of corporate crime, crimes of the state and victims who are ‘hidden’ or invisible’ themselves such as families bereaved through murder, prisoners’ families.

**Required Reading**
Browne, K., Bakshi, L., and Lim, J. (2011) ‘It’s something you just have to ignore’: Understanding and addressing contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans safety beyond hate crime paradigms, *Journal of Social Policy*, 40(04), 739-756. [https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279411000250](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047279411000250)

**Further Reading**

**Audio Visual Resources**
Kimberlee Crenshaw. The Urgency of Intersectionality. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o

### Part II Understanding criminal activity
The following ten lectures focus on research which aims to identify why people break the law. We will discuss theories of crime in relation to four orienting analytical constructs: society, power, the personal and the temporal with consideration too of the contexts in which theories developed.

#### 7. Crime and Society I
The first two lectures discuss theories of crime which are oriented towards the influence of society on the person. In the first lecture we cover macro-theories of society - theorists’ application of Durkheim’s concept of Anomie in the development of Strain theories and their extension into theories of subcultures. In both these lectures we draw on research on gang formation to understand and critique the theories.

**Required Reading**
*Introduction to criminological theory*

**Strain and sub-cultural theories**

**Further Reading**


8. Crime and Society II

In the second lecture we cover other theories which take micro-society as the orienting concept in explanations of crime – the interaction between the person and others: theories of social learning and of social control.

**Required Reading**


Further Reading

Theories of Social Learning and Social Control


Gang Research


9. Crime and Power I

Lectures 9 and 10 consider the role of power as an explanatory factor in offending. The first discusses Marxist theories crime as a consequence of the oppression of the dominant majority and theoretical critical responses. It also considers defiance theory - crime as defiance to perceived injustice.

Required Reading


Further Reading

10. Crime and Power II
The second lecture considers theories arguing the development of crime as a consequence of processes of ‘othering’, ‘of social exclusion and marginalisation: labelling and stigmatisation. With reference to feminist research on crimes committed by women and critical race theorising of hate crimes, it also considers the extent to which power differentials between majority and minority ethnic populations and between men and women are relevant to our understanding of the causes of crime.

Required Reading

Further Reading
http://www.personal.psu.edu/exs44/406/becker_outsiders_from_weitzer.pdf


11. Crime and the Person I
The following pair of lectures consider theories of crime which focus on the person – looking first at those which focus on personal agency and reasoning: theories of rational choice, moral reasoning, and routine activity.

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


12. Crime and the Person II
The second lecture considers personal characteristics and the work of the positivist school in criminology. It considers psychological, cognitive and behavioural theories and developments in biosocial theories.

Required Reading

Further Reading

13. Crime and Temporality I
The final theme for our study of why people commit crime draws on theories which identify the relevance of a temporal understanding of criminal behaviour. The first lecture considers developmental theories and life course criminology.

Required Reading
Further Reading

14. Crime and Temporality  II
The second lecture considers why people stop committing crime over time. It discusses current theories of desistance and the social, personal and structural factors considered to be integral to the process.

Required Reading

Further Reading
15. Integrated Theories
Having discussed the multiple theoretical perspectives on why people commit (and stop) crime we consider theories which integrate social and personal factors. We consider arguments for and against the idea of integration and two theories of integration.

Required Reading
https://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/crim25&id=875&collection=journals&index=journals/crim

Further Reading
https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118517390.wbetc028
https://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/jclc82&id=15&collection=journals&index=journals/jclc


Further Reading
https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2014.974791
https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3442
Module III Criminal Justice Responses and Consequences
The third part of the programme considers societies’ responses to those who break the law. It identifies different approaches to criminal ‘justice’ and their effects.

17. Penal Policy Making: Societal Drivers
This first lecture considers drivers for criminal justice policies at global and local levels. It discusses writings on late modern societies, neoliberalism, post-colonialism, globalisation, law and religion and political transition. Drawing on comparative analyses of justice systems it asks how do macro theories of society help us to understand the workings and practices of criminal justice systems today?

Required Reading

Further Reading
16


18. Criminal Justice Structures and Agencies
This lecture provides an overview of different criminal justice institutions: the police, the courts, prisons and probation services. It provides a historical overview of the development of these agencies in England and Wales and considers variations and similarities in approach drawing on cases studies including post-colonial justice in Pakistan and traditional justice approaches in New Zealand.

**Required Reading**
http://www.westerncriminology.org/documents/WCR/v01n1/Morris/Morris.html

**Further Reading**
https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/423773

19. Public opinion and penal policy
This lecture considers the relationship between the public and penal policy. It explores definitions of the public, and conceptualisations of the fear of crime. It covers concepts such as populist punitivism and the role that public plays in directing the action of criminal justice processes in England and Wales with reference to campaigns to raise the profile of the victim.

**Required Reading**
https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474517699814

Further Reading

20. Media and penal policy
This lecture considers how crime is represented in the media and the social consequences. How are criminals and offenders represented in the media? What are the effects of media reporting of crime on criminal justice policies? Building on discussions in the previous lecture, it considers the use of social media by the public in the reporting and representations of crime

Required Reading

Further Reading
University of Illinois Press, pp. 41-73.
https://doi.org/10.1111/plar.12024

21. Politics and Governance I
These two lectures consider the role of politics in the governance of crime. The first considers the theme of social control and governance through crime. It considers theorisations of penal power as a means to contain and discipline on groups threatening the disruption of the social order. It considers how general ideas apply to the criminal justice responses to the Riots of 2011 in England and the phenomenon of mass incarceration in the US.

Required Reading
https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/40.2.321
http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/bp.2008.40

Further Reading
https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474517738984
https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480605048942
Audio resources
Adam’s Rib (1949) Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracey.

22. Politics and Governance II
This second lecture considers the legitimacy of the use of penal power and its link to social order. It looks at the concepts of procedural justice and distributive justice with reference to research on policing and prisons.

Required Reading


Further Reading


23 Managerialism, Marketization and Economics

This lecture discusses the influence of market-oriented ideologies on criminal justice. Using the UK as a case study, it examines the influence of managerialism and the private sector on prison and probation services. It looks at the activities of monitoring and measuring in criminal justice. It discusses the emergence of the ‘new penology’ and actuarial justice its on-going relevance to the recording of crime and the monitoring of risk and offending. It charts recent research on ‘big data’ and ‘algorithmic justice’.

Required Reading


Further Reading


20
24. Surveillance
The following five lectures consider different ways in which governmental power is deployed to prevent and address offending. The first considers the activities of surveillance and supervision. It discusses the role of strategies of censorship, situational crime prevention and surveillance of offenders in prison and the community including the development of electronic monitoring.

Required Reading
https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc.a047153
https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9515.2007.00550.x
https://doi.org/10.1080/09627251.2012.670995

Further Reading
https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480610396643
https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1007014831641
https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480697001002003
https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/39.4.531
https://doi.org/10.1080/10434631.2010.540655
https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128799045002001
25. Punishment in Theory
The first part of this lecture asks what social functions does punishment serve? It provides an overview of key sociological theories of punishment and their explanatory concepts of social solidarity (Durkheim), bureaucratic governance (Weber), political economy and class control (Marx), technology of power (Foucault) culture (Garland) The second part question: how do societies justify the use of punishment? It provides an overview justifications in terms of the prevention of future crime (deterrence, reform, incapacitation) and justifications as a response crimes already committed (censure and retribution) and arguments for the abolition of punishment.

Required Reading

Further Reading

26. Forms of punishment
The second lecture considers punishment in practice. It considers physical and psychological forms of punishment and different spaces in which punishment is practiced: the public and the hidden, the socially-integrated and the segregated.

Required Reading


**Further Reading**


https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-954X.00251


https://doi.org/10.5204/iijcjsd.v4i1.201


https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/fss_papers/3599


https://doi.org/10.1177/1466138102003004012

**Useful website:**

World Prison Brief: http://www.prisonstudies.org/highest-to-lowest/prison-population-total

### 27. Intervention and programmes

This lecture considers the function of interventionism in responses to offending. It considers intervention as prevention and as a form of rehabilitation. It traces criminological debates on the effectiveness of interventions for people who have offended from ‘nothing works to ‘what works’.

**Required Reading**


https://search.proquest.com/docview/1298113963/fulltext/483882B6007A46F2PQ/1?accountid=9851


https://doi.org/10.1177/0032885501081003002

28 Restoration and Resettlement
This lecture looks at how society reconciles with people who have broken the law. It looks at processes of restorative justice and the concept of re-integrative shaming. It examines criminal justice policies related to the resettlement of people leaving custody and social stigma.

Required Reading


Further Reading


29 Global responses I Terrorism
This next two lectures draw together some of the themes covered earlier in the programme by looking at two current and global issues in crime: terrorism and drugs. The first considers terrorism. It asks what are the causes of terrorism? How do societies respond? What are the consequences of globalisation on terrorist activities?

**Required Reading**

**Further Reading**
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14679515/2008/42/6


**30 Global responses II**

The second lecture covers drugs and crime. It looks at the international trade in drugs; variations in drug laws and their consequences for drug users. It looks at the relationship between drug addiction and crime and policies aimed to address offending related to drug addiction.

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Audio Resources**


# 31 Criminal justice, fairness and equality

This final lecture discusses (un)fairness and (in)equality in criminal justice processes. It looks at discrimination and disadvantage in the criminal justice processes by looking at the experiences of women, ethnic minorities, the wrongfully convicted and secondary victims of crime. It considers why these groups are disadvantaged by criminal justice processes and asks what should justice look like for these groups?

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Audio Resources**

Crenshaw, K. *The Urgency of Intersectionality*. YouTube.

32 ‘More Research is Needed’

This final discussion seminar asks what are the pressing issues in criminal justice today? What are the gaps in our understanding of crime and crime control? What is seen and not seen by the constructs that criminologists and criminal justice agents employ? What are the key problems facing criminal justice processes and practices? What are the resolutions? What should be on future criminological research agenda? It considers these questions in relation to recent debates about knife crime in the UK.

**Required Reading**


33-4 Revision lectures