

**School:** Baruch Ivcher School of Psychology

## Criminology and the Psychology of Crime

**Lecturer:**

Dr. Joshua M Weiss joshua.weiss@post.idc.ac.il

**Teaching Assistant:**

Ms. Raquel Landau raquel.landau@post.idc.ac.il

---

<b>Course No.:</b>	<b>Course Type :</b>	<b>Weekly Hours :</b>	<b>Credit:</b>
8995	Lecture	8	8

<b>Course Requirements :</b>	<b>Group Code :</b>	<b>Language:</b>
Exam	210899501	English

---

## Course Description

Criminology and Psychology of Crime

---

## Course Goals

**Course Goals:**

Arguably, there is no topic more interesting than studying, and attempting to understand, crime and criminals. What it is about our surroundings that encourages some people to embark on illegal endeavors? What in ourselves can promote rebelliousness, impulsivity or the violation of other people rights? How does society try to control behavior that is unacceptable or harms others, via policing and punishment?

This course will study criminal behavior and society's approaches to dealing with deviancy through reading and discussing written material, self-study and class presentations, tours and other class activities. The course will cover the main theories in Criminology with an emphasis on psychological thinking about criminal traits and behavior.

The three major disciplines that comprise Criminology are Sociology, Psychology and Law. We will be studying these three disciplines as they relate to crime and to criminals.

### **Law and Penology: The Study of Punishment**

What is the purpose of Justice and Punishment? Is it not simply for revenge? Many would say it is for public safety to "lock 'em up". Others might say punishment is for deterrence or rehabilitation. But do these strategies work? Over the past two decades, there has been "mass incarceration" in the USA. Did this huge social experiment work? Did it reduce crime? We will see how even well-intended laws can have a biased effect. Punishment has changed and incarceration has taken the place of physical punishment. We will study this change, as well as how prisons are managed and what are the most effective rehabilitation programs. We will study some theories of effective policing such as the "broken windows" theory and "hot spots" of crime.

**Activities:** We will virtually visit a courthouse and listen in to some of the proceedings, and analyze the dynamics.

### **The Psychology of Crime and Psychological Profiling**

Understanding the motives and traits that are characteristic of those who commit crime has inspired television series and movies. We will try to move on from the more sensational notions to the research on crime-related differences, and attempt to understand true cases. We will take a critical criminological and academic approach as we study psychological theories regarding psychopathy and the criminal personality. We will touch

on a wide variety of crimes, such as juvenile delinquency, general, intimate and sexual violence and terrorism, and try to understand how they happen and how to prevent them.

**Activities:** Students may choose a type of crime, or a psychological trait related to crime, and study this topic throughout the school year via academic research articles, and case studies of criminals. Individual study will be guided and assisted. Sharing findings with classmates may be a highlight experience for presenter and friends.

We will virtually visit a rehabilitation center and listen to the stories of those in recovery

### The Sociology of Crime

It is widely accepted that crime is found in "bad" neighborhoods. What characterizes a "bad" neighborhood? Poverty? Immigrants? Minorities? How do municipalities and governments deal with these social problems? Perhaps government has an interest in maintaining this status quo via the laws it makes? Perhaps those who are in power and their culture, such as male-oriented patriarchal cultures have an interest in some types of crime? We will study these theories and discuss their relevance.

**Activities:** We will take a virtual tour to a southern neighborhood of Tel Aviv, meet women who help women leave prostitution, discuss issues regarding homelessness, heroin addicts and illegal immigrants from Africa in Israel.

---

## Grading

Attendance and class participation: Obligatory. 5 points will be taken off for each absence beyond those allowed by IDC administration in cases of repeated absence. **Attending zoom meetings, on time, and with your camera on** is a prerequisite for attendance and participation.

2-5 semesterial bonus points may be given each semester for outstanding student participation such as volunteering to be first presenters or taking an active part in the mock trial.

End of semester exams: 70% (2 X 35%), Eams will be open books and online via Zoom (unless we are allowed to return to campus)

Presentation (20%) and Final paper (10%): 30% (Preparation – 10%, academic quality- 10%, creativity and clarity- 10%)

Presentations will take place during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

Final paper is to be handed in no later than 31/7/2021

---

## Lecturer Office Hours

Reception Hours for Instructor and Assistant: 11:15-12:00 (by appointment only)

---

## Teaching Assistant

Reception Hours for Instructor and Assistant: 11:15-12:00 (by appointment only)

---

## Reading List

### Key Texts

[Cullen, F. T. Wilcox, P.](#) K. (2010). *Encyclopedia of Criminological Theory, 1st Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage

Lernau, H. (2016). *Criminal behavior and law enforcement*, Haifa: Pardes (Hebrew)

Lilly, J. R., Cullen, F.T. & Ball R. A. (2014). *Criminological theory: Context and consequences* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA : Sage

Pratt, T. C., Gau, J. M., & Franklin, T. W. (2010). *Key ideas in criminology and criminal justice*. Sage.

### Recommended reading

**Recommended reading** (Required articles will be posted on class Moodle throughout the course in advance of lectures):

#### Classical Criminology Theory

Beccaria, C., (2008). *On crimes and punishments and other writings*. University of Toronto Press.  
(Beccaria originally published in 1766)

Chen, G., & Einat, T. (2017). To Punish or Not to Punish—That Is the Question: Attitudes of Criminology and Criminal Justice Students in Israel Toward Punishment. *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, 61(3), 347-367.

Feeley, M. M., & Simon, J. (1992). The new penology: Notes on the emerging strategy of corrections and its implications. *Criminology*, 30(4), 449-474.

Moyer, M. D. (2016). Free Will's Enormous Cost: Why Retribution, Grounded in Free Will, is an Invalid and Impractical Penal Goal. *Notre Dame L. Rev.*, 92, 2231.

Steiker, C. S., & Steiker, J. M. (2010). Capital Punishment: A Century of Discontinuous Debate. *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 100, 643-690.

#### Law enforcement

Harcourt, B. E., & Ludwig, J. (2006). Broken windows: New evidence from New York City and a five-city social experiment. *U. Chi. L. Rev.*, 73, 271.

Sullivan, C. M., & O’Keeffe, Z. P. (2017). Evidence that curtailing proactive policing can reduce major crime. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1, 730.

Weisburd, D., Braga, A. A., Groff, E. R., & Wooditch, A. (2017). Can hot spots policing reduce crime in urban areas? An agent – based simulation, *Criminology*, 55, 137-173.

Wilson, J. Q., & Kelling, G. L. (1982). The police and neighborhood safety: Broken windows. *Atlantic monthly*, 127(2), 29-38.

#### Psychiatric / positivistic approaches

*Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders - Fifth edition, (DSM-V)* (2013). Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Association (Antisocial Personality Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Narcissistic Personality D/O, Oppositional Defiant D/O).

Martinson, R. (1974). What works?-Questions and answers about prison reform. *The public interest*, 35, 22.

Sarre, R. (2017). How I would spend \$100 million to reduce crime. *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, 28(3), 339-354.

World Health Organization (1992) *The ICD-10 classification of mental and behavioral disorders: Clinical descriptions and diagnostic guidelines*. Geneva: WHO (Dissocial Personality).

### **Neuropsychological approaches**

Aharoni, E., Vincent, G. M., Harenski, C. L., Calhoun, V. D., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Gazzaniga, M. S., & Kiehl, K. A. (2013). Neuroprediction of future rearrest. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *110*(15), 6223-6228.

Frazier A, Ferreira PA, and Gonzales JE. (2019) Born this way? A review of neurobiological and environmental evidence for the etiology of psychopathy. *Personality Neuroscience*. Vol 2: e8, 1–16

Raine, A. (2018). Antisocial personality as a neurodevelopmental disorder. *Annual review of clinical psychology*, *14*, 259-289.

### **Sensation seeking and Fearlessness**

Foulkes, L (2017). Risk-taking teens' brains seem to disregard past bad outcomes. *Research digest* (<https://digest.bps.org.uk/2017/03/07/risk-taking-teens-brains-seem-to-disregard-past-badoutcomes/>)

Latvala, A., Kuja-Halkola, R., Almqvist, C., Larsson, H. & Lichtenstein, P. (2015). A longitudinal study of resting heart rate and violent criminality in more than 700,000 Men. *JAMA Psychiatry*, *72*, 971-978

Lykken, D. T. (1995). *The antisocial personalities*. Psychology Press

Zuckerman, M. (2007). *Sensation seeking and risky behavior*. Washington D.C.: APA

### **Psychoanalytic approaches**

Kernberg, O. F. (1995). *Aggression in personality disorders and perversions*. Yale University Press.(Chapter 5).

Rowling, J. K., & Dumbledore, A. (2008). *The tales of Beedle the Bard*. Children's High Level Group.The)

(Warlock's Hairy Heart

Shapiro, D. (1965). *Neurotic styles*. New York: Basic Books (Impulsive Styles)

### **Psychopathy**

Boduszek, D., Debowska, A., Sherretts, N., Willmott, D., Boulton, M., Kielkiewicz, K., & Hyland, P. (2019). Are prisoners more psychopathic than non-forensic populations? Profiling psychopathic traits among prisoners, community adults, university students, and adolescents. *Deviant Behavior*, 1-13.

Brazil, K. J., & Forth, A. E. (2019). Psychopathy and the Induction of Desire: Formulating and Testing an Evolutionary Hypothesis. *Evolutionary Psychological Science*, 1-18.

Collisson, B., Howell, J. L., & Harig, T. (2019). Foodie Calls: When Women Date Men for a Free Meal (Rather Than a Relationship). *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 1948550619856308.

Hare, R. D. (2003). *Hare psychopathy checklist- Revised (PCL-R): 2nd Edition, Technical manual*. New York: Multi-Health systems.

Hart, S. D., Cox, D. N. and Hare, R. D. (1995). *The Hare psychopathy checklist: Screening version (PCL:SV)*. New York: Multi-Health Systems.

Jalava, J. (2006). The modern degenerate: nineteenth-century degeneration theory and modern psychopathy research. *Theory & Psychology*, *16*(3), 416-432

Millon, T., Simonsen, E., Birket-Smith, M., & Davis, R. D. (Eds.). (1998). *Psychopathy: Antisocial, criminal, and violent behavior*. Guilford Press.

### **Developmental and Life Course Theory**

Moffitt, T. E. (2018). Male antisocial behavior in adolescence and beyond. *Nature and Human Behavior*, 2: 177–186.

Moffitt, T. (1993). Adolescence-limited and life-course-persistent antisocial behavior: A developmental taxonomy. *Psychological Review*, 100, 674-701.

"Let It Go" (2013) from the album [Frozen](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0MK7qz13bU) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0MK7qz13bU>

### **Sociological Approaches**

Atchison, A. J. & Heide, K. M. (2011). Charles Manson and the Family: The application of Sociological Theories to Multiple Murder. *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, 55, 771–798

Marshall, D., & Thomas, T. (2015). The disclosure of police-held 'non-conviction information' to employers. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 17(4), 237-245.

Petersen, N. (2017). Cumulative Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Potentially Capital Cases: A Multistage Analysis of Pretrial Disparities. *Criminal Justice Review*, 0734016817721291

Schiavone, S. C. (2017). Wiping the Slate Clean: A Proposal to Expand Ohio's Expungement Statutes to Promote Effective Offender Reintegration. *Cap. UL Rev.*, 45, 509.

### **Structural and Critical Approaches**

Durkheim, E., & Thompson, K. (2004). *Readings From Emile Durkheim* (Vol. Rev. ed). London: Routledge.

Foucault, M. (2012). *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison*. Vintage.

Gibbs, J. C. (2010). Looking at terrorism through left realist lenses. *Crime, law and social change*, 54(2), 171-185.

Gueta, K., & Chen, G. (2017). Missed Opportunities: Perspectives of Incarcerated Israeli Women and Men on Their Unsuccessful Desistance. *Feminist Criminology*, 1557085117724510.