



Author Guidelines for *Criminology Explains . . .*

A New Series of Books for the Classroom from University of California Press

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Each book in this pedagogically oriented series will provide a concise, targeted overview of criminology theories as applied to specific criminal justice-related subjects. The goal is to bring to life for students the relationships among theory, research, and policy. Applying different (and sometimes wildly divergent and conflicting) explanatory models to the same problem behavior highlights the similarities and differences among the theories, and allows linkages across explanatory levels and across time and geography.

Books in the series are designed to fit neatly alongside the major theory textbooks so that instructors may adopt one or more volumes as supplementary reading in criminology and criminological theory courses. In addition, each book's topical focus makes it suitable as primary or supplementary reading in a range of standard and special-topics courses.

Each book will feature a consistent, easy-to-follow format and will animate theoretical concepts with real-life applications to issues of crime and deviance. Each book's style will be approachable and accessible to undergraduates and will consist of no more than 70,000 words.

Examples of proposed topics that *Criminology Explains . . .*

Police use of force  
Bullying  
Substance abuse

Homicide  
Racial & ethnic disparities  
Prostitution

White-collar crime  
Sexual violence  
Cybercrime

## ***Criminology Explains . . .*** Proposal Guidelines and Manuscript Template

### **1. Brief description**

In two or three paragraphs, describe the work, its fit with the series aims, and its intended course market(s).

### **2. Table of contents**

Each book in the series will follow a common format as detailed below. Your proposal should be tailored to the specifics of your topic.

#### **Introduction**

Each introduction will begin with the context that criminology textbooks offer a detailed and comprehensive discussion of a wide variety of criminological theories and crimes but they do not always have a “through line” that would allow the reader to make connections across theories and chapters. This book focuses all of the theories on one problem and provides such a through line, allowing for greater synthesis and thus deeper and longer-lasting retention of learning. Applying different (and sometimes wildly divergent and conflicting) explanatory models to the same problem serves to highlight the similarities and differences among the theories, and allows linkages across explanatory levels and across time and geography.

In addition, this book also serves as a useful overview of the substantive crime or deviance type. There is an explanation of why the book will be useful to researchers and others who desire a relatively brief but comprehensive overview of the subject. Also included here is a discussion of gaps in the research, and an overall impression of the utility of criminological theory to explain the phenomenon that is the focus of that volume. Special considerations relevant to the topic are discussed, including international and comparative aspects when possible and relevant.

Each introduction ends with an overall explanation of the organization of the book that reiterates that the chapters have been designed to be read in conjunction with corresponding chapters in criminology textbooks. Chapter 1 offers an overview of the subject, describing the nature and extent of the phenomenon, measurement issues and challenges, and how the phenomenon has been socially constructed. The chapter ends with a brief discussion of the social-ecological model. Chapters 2 through 7 are organized in similar fashion [see the bullet points after the description of Chapter 1, below]. Chapter 2 applies victimization, lifestyle, and deterrence theories to the phenomenon. Chapter 3 considers individual-level (micro) theories. Chapter 4 discusses social structure theories and Chapter 5 looks at social process theories. Chapter 6 explores various critical theories. Finally, Chapter 7 addresses various integrationist perspectives.

#### **Chapter 1 Overview**

This chapter discusses how the phenomenon has been defined in academic research, in the law, and in popular conceptions. It analyzes various methodological challenges to conceptualizing and operationalizing the phenomenon, and thus to developing rational policies to respond to and prevent it. Included are statistics on offending and victimization.

The penultimate section discusses the extent of criminological research on the topic, and to what extent criminological theory is a valid lens with which to examine the phenomenon, keeping in mind that: (1) “criminological” theories are in truth attempts to explain and understand deviance rather than crime; and (2) there are not necessarily clear distinctions between “criminological” and “non-criminological”

theories (particularly within micro theories). The chapter ends by introducing the concept of a social-ecological approach to the phenomenon, drawing from relevant literature.

## **Chapters 2-7**

Each chapter has the following organization:

- Overview of the relevant group of theories
- Overview of unit theories within the group
- Research on unit theories as applied to the phenomenon
- Research on comparison and integration across unit theories and across groups of theories
- A chart and brief discussion of how the chapter theories fit within a social-ecological framework
- Implications for policy and practice, including a “Policy Box” that applies a theory or theories from the chapter to a specific set of facts
- Critical Thinking Questions

### **Chapter 2 Victimization, Lifestyle, Deterrence, and Rational Choice Theories**

This chapter explores classical deterrence theory and its more contemporary counterpart “just deserts,” rational choice theory, and various theories of victimization including: Victim Precipitation Theory (both active and passive) Lifestyle Theory/Routine Activities Theory, Deviant Place Theory, and the “Proximity Hypothesis.” It also discusses aspects of environmental criminology that are relevant to victimization and deterrence.

### **Chapter 3 Individual-level Theories**

The chapter begins with biological and biosocial research involving the role of genes, neurological functioning, and hormones, while noting the complexity of the interaction of biology with other factors. It then turns to psychologically-oriented theories and considers theories based in behavior, cognition, and traits. It also potentially explores such areas as evolutionary psychological approaches, psychodynamic and psychoanalytic theories, attachment theory, personality theory, and the role of mental disorders. It also considers psychological social learning theory.

### **Chapter 4 Social Structure Theories**

The chapter explores a variety of social structure theories. Unit theories that are discussed in this chapter include: social disorganization, anomie, General Strain Theory, and macro-level strain. It also covers various culture conflict theories.

### **Chapter 5 Social Process Theories**

The chapter examines the three main categories of social process theories: social learning, social control, and social reaction. The social learning theories section includes a discussion of parental, family, and peer influences, and a discussion of differential association, differential reinforcement, and neutralization and moral disengagement. Social control theories discussed include social bonds theory. Last, social reaction (labeling) theory is explored (e.g., Kramer, 2015).

### **Chapter 6 Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice**

The chapter focuses in issues of power and control. It includes a broad range of theories that are thought of as critical, including feminist theories, conflict theories, cultural theories, queer theory, cultural

criminology, and peacemaking and restorative justice. It questions how the phenomenon has been defined and constructed, and how various social entities respond to deviance around the phenomenon.

### **Chapter 7 Integrationist Perspectives**

This chapter includes integrationist perspectives including developmental and life course theories, and latent trait theories. The chapter does not attempt to create an integrated theory of crime but rather discusses integrationist research. The chapter ends with a discussion of the social-ecological approach to the phenomenon drawing on appropriate literature.

### **3. Apparatus, illustrations, and companion materials**

Estimate the total word count of the completed book, including the main text, footnotes, boxes, discussion questions, and bibliography. The total length should not exceed 70,000 words.

Estimate the number of tables and charts in the completed book. Each of the substantive chapters (2-7) should include a chart as specified above. The total number of tables and charts should not exceed 10. Each "Policy Box" should be a maximum of 332 words for a one-page box, or 664 words for a two-page box.

Authors are invited to contribute additional teaching and learning resources such as lecture slides, additional discussion questions, and links to websites, videos, or additional readings, to be hosted on the UC Press website.

### **4. Comparable and competing works**

In keeping with the series aims, series books are designed to be assigned in one of two ways: (1) as supplements to the core criminology and criminology textbooks and (2) as primary or supplementary reading in focused-topics courses. Please describe existing books in category (2) and their strengths and weaknesses relative to your proposed book.

### **5. Timeline**

Estimate the date for completing a complete first draft. Series manuscripts should be completed within 6 to 12 months of contact signing, due to their templated format and synthetic nature.

### **6. Author profile**

Please attach a copy of your CV. Describe your qualifications for writing this book and your ability to help market it to instructors, students, and researchers.

Please contact the Series Editors with questions, a brief pitch or suggestion, or to submit a formal proposal following the above format at:

[Robert.Brooks@worchester.edu](mailto:Robert.Brooks@worchester.edu) and [jwcohen2@uw.edu](mailto:jwcohen2@uw.edu)