

SURVEY OF CRIMINOLOGY 70600

Rationale for Course

In the late modern period we are presented with an extraordinary wealth of criminological theory. Past and present paradigms proliferate and prosper. This course examines these theories placing them in the context of the massive social transformations that have taken place in the last thirty years. It is not concerned so much with abstract theory as criminological ideas which arise in particular contexts. It aims, therefore, to situate theories in contemporary debates and controversies and allows students to fully utilize theoretical insights in their criminological work.

Teaching Strategy

The course is taught by lecture, seminar and tutorial. Lectures and seminars will be weekly; the seminars involve a student presentation and a discussion centring around the suggested points of debate. Tutorials are available, to be arranged by the student.

Assessment

A 4,000 word essay submitted at the end of the course. Drafts of the essay should be regularly submitted throughout the course and form the bases of tutorials.

Textbook

The core textbook will be *The Exclusive Society*, J Young, Sage (henceforth ES)

Website

A series of articles will be available for students to download from my website: www.jockyoung.org.uk (henceforth web).

Suggested Readings

An extensive list of readings is included in order to provide students with a guide to the literature. The essential readings are indicated by an asterisk.

Readers/Journals

The most useful reader in criminology theory is *Criminological Perspectives: A Reader*, 2nd ed. 2002, J Muncie, E McLaughlin and M Langan (eds), Sage. The two most relevant journals are *Theoretical Criminology* and *Punishment and Society*.

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LECTURE SEQUENCE

1. RISE IN CRIME
2. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM AND THE DRUG DEBATE
3. CRIME AND SUBCULTURE
4. MORAL PANIC
5. ATAVISTIC CRIMINOLOGY: CRIME, BIOLOGY AND RACE
6. FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
7. SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND CRIME
8. SEDUCTIONS OF CRIME: CULTURAL CRIMINOLOGY
9. VIOLENCE IN A MARKET SOCIETY
10. THE PUNITIVE TURN
11. THE CRIMINOLOGY OF WARFARE, GENOCIDE AND TERRORISM
12. REALIST CRIMINOLOGY

USEFUL THEORY OVERVIEWS

*Young J Thinking Seriously About Crime website

Maguire M, McLaughlin E and Langan M, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 1997, 2nd ed, 2002, 3rd ed, Clarendon

Mooney J, 2000, *Gender, Violence and the Social Order*, Macmillan

*Muncie J, McLaughlin E and Langan M, eds, 1996, 2002, *Criminological Perspectives: A Reader*, Sage

Lea J and Young J, 1993, *What is to be Done About Law and Order?*, London: Pluto

Downes D and Rock P, 1995, *Understanding Deviance*, Clarendon Press

Walklate S, 1995, *Gender and Crime*, Harvester Wheatsheaf

Taylor I, Walton P and Young J, 1973, *The New Criminology*, Routledge and Kegan Paul

Vold GB, Bernard T and Snipes J, 2002, *Theoretical Criminology*, Oxford University Press

Currie E, 1985, *Confronting Crime*, Pantheon

Lilly J, Cullen F and Ball R, 1989, *Criminological Theory*, Sage

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Use of adjacent texts:

The bibliography is extensive to increase your chances of available reading material. However, do go to the appropriate section of the library and look for adjacent alternative texts. The bibliography is not written in stone: many perfectly reasonable alternatives will be available.

Essential texts are indicated by an asterisk.

PROGRAMME

Introduction

Lecture: *Criminology in the Twenty First Century*

Seminar Allocation; Handbook timetabling, General orientation

Lecture: *The Rise In Crime*

The rise in crime throughout the industrialized world in the post-war period. The theoretical and policy implications: the crises in aetiology and penalty. The emergence of the labelling and subcultural traditions. The shift away from causality and punishment towards crime prevention and informal social control. The normalization of crime in everyday life.

Reading:

ES Chapters 1 and 2

Discussion

How does one explain the fact that recorded crime in much of the industrial world grew during the affluent sixties? Why is it declining today?

Discussion Points:

- Social positivism would, of course, have predicted a decline in the sixties.
- How do we explain the recent decline in crime?
- Is the US exceptional in its crime rates?
- Is NYC a miracle

Reading: *ES Ch 1, 2, also pp.76-8

*Karmen A, 2000, *The New York Crime Mystery*, NYU Press

*Garland D, 2001, *The Culture of Control*, Oxford University Press/Chicago University Press

*Young J, 2003, *Winning the Fight Against Crime?*, Web

*Blumstein A and Wallman J, eds, 2000, *The Crime Drop in America*, Cambridge University Press

Lea J and Young J, 1993, *What is to be Done About Law and Order?*, Introduction, London: Pluto

Field S, 1990, *Trends in Crime and their Interpretation*, London: HMSO

Wilson JQ, 1985, *Thinking About Crime*, NY: Vintage Books

*Curtis R, 1998, 'The Improbable Transformation', *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 88(4), pp1233-66

Young, J, 'Incessant Chatter', web

Chamblis, W, *Power, Politics and Crime*, Westview. Ch.1 & 2

Lecture: Social Constructionism And The Drugs Debate

The roots of social constructionism in labelling theory. The notion of primary and secondary harm. The convergence between neo-liberalism and social constructionism with regards to the legalization of drugs. The actuarial problem of harm and the tendency to ignore causes. A realist approach to intervention.

Discussion:

'The Social Reaction Against Drug Use Is Primarily Against The Social Group Who Use The Drug Rather Than The Drug Itself.' Discuss.

Or: *'The Solution To The Drug Problem Is To Legalize Drugs.'* Discuss.

Discussion Points:

- Would the harm created by legalization outweigh the harm generated by ban?
- Are drugs inherently dangerous?
- What is the socio-pharmacology of drug use?
- Is subculture more important than law?

Reading:

*Bourgeois P, 1995, *In Search of Respect*, Cambridge

*Curtis R, 1998, 'The Improbable Transformation', *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 88(4), pp1233-66

*Young J, 1988, 'Deviance', in P Worsley, ed, *The New Introductory Sociology*, Penguin
Website

Pearson G, 1987, *The New Heroin Users*, Blackwell

Dorn N and South N, eds, 1987, *A Land Fit for Heroin*, Macmillan

Becker H, 1963, *Outsiders*, NY: Free Press

Cohen S, ed, 1971, *Images of Deviance*, Penguin

Young J, 1971, *The Drugtakers*, Paladin

Auld J, 1981, *Marihuana Use and Social Control*, Academic Press

Auld J et al, 1986, 'Irregular Work, Irregular Pleasures', in R Matthews and J Young, eds, *Confronting Crime*, Sage

*Inciardi J, 1991, *The Drug Legalization Debate*, Sage

articles *'The Case for Legalization' E Nadelmann
 *'The Case Against Legalization' J Inciardi and D McBride

*Evans R and Berent I, eds, 1992, *Drug Legalization: For and Against*, Open Court

articles *'Against the Legalization of Drugs' JQ Wilson.
 *'An Open Letter to Bill Bennett' Milton Friedman

Bourgois, P (1998) 'Just Another Night in the Shooting Gallery', *Theory, Culture and Society*, 15(2), pp.37-66

Lecture: *Crime And Subculture*

The subcultural tradition and its roots in Mertonian anomie theory. The concepts of subculture and contraculture. The notion of subculture as a result of 'deficit' and the revisionism of 'strain' theory. The two traditions of subcultural theory and the major problems. The recent work on underclass. The notion of a bulimic society.

Discussion:

What Does It Mean To Say That Crime Is A Subcultural Solution?

Discussion Points:

- Do 'normal' people live in subcultures?
- Is the subcultural 'solution' always a solution?
- Is crime contracultural?

Reading:

*ES CH3

*Young, J, *Crossing the Borderline*, web

*Bourgois P, 1995, *In Search of Respect*, Cambridge UP

*Young J 'Relative Deprivation' Web

Willis P, 1977, *Learning to Labour*, Saxon House

Cloward R and Ohlin L, 1960, *Delinquency and Opportunity*, The Free Press

Cohen AK, 1955, *Delinquent Boys*, The Free Press

Young J, 1974, 'New Directions in Subcultural Theory' in J Rex, ed, *Approaches to Sociology*, Routledge and Kegan Paul

McRobbie A, 1980, 'Settling Accounts with Subcultures', *Screen Education*, Spring

Ward D and Kassenbaum G, 1966, *Women's Prison*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Brake M, 1980, *The Sociology of Youth and Youth Subcultures*, RKP

*Wilson WJ, 1990, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, Uni. Chicago Press

Cohen S, 1980, *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*, Introduction, Blackwells

Lecture: *Moral Panic*

The emergence of labelling theory in the 1960s, the dyadic nature of crime and the concept of policing and secondary deviance. The critique of essentialism and the emergence of social constructionism. Deviancy amplification and the nature of the moral panic. Attempts at synthesis with subcultural theory.

Discussion

'Moral Panics' Represent A Projection Of Irrational Fears On Inappropriate Targets'. Discuss.

Or: *'Fear Of Crime Is More Of A Problem Than Crime Itself.' Discuss*

Discussion Points:

- What are contemporary moral panics?
- When is a moral panic a good cause?
- What makes fear irrational?

Reading:

*ES pp.24-26

*Cohen S, 1980, *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*, Blackwells, 2nd ed, 3rd ed Routledge 2002, especially new introduction

*Young J, 1971, 'The Police as Amplifiers of Deviance' in S Cohen, ed, *Images of Deviance*, Penguin

*Young J, 'Risk of Crime and Fear of Crime', Web

*Ben-Yehuda N, 1986, 'The Sociology of Moral Panics', *Sociological Quarterly*, 27 (4), pp495-513

McRobbie A, 1994, *Postmodernism and Modern Culture*, Routledge, Ch. 11

*Hall S *et al*, 1978, *Policing the Crisis*, Macmillan

Pearson G, 1983, *Hooligan*, Macmillan

Goode E and Ben-Yuhuda N, 1994, *Moral Panics*, Blackwell

Sparks R, 1992, 'Some Problems in the Constitution of the Fear of Crime' in R Matthews and J Young, eds, *Issues in Realist Criminology*, Sage

Lecture: Atavistic Criminology: Crime, Biology And Race

The relation of biology and race in the debate over the causes of crime. The rise of neo-positivism in response to the failure of individual positivism to explain the rise in crime. The possibility of a genetic theory of crime and the discovery of a 'criminal gene'. The race and crime debate: the explanation of disproportionality. Denial, reduction to class and affirmation. The politics of such a controversial area.

Discussion:

What Evidence Is There That Blacks Have A Higher Crime Rate Than Whites, Or Why Are There So Many Blacks In Prison?

Discussion Points:

- Are racial categories meaningful?
- Variation of crime rates by ethnic group and gender.
- Intra- and inter-racial crime rates
- Social deprivation and crime.

Reading:

*ES CH4

Mooney J and Young J, 1999, *Social Exclusion and the Criminal Justice System*, Centre for Criminology, Middlesex University

*Lea J and Young J, 1993, *What is to be Done About Law and Order?* Intro and Ch.4

Gilroy P, 1987, 'The Myth of Black Criminality' in P Scraton, ed, *Law, Order and the Authoritarian State*, Oxford University Press

Langan P, 1985, 'Racism on Trial', *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 76, pp666 et seq.

*Rushton P, 1995, 'Race and Crime', *Society*, Jan/Feb

*Rushton P, 1995, *Race, Evolution and Behaviour*, Transaction

*Herrnstein R and Murray C, 1994, *The Bell Curve*, The Free Press (Ch. 11, 12)

Murray C, 1990, *The Emerging British Underclass*, Institute for Economic Affairs

Wilson WJ, 1990, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, University of Chicago Press

Lecture: *Family and Community*

The relationship between the breakdown of the family and community and the crime rate. The fallacy of autonomy and the relationship between the family and the wider society.

Discussion:

How Can We Maintain Social Order in a World of Lightly Engaged Strangers?

Reading:

*ES Ch. 6 & 7

* Young, J, 'The Maintenance of Order Amongst Lightly Engaged Strangers', web

Gottfredson, M and Hirschi, T, 1990, *A General Theory of Crime*. Standord University Press

*Mooney, J, 2003, 'It's The Family Stupid', web

Currie, E, 1985, *Confronting Crime*, New York: Pantheon, Ch.6

Wilson, W J, 1987, *The Truly Disadvantaged*. University of Chicago Press

*Gottfredson, M and Hirschi, T, 1995, 'National Crime Control Policies', *Society*, Jan/Feb, pp.30-36

Lecture: *Social Exclusion And Crime*

The causes of social exclusion and social isolation in European and US literature. The relationship between strong family and community and crime rates. The change in family and community in late modernity. The concept of an underclass and the dual city.

Discussion:

'The Building Blocks Of A Crime Free Society Are In The Family And The Community'

Discussion Points:

- *Is there such a thing as an underclass?*
- *How does social exclusion relate to globalisation?*
- *Is Work the best remedy for exclusion?*

Reading:

*ES CH6

Bauman Z, 1998, *Work, Consumerism and the New Poor*, OU Press

Levitas R, 1996, 'The Concept of Social Exclusion and the New Durkheimian Hegemony', *Critical Social Policy*, 16, p5-20

*Young J, 2002, 'Crossing the Borderline: Crime and Social Exclusion', web

*Young J, 2002, 'Social Exclusion' in *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 3rd ed., web

Lister R, 1998, 'From Equality to Social Exclusion', *Critical Social Policy*, 18, p215-225

Massing M, 1999, 'The End of Welfare?' *The New York Review of Books*, 46, Oct 7, pp22-26

*Social Exclusion Unit, 1999, *Bringing Britain Together*, HMSO (available on the Social Exclusion Unit website)

Social Exclusion Unit, 1999, *Teenage Pregnancy*, HMSO (available on the Social Exclusion Unit website)

*Wilson WJ, 1987, *The Truly Disadvantaged*, University of Chicago

Wilson WJ, 1996, *When Work Disappears*, Knopf

Murray C, 1990, *The Emerging British Underclass*, IEA

Lecture: *The Seductions of Crime: Cultural Criminology*

The stress on the excitement and attractions of crime and the reaction against neo-liberalism (rational choice, routine activities theory). The emphasis on the existential and the foreground of crime as against determining background. The critique of Merton and 'materialist' explanations. The overlap with the emerging criminology of war.

Discussion:

Does Katz's Emphasis on the Experiential Throw the Baby Out with the Bathwater?

Discussion Points:

- How much crime is simply instrumental?
- Is crime like work?

Reading:

*Katz, J (1988) *The Seductions of Crime*. Basic Books

Ferrell, J (1997) 'Criminological Verstehen: Inside the Immediacy of Crime', *Justice Quarterly*, 14(1), pp.3-23

Ferrell, J and Saunders C (eds) (1995) *Cultural Criminology*, Northeastern University Press

Ferrell, J, Milanovic, D and Lyng, S (2001) 'Edgework', *Theoretical Criminology*, 5(2), pp.177-202

Presdee, M (2000) *Cultural Criminology and the Carnival of Crime*. Routledge

*Young, J (2002) 'Searching for a Criminology of Everyday Life', web

*Young, J (2002) 'Crossing the Borderline: The Sociology of Vindictiveness and the Criminology of Transgression', web

In *Varieties of Criminology*, ed. G Barak (1994), Westport, CT: Greenwood

- Jeff Ferrell, 'Confronting the Agenda of Authority';
- Mike Presdee, 'Doing Wrong Versus Doing Crime'
- Pat O'Malley and S Mugford, 'Crime, Excitement and Modernity'

Lecture: *Violence in a Market Society*

The high rates of violent crime in market societies. Explanations of violent crime in terms of structure, and culture. The debate about guns and their effect on levels of violence.

Discussion:

It is Not Guns but Social Inequality which Give Rise to High Rates of Violent Crime

Discussion Points:

- What is a market society?
- What is the relationship between gun ownership and violence both nationally and internationally?
- What is the role of gun culture?

Reading:

Currie, E, 1985, *Confronting Crime*, Pantheon

*Currie, E, 1997, 'Market, Crime and Community: Towards a mid-range theory of post-industrial violence', *Theoretical Criminology*, Vol.1(2), pp.147-172

Currie, E (1998) *Crime and Punishment in America*. Metropolitan Books

Gans, H J, (1999) *Making Sense of America*. Lanham, Md: Rowman & Littlefield

Kleck, G (1991) *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America*. Aldine de Gruyter

Lott, J R (1998) *More Guns, Less Crime*. University of Chicago Press

Squires, P (2000) *Gun Culture or Gun Control?: Firearms, Violence and Society*. Routledge

*Taylor, I (1999) *Crime in Context: A Critical Criminology of Market Societies*. Cambridge: Polity

*ES Ch.3

*Ziimring, F and Hawkins, G (1997) *Crime is Not the Problem: Criminal Violence in America*. Oxford University Press

Young, J (2003) 'Searching for a Criminology of Everyday Life' web

Lecture: *The Punitive Turn*

The functions of prison and the high level of recidivism. The classicist contradiction and the social focus of the penal system. The rise of imprisonment in the present period. The punitive turn and the policies of zero-tolerance. Intolerance of crime and the sociology of the underclass.

Discussion:

'How Do We Explain The American Gulag?'

Or:

'Do Zero Tolerance Policies Work?'

Reading:

*ES Ch 5

*Parenti C, 2000, *Lockdown America*, Verso

Cohen S, 1988, *Visions of Social Control*, Polity

* Karman A, 2000, *The New York Crime Mystery*, NYU Press

Matthews R, 1999, *Doing Time*, Macmillan

*Christie N, 2000, *Crime Control as Industry*, 3rd ed, Routledge

*Young J, 2002, 'Crossing the Borderline: The Sociology of Vindictiveness'. Web

*Young J, 'Charles Murray and the American Prison Experiment', Web

Harcourt, B 2001, *Illusion of Order*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press

Lecture: *Criminology of Warfare, Genocide and Terrorism*

Neglect of criminology in covering these areas of mass violence. Parallels between aetiology and phenomenology of 'normal' criminal violence and other forms of mass violence. Concept of techniques of neutralisation and essentialisation.

Discussion:

In what Circumstances is Evil Socially Produced?

Reading:

*Special Edition of *Theoretical Criminology*, Vol 7(No3), 2003

Young, J, 'The Criminology of Transgression and the Sociology of Vindictiveness' web

Sothcott, K 'The Seductions of War and the Existential Origins of Military Atrocity

Jamieson, R (1998) 'Towards a Criminology of War in Europe' in V Ruggiero, N South and I Taylor (eds) *The New European Criminology* Routledge

Jamieson, R (1999) 'Genocide and the Social Production of Immorality' *Theoretical Criminology* 3(2), pp.131-46

*Cohen, S (2002) *States of Denial*. Oxford: Polity

Morrison, W (2003) 'Criminology and Genocide'

Kaldor, M (1999) *New and Old Wars*. Cambridge: Polity

Ignatieff, M (1997) *The warrior's Honour* Oxford: Blackwells

Lecture: *Realist Criminology*

The emergence of realism in criminology first of all in its invocation 'to take crime seriously'; secondly in its desire to be faithful to the reality of crime. The synthesis of subcultural and labelling theories in the realist project. The policy and methodological implications of realism.

Discussion

'Realist Criminology Tells Us Nothing New: It Is Merely Old Wine In New Bottles'. Discuss.

Discussion Points:

- What is the realist position on the family?
- How do Left and Right Realism differ?
- How does Realism relate to the agenda of *The New Criminology* ?
- How does Left Realism relate to Critical Criminology?

Reading:

Mooney J, 2000, *Gender, Violence and the Social Order*, Macmillan

*Young J and Matthews R, eds, 1992, *Rethinking Criminology*, Sage 'Ten Points of Realism', web

Matthews R and Young J, eds, 1992, *Issues in Realist Criminology*, Sage

*Taylor I, 1999, *Crime in Context*, Westview/ Polity

*Young J, 1997, 'Left Realist Criminology' in *The Oxford Handbook of Criminology*, 2nd ed, web

Currie E, 1998, *Crime and Punishment in America*, Metropolitan

Currie E, 1985, Confronting Crime, Pantheon

*Currie E, 1997, 'Market Crime and Community', Theoretical Criminology, 2, pp147-172

Young, J 'Incessant Chatter', web

*Young, J, 2002, 'Critical Criminology for the Twentyfirst Century', web