

Theory Comprehensive Exam
Fall 2006

Instructions: For this exam you are to select any four (4) of the following questions. All responses are to be turned in by 4:00. Several faculty members have been assigned to monitor the exam and their designated hours are listed below. You may contact them in their offices if you have any problems or questions requiring faculty attention.

8:00 - 10:00 am	Carter Hay	Room 320
10:00 - 12:00 pm	Kevin Beaver	Room 322A
12:00 - 2:00 pm	Bruce Bullington	Room 316
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Kristy Holtfreter	Room 325

1. Criminologists have increasingly recognized that offending and victimization share common ground. Describe the connection between involvement in crime and risk of victimization, making sure to discuss variations in the nature and direction of this relationship for distinct forms of offending and victimization. In your opinion, which criminological theory(s) provide the most compelling explanation of both offending and victimization?
2. Compare and contrast Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990) general theory of crime, Sampson and Laub's age-graded theory of informal social control and Moffitt's (1993) developmental taxonomy. How are they similar? How are they different? Lastly, discuss the empirical literature bearing on each theory.
3. What factors would you say contribute most to the wide salience and popularity of Gottfredson and Hirschi's general theory of crime?
4. Marriage is thought to have implications for criminal behavior in two important respects. First, for juveniles, parents' marriage (or the absence or disruption of the marriage) may significantly affect their level of delinquency. Second, for individuals already involved in crime, getting married may affect desistance from crime. Please address both of these possibilities by thoroughly describing the theory or theories that guide (or should guide) research in this area and by examining the empirical research that has been done.
5. Several years ago, William Bennett and John DiIulio predicted that the United States would be inundated by a wave of juvenile "super-predators" by 2003 or so – claims that ultimately proved to be inaccurate. Based on your understanding of the history of juvenile justice during the last fifty years or so, what explains the various surges and reductions that have occurred in the measured levels of serious juvenile crime? Which of our theories best explain these phenomena and why?

6. A number of classical criminological texts, such as Rothman's *Conscience and Convenience* and Platt's *Child-Savers* explored the important contributions made by the late 19th and early 20th century Progressives to changing our nations' approach to criminal justice theory and practice. Who were the Progressives and what specific reforms did they advocate and ultimately implement? What were the results of these efforts in the period between 1900 - 1960 or so? What persons and/or forces helped to overthrow these ideas and practices in the 1960s and how was this accomplished?
7. Police legitimacy suffers either when police are viewed as ineffective or when they are viewed as corrupt or overly aggressive. Why is police legitimacy important? What are the consequences of lapses in legitimacy? What tools are available for police executives and other public officials to deal with each major type of lapse and how have these tools been used in the past? Please reference the relevant literature in addressing these issues.
8. Discuss the relevance of symbolic interactionism for the development of criminological theory. In the process, discuss specific concepts from the former and how they may have influenced concepts from the latter.