

**Theory Comprehensive Exam  
Spring 2011**

**Instructions: For this exam, you are to select any four (4) of the following questions. All responses are to be turned in at 4:00 p.m. You may contact Margarita if you have any problems requiring faculty attention.**

1. Affiliating with delinquent peers is one of the most consistent predictors of delinquent involvement. Even so, there is much debate about why contact with delinquent peers is associated with adolescent delinquency. The two most prominent explanations come from social learning theory and from self-control theory. Compare and contrast these two perspectives and how they explain the close nexus between delinquent peers and delinquent involvement.
2. Labeling theory was once declared dormant. There has been something of a re-birth of interest in the perspective. Discuss the intellectual origins of labeling, some of the major conceptual contributions and contributors to its development, and the state of empirical evidence in relation to this approach.
3. Discuss the ways that theory and “the real world” are necessarily linked.
4. The role that parents play in the development of delinquency occupies a central position within criminological theory and research. Using the works of Judith Rich Harris, David Rowe, Steven Pinker, and others provide a critique of this research. Discuss the various ways to overcome the shortcomings of parental socialization literature.
5. Which criminological theory do you believe best explains ‘white-collar crime’ and why? In your answer, be sure to define white-collar crime and clearly apply your chosen theory to white-collar crime as defined by relevant research literatures appropriately cited.
6. Daly and Chesney-Lind (1988) argued that existing criminological theories have a masculine perspective and are rooted in men’s experiences. This raises the question: Do existing theories of crime causation apply equally as well to women as they do men? Select a theory that will help you best illustrate your point.
7. There is now a sizable literature seeking to understand the victim/offender overlap. Which theories or theoretical framework best explain(s) the above association? Please cite relevant literature and studies.
8. There are substantial racial disparities in imprisonment rates in America. Describe these patterns and describe the theoretical frameworks that are best able to explain them.