

**Comprehensive Exam Reading List**

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Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a general strain theory of crime and delinquency.  
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Akers, R. L., & Sellers, C. S. (2012). *Criminological theories: Introduction, evaluation, and application* (6th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Andrews, D. A., & Bonta, J. (2015). *The psychology of criminal conduct* (5th ed.). New York: Routledge.

Bernard, T. J., Snipes, J. B., Gerould, A. L., & Vold, G. B. (2015). *Vold's theoretical criminology* (7th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Berry, W. D., & Feldman, S. (1995). *Multiple regression in practice*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc. .

Berry, W., & Sanders, M. (2000). *Understanding multivariate research: A primer for beginning social scientists*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Burgess, R. L., & Akers, R. L. (1966). A differential association-reinforcement theory of criminal behavior. *Social Problems*, 14(2), 128-147.

Bursik, JR., R. J. (1988). Social disorganization and theories of crime and delinquency: Problems and prospects. *Criminology*, 26(4), 519-552.

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*Deviant Behavior*, 27(6), 591-627.

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Cornish, D. B., & Clarke, R. V. (1987). Understanding crime displacement: An application of rational choice theory. *Criminology*, 25(4), 933-948.

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Glueck, S., & Glueck, E. (1950). *Unraveling juvenile delinquency*. New York: Commonwealth Fund.

Higgins, G. E. (2009). Quantitative versus qualitative methods: Understanding why quantitative methods are predominant in criminology and criminal justice. *Journal of Theoretical & Philosophical Criminology*, 1(1), 23-37.

Hirschi, T., & Gottfredson, M. (1993). Commentary: Testing the general theory of crime. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 30(1), 47-54.

Laub, J. H., & Sampson, R. J. (1993). Turning points in the life course: Why change matters to the study of crime. *Criminology*, 31(3), 301-325.

Lee, C. (2005). The value of life in death: Multiple regression and event history analyses of homicide clearance in Los Angeles County. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 33(6), 527-534.

Lee, G. M., Bohm, R. M., & Pazzni, L. M. (2014). Knowledge and death penalty opinion: The Marshall hypotheses revisited. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 39(3), 642-659.

- Menard, S. (2002). *Applied logistic regression analysis*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Merton, R. K. (1938). Social structure and crime. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682.
- Moffitt, T. E. (1993). Adolescence-limited and life-course-persistent antisocial behavior: A developmental taxonomy. *Psychological Review*, 100(4), 674-701.
- Pampel, F. C. (2000). *Logistic regression a primer*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications Inc.
- Paternoster, R., McGloin, J. M., Nguyen, H., & Thomas, K. J. (2013). The casual impact of exposure to deviant peers: An experimental investigation. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 50(4), 476-503.
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- Remler, D., & Van Ryzin, G. (2015). *Research methods in practice: Strategies for description and causation*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc. .
- Rennison, C. M., & Addington, L. A. (2014). Violence against college women: A review to identify limitations in defining the problem and inform future research. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 15(3), 159-169.
- Rowe, D. C., & Osgood, D. W. (1984). Heredity and sociological theories of delinquency: A reconsideration. *American Sociological Review*, 49(4), 526-540.
- Sampson, R. J., & Groves, W. B. (1989). Community structure and crime: Testing social-disorganization theory. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94(4), 774-802.
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Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & Earls, F. (1997). Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science*, 277(5328), 918-924.

Silver, E., Felson, R. B., & Vaneseltine, M. (2008). The relationship between mental health problems and violence among criminal offenders. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 35(4), 405-426.

Stafford, M. C., & Warr, M. (1993). Reconceptualization of general and specific deterrence. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 30(2), 123-135.

Vito, A. G., & Higgins, G. E. (2013). A research note on adolescent steroid use: An examination of social learning theory and self-control theory. *Deviant Behavior*, 34(12), 951-960.

**Practice Comprehensive Exam Questions**

Theory

1) First, explain what criminological theory is, and how it is relevant in criminology and criminal justice. Next, use strain, social learning, and control theories to explain the causes of delinquent behavior or crime. Be sure to describe the features that are unique to each particular theory. Finally, choose one theory to elaborate upon, and explain how the theory has evolved from the beginning of the theoretical tradition.

2) You have been hired by the Department of Justice to conduct a study on a specific crime using (Official statistics (e.g., UCR), victimization surveys (e.g., NCVS), or self-report surveys).

Please answer the following questions in detail:

- First, compare and contrast the three different types of data sources.
- Second, choose ONE of the following crimes: Robbery, violent sex crimes, homicide, or white-collar crime and discuss which data source is most appropriate for researching the selected crime and why.
- Last, discuss the limitations for the data sources that you did not choose for the crime you selected.

Methods & Analysis

3) Compare and contrast the limitations and merits of official statistics (e.g. UCR), victimization surveys (e.g. NCVS), and self-report surveys. How would you use these data sources when designing a research study comparing crime in two cities?

4) Describe in detail how you would research a crime problem (your choice) if you were to be supplied with a very large amount of grant funding. In your answer, be sure to describe each of the following: 1) General Method 2) Hypotheses and Research Questions 3) Sample 4) Data Collection Procedures and 5) Analytical Strategy (how you would analyze your data).

5) The multiple OLS regression examines the effects of two or more independent variables on the dependent variable. Provide a summary based on the output below. Please be able to interpret the coefficient for each independent variable in your summary of the results.

DV = Sentence in Months

IV:

- Misdemeanor (0 = no 1 = yes)
- Type of Trial (0 = plea, 1 = jury trial)
- Alcohol Offense (0 = no, 1 = yes)
- Sex (0 = male, 1 = female)
- Age (left open ended)

Measure	B	SE	Beta
Misdemeanor	9.43*	2.63	0.10
Type of Trial	6.22*	2.55	0.04

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Alcohol Offense	52.11*	2.70	0.12
Sex	-5.03	2.43	-0.04
Age	0.42*	0.09	0.042
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*p<0.05			
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R <sup>2</sup> = 0.42*			
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