

Introduction to
CRIMINOLOGY

Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior



Frank E. Hagan



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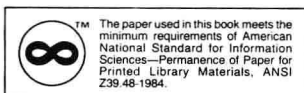
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Criminology

Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior

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P R E F A C E

This text was written to serve the needs of instructors in introductory criminology who wish to avoid the overly legalistic and crime-control orientation of many recent basic criminology textbooks. While a familiarity with the legal and criminal justice systems is important in the basic course, many works have so emphasized these elements that they have given short shrift to the vital core of criminological inquiry: theory, method, and criminal behavior. Detailed analysis of social control agencies without adequate descriptions of criminal activity finds many works resembling an introduction to criminal justice systems rather than one dealing with basic criminology. For such agencies and social policies to be effective, more detailed descriptions and explanations of criminal behavior are a necessity.

Although no social science inquiry can be entirely unbiased or value free, the author has attempted to provide an eclectic theoretical view. If bias is to be acknowledged, the approach might best be described as liberal-conflict. The organization of the text proceeds from an introduction to an analysis of research methods, the latter identifying where the data on crime and criminals comes from. Very general variables and trends in crime are then described in the third chapter. Chapters 4 through 10 are intended to update in detail the criminal behavior systems typology of Marshall Clinard and Richard Quinney. These findings regarding types of criminality are followed by two chapters outlining general theories of crime. The last chapter examines the future of crime and social policy. The tone of the text is set in the relatively uncommon chronology of presenting occupational and corporate/organizational crime before the other types. Such crimes are the most costly and at the aggregate level the most harmful to the social structure, setting the stage for the violent street crimes which threaten the civility of urban life.

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Frank E. Hagan

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CHAPTER 1

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Mala in Se* and *Mala Prohibita

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Criminology

The term *criminology*, literally, “the study of crime,” originated with the French anthropologist Topinard in 1879 (Reid, 1982, p. 17). While criminologists sometimes disagree regarding a proper definition of the field, criminology is generally defined as the science or discipline which studies crime and criminal behavior. Specifically, the field of criminology concentrates upon forms of criminal behavior, the causes of crime, the definition of criminality, and the societal reaction to criminal activity; related areas of inquiry may include juvenile delinquency and victimology or the study of victims. Applied criminology also claims what is labeled as the field of criminal justice: the police, the courts, and corrections. Criminological investigation may probe any or all of these areas. While there is considerable overlap between criminology and criminal justice, criminology shows a greater interest in the causal explanations of crime and criminal justice is more occupied with practical, applied concerns such as technical aspects of policing and corrections. In reality, the fields are highly complementary and interrelated, as indicated by overlapping membership in the two professional organizations representative of the fields: the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

The major concentration in this text will be upon the central areas of criminal behavior, research methodology, and criminological theory. Other areas will be included only to the degree that they impact upon these critical concerns.

This book begins in Chapter 1 with a general introduction to the field of criminology, its definition, emergence as a discipline, and chief areas of study. Chapter 2 explores the major research methods in criminology, critically analyzing the relative accuracy and reliability of data-gathering techniques including official police statistics, experiments, surveys, participant observation, life histories/case studies, and unobtrusive methods. The accuracy of the findings and conclusions presented in later chapters are dependent upon the current state of research methodology. Chapter 3 provides an overview of general characteristics of crime and criminals and explores a variety of variables associated with crime.

Chapters 4–10 present detailed examinations of specific types of criminal behavior, beginning with occupational and corporate crime in Chapter 4. Such predominantly “white