

CRIMINOLOGY



FIFTH
EDITION

JOHN E. CONKLIN

Criminology

FIFTH EDITION

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PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

NEW TO THIS EDITION of Criminology is Chapter 11, "The Organization of Criminal Behavior." The way that criminal activity is structured in groups and organizations is a topic given little attention in most criminology textbooks, even though there is evidence that juvenile delinquency, professional theft, drug smuggling and dealing, and organized crime are often carried out by ongoing groups of offenders.

Another change in this edition is the merging of two chapters from the fourth edition: Chapter 2 ("A Typology of Crimes") and Chapter 4 ("The Costs of Crime"). The material in these chapters has been condensed and presented in what is now Chapter 3, "Crime and Its Costs."

This book remains organized around a conceptual scheme, unlike the core of most textbooks, which use a "crime-of-the-week club" approach (for example, a chapter on violent crime, a chapter on organized crime, a chapter on white-collar crime, and so on). This book contains as much material on those crimes as other books, but the material appears in chapters that treat conceptual issues, such as the socioeconomic sources of crime or the way that criminal behavior is organized. In revising this book, I have, as usual, paid close attention to professional journals and books in criminology and sociology. This literature develops and tests hypotheses and theories; it is conceptual in nature, rather than focused on telling the reader everything he or she might like to know about a particular type of crime. I believe that such a conceptual approach is the best way to understand crime and the most useful way to introduce students to the tools and ideas with which to analyze criminal behavior.

This edition retains the three types of boxes used in the previous edition: Cross-Cultural Perspectives, Using Criminology, and Crime on Campus. A list of the boxes in this edition appears at the end of the table of contents; new boxes have an asterisk.

For this edition, I have expanded the discussion of conflict theory in Chapter 1, added a section on class and sentencing (Chapter 13), and updated the discussion of gender and sentencing (Chapter 13). I have expanded the treatment of white-collar crime by looking at the abuse of research funds by colleges and universities, by considering a new book by David Weisburd and his colleagues, and by discussing Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi's contention that white-collar offenders are no different from conventional offenders. Gottfredson and Hirschi's general theory of crime, which posits that all types of criminals are low in self-control, is investigated in Chapter 5 and elsewhere. Robert Sampson and John Laub's impor-

tant new work on delinquency and crime over the life cycle is examined in Chapter 7. The debate over the value of criminal-career research is treated at the beginning of Chapter 10. Community policing, a widely discussed strategy for dealing with the crime problem, is explored in Chapter 13. Newly published research on the impact of arrest on domestic violence is considered in Chapter 14. Finally, important recent events such as the Rodney King beating and the 1992 presidential election are dealt with throughout the book.

A feature new to this edition is the set of Review Questions at the end of each chapter; I hope these questions will be useful to readers in reviewing the material and to instructors in developing essay questions for examinations. Important terms are highlighted in the text, listed at the end of each chapter, and defined in the Glossary at the end of the book. Each chapter has a detailed but concise Summary and an annotated list of Suggested Readings. References in the text are to an end-of-text Bibliography, which is followed by a Name Index and a Subject Index.

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J.E.C.

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