

Criminology Unit 1- Changing Awareness of Crime Key Terms

Learning outcome 1- understanding how crime reporting affects public perception of criminality:

Crime- A breach of rules that are set by society.

White collar crime- Non-violent crime traditionally committed in commercial situations for financial gain. This crime is largely committed by a businessperson, whether that be to gain an advantage personally or for the corporation.

Technology crime- Crime committed using a computer and internet or other electronic technology.

Hate crime- Crime inflicted on a person because of hostility or prejudice towards the persons disability, race or ethnicity, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Domestic abuse-An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling coercive, threatening and degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in most of the case by a partner or ex-partner, but could be a family member or carer.

Culture-bound crime- This crime that tends to belong to a particular culture. Examples include honour killing, witchcraft and female genital mutilation.

Impact- The effect or consequence of something. In this instance, what effect the media representation of crime has on the public.

Public perception- The public's concept or understanding of something, such as the perceived level of crime in a particular place, or the preserved severity of crimes. Generally, it is a collective opinion or belief.

Validity- Having authority or weight, strength and soundness and accurate. For example, whether a verdict from a criminal case is a valid decision or not.

Limitation- A restriction or control; a limit to what something can do or how good it can be.

Criminal- Actions that will constitute an offence under English and Welsh law and are punishable by the state.

Deviance- Any behaviour that violates social or cultural norms or accepted standards. Much of society will generally disapprove of deviant behaviour.

Genocide- Any action with intention to destroy, in whole or part, a national, ethnic or religious group.

European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)- A treaty or agreement to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe.

Atrocity- A horrific and usually violent act.

Phishing- A scam or an attempt to persuade someone to give out personal information, such as bank account numbers, passwords and credit card details.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)- The principle prosecuting authority for England and Wales, which acts independently in criminal cases investigated by the police.

Dark figure of crime- The amount of unreported or unknown crime.

Cyber-bullying- A form of bullying using electronic devices, for example mobile phones, tablets or computers. It is becoming increasingly common especially among teenagers.

Decriminalise- Stop something from being illegal.

Perpetrators- People who commit criminal acts (offenders).

Legalise- Make an act legal within the law.

Historic offences- Crimes that were committed many years ago but are being prosecuted now, often due to a delay in reporting them to the police.

Stigma- A mark of disgrace associated with something bad.

Tabloid- A type of popular newspaper with small pages, many pictures and short stories.

Broadsheet- A more serious newspaper that used to be printed on large sheets of paper but is now often printed on smaller sheets.

Scaremonger- Spread stories that caused the public fear.

Moral panic- Used to describe the consequence of the media presentation of something that has happened where the general public react in a panicky manner. The reporting is usually exaggerated and consequently the public reaction is inflated.

Islamophobia- A dislike of or prejudice against Islam or Muslims.

Amnesty- To officially pardon or give official confirmation that no criminal action will be taken.

Civil liberties- Basic rights and freedoms granted to citizens of a country by the law.

Victim survey- Occur where the intention is to interview a representative sample of a particular population and to ask a series of questions about their experiences of victimisation. These surveys started in the USA; the first such survey in the UK was in 1972. It later became the British Crime Survey and from 2012 has been called the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

Learning outcome 2- understanding how campaigns are used to elicit change:

Campaign for change- related to a set of planned activities that people carry out over a period of time in order to achieve something such as social or legal change.

Compare- Identify and explain similarities and differences.

Effectiveness- the degree to which something is successful.

Petition- A formal written request, typically one signed by many people, appealing to authority in response of a particular cause.

Vigilante- a person who tries an unofficial way to prevent crime occurring or to catch and punish a criminal, usually as they believe the police are unable to do so.

Paedophile- a person with a sexual attraction to children.

Referendum- a general vote by electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

Constitutional law- the fundamental principles according to which a state is governed.

Dignity in Dying- a campaign group who believe that assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent adults should be legal in the UK.

Bill- a proposed piece of legislation that attempts to proceed through the stages of parliamentary law making.

Internet troll- a person who upsets people on the internet by starting arguments or by posting inflammatory messages.

Event- an occasion that takes place, especially one of importance, to promote a campaign's cause.

Funding- money provided for a particular purpose.

Learning outcome 3- plan campaigns for change relating to crime:

Simulator- a website that allows you to produce a fake social media account.

Justify- explain with good reason what you have done and why you have chosen it.

Tag line- a catchy or short, snappy statement that usually promotes action or persuades the audience to do something or think a particular way.

Slogan- a short and memorable phrase often used for the purpose of advertising.

Criminology Unit 2- Criminological Theories

Learning outcome 1- understanding social constructions of criminality

Crime- an act or omission which breaks the criminal law and for which a sanction will be issued.

Deviance- acting against social norms.

Actus reus- Latin for guilty act

Mens rea- Latin for guilty mind

Strict liability- where the law will impose criminal liability even if the defendant does not have a mens rea or guilty mind. For example health and safety offences such as pollution or the sale of unfit meat.

Combination order- A sentence of the court that combines a probation order and a community service order

Culture- the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Moral Crimes- crimes against morality, often considered to be victimless crimes because there is no specific victim.

Capital punishment- also known as the death penalty- the legally authorised killing of someone as a punishment for a crime.

Social construction- something based on the collective views developed and maintained within a society or social group.

Civil partnership- Legally recognised agreement for both same-sex couples and heterosexual couples

Execute- To kill someone as a legal punishment

Statute- An Act of Parliament or legislation

Miscarriage of justice- The conviction and punishment of a person for crime that they had not committed

Acquittal- Verdict of a court when someone is found not guilty of a crime they have been charged with doing

Soliciting- To offer sex for money usually in a public place

Kerb crawling- Driving slowly along a road close to a pavement or walkway, in order to ask a prostitute for sex

Brothel- A place where men go to pay to have sex with a prostitute

Manslaughter- An unlawful killing without malice or aforethought and in circumstances when it is not murder

Diminished responsibility- A particular defence for murder resulting in a conviction for manslaughter instead of murder

Mandatory- Required by law

Consent- A defence in law that proves permission was provided by the appropriate person for the crime to occur

Self-defence- A defence in law allowing the use of reasonable force to avoid conviction

Automatism- A defence in law where the defendant is not in control of their actions

Learning outcome 2- know theories of crime:

Biological- relating to processes or activities concerned with living things. For our purposes, it relates to the body, both inside and outside, as reasons for committing crimes.

Genetic- relating to genes or heredity.

Physiology- the functions of living organisms, in our case human beings and their parts, and in particular, the way in which they function.

Neurochemical- a chemical that can transfer signals that regulate thoughts and emotions.

Monozygotic- Identical twins

Dizygotic- Non-identical (fraternal) twins

Concordance- In agreement or harmony

Atavistic- relating to something ancient or ancestral

Somatotype- Body shape

PET scan- Positron emission tomography (PET) scans are used to produce detailed- three dimensional images of the inside of the body

Individualistic- relating to an individual rather than a group or society as a whole.

Observational learning- When an observer's behaviour changes after viewing the behaviour of a model

Differential associations- Interactions with others

Juvenile delinquent- Someone under the age of 18 years who has broken the law

Control group- A group in an experiment or study that does not receive treatment by the researchers and is then used as a benchmark to measure how other subjects tested did

Extraversion- Being mainly concerned with and gaining pleasure from things outside of the self

Introversion- Directing your interests inwards or to things within the self

Neuroticism- To have feelings of anxiety, worry or anger or fear

Stability- Unlikely to move or change

Psychoticism- A personality pattern that is typified by aggression and hostility towards other people

Bourgeoisie- the middle and upper classes who own the means of production in industry.

Proletariat- the lower social class, who must provide their labour to the upper classes for a wage.

Criminogenic- causing or likely to cause criminal behaviour.

American dream- the idea of equal opportunity for all to achieve high aspirations and goals.

Anomie- loss of shared principled or norms.

Relative deprivation- how someone feels in relation to others (in terms of wealth, for example) or compared with their own expectations.

Marxism- The political and economic theories of Karl Marx, which states that capitalism is unequal and undemocratic, being based on the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class/ bourgeoisie

Capitalism- The social systems in which the means for producing and distributing goods (the country's trade and industry) are controlled by a small minority of people for profit (the capitalist class). The majority of people must sell their ability to work in return for a wage or salary (the working class/proletariat)

Ritualistic- Performing in the same way

Retreatist- Rejecting society's prescribes goals and the conventional means of attaining them

Folk devils- A person of bad influence on society

Deviance amplification- A process often performed by the media, in which the extent and seriousness of deviant behaviour is exaggerated, creating a greater awareness and interest in deviance

Stereotyping- A widely held but fixed, over-enlarged image or idea of a type of person

Learning outcome 3- understanding cause of criminality:

Analyse- examine in detail, break into component parts, examine relationships.

Evaluate- to make a judgment about the quality or importance of a theory by providing strengths and weaknesses of how well the theory supports the reasons for criminality. Ideally, come to a conclusion and justify how you have made your choice.

Ecological validity- the extent to which findings of a research study are able to be generalised to real-life settings.

Assess- make a judgment about the quality or value of something. Is the theory, for example useful when discussing crimes and, if so how?

Eugenics- the science of improving a population by controlled breeding, to increase the occurrence of desirable heritable characteristics.

Inform- give knowledge or have an impact or effect on, for example policy.

Recidivism- The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend

Learning outcome 4- understanding causes of policy change:

Biological determinism- A person's personality or behaviour is caused by the genes they've inherited rather than by social or cultural factors, i.e. by nature rather than nurture

Incarcerated criminals- People who have been found guilty of a criminal offence and received a term of imprisonment as a punishment

Punitive laws- Laws that intend to punish

Custodial sentences- A punishment of being sent to prison

Facilitator- Someone who assist in making a task easier or helps somebody to find a solution

Safeguarding- Protecting form harm or damage with an appropriate measure

Demographics- statistical information about a population.

Miscarriage of justice- a criminal cases where the defendant has been convicted for a crime that they did not commit. The conviction of an innocent person.

Sex Offenders Register- Contains the details of anybody convicted, cautioned or released from prison for sexual offences against children or adults since September 1997. It is kept by the police has around 9,000 people on it

Pilot scheme- Used to test an idea before deciding whether to introduce it on a large scale

Young Offenders Institution- A type of prison for 18- to 20-year-olds