Sociology 371 – Criminology
Spring Quarter 2018

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE FIRST EXAM

The first exam for Sociology 371 will take place on Thursday, April 12 in lecture. Please be sure to bring (a) a scan sheet (the large version, which you may purchase from the bookstore); (b) a number 2 pencil; and (c) a ballpoint pen.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

The first exam will cover the following topics, including the readings listed plus the lecture material:

I.   **Introduction to the Course**
      Definition of Criminology

II.   **The Classical School of Criminology**
      A.   Historical Context and Critique of the 18th Century European Legal System.
      B.   Four Key Assumptions of the Classical School.
      C.   System of Justice Outlined by Beccaria.
      D.   Three Critiques of the Classical School (Marxist, Feminist, Critical Race Theory)
      E.   Readings:
           Trevino, A. Javier. 1996. "Cesare Beccaria: Legal Reformer." Pp. 13-20 in *The Sociology of Law: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
           Radzinowitz, Sir Leon. 1966. *Ideology and Crime*. New York: Columbia University, Chapter 1.

III. **Definition of Crime and Law**
      A.   Legalistic Definition of Crime.
           1.   Legally acceptable defenses.
           2.   Criminal intent (mens rea)
           3.   Insanity defense: M'Naghten rule, Durham rule, Insanity Defense Reform Act (1984).
           4.   Strict liability laws (public welfare offenses).
      B.   Definition of Criminal Law.
           1.   Ideal characteristics: politicality; uniformity; specificity; penal sanction.
           2.   Criminal vs. civil law; common vs. statutory law.
      C.   Readings:
           Kauzlarich, David, and David O. Friedrichs. 2005. Definitions of Crime." Pp. 273-275 in *Encyclopedia of Criminology*. Edited by Richard Wright and J. Mitchell Miller. New York: Routledge.
           Hemmens, Craig. 2005. "Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications and Excuses;." Pp. 377-380 in *Encyclopedia of Criminology*. Edited by Richard Wright and J. Mitchell Miller. New York: Routledge.

IV.   **Trends in Crime and Incarceration**
      A.   Trends in Crime Rates
           1. Decline in Crime
           2. Explanations of the Decline
           3. Crime by Immigrants
      B.   Trends in Incarceration Rates
      C.   Trends in Guns: Ownership and Public Attitudes
      D.   Readings:
           Rosenfeld, Richard. 2002. "Crime Decline in Context." *Contexts* 1:25-34.
           Western, Bruce, and Becky Pettit. 2002. "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality." *Contexts* 1:37-43.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Part I. Multiple Choice

1. A man shoots a gun intending to kill Ralph, but misses and kills Mary instead. The man is:

    a.   guilty of murder because at the time of the act, he had criminal intent to murder Mary.
    b.   not guilty of murder because of he did not intend to kill Mary.
    c.   guilty of murder because of transferred intent.
    d.   not guilty of murder because his actus reas exceeded his mens rea.
    e.   none of the above.

2. In the reading, "Cesare Beccaria: Legal Reformer." Trevino argues that Beccaria wanted punishments to be:

    a.   just severe enough to outweigh the pleasures of pain.
    b.   swift so that the pleasure of crime and the pain of the penalty are connected in people's minds.
    c.   certain, so that people believe there is a high probability of being punished and will be deterred.
    d.   All of the above.
    e.   a and c only.

                                             Answers: 1c 2d

Part II. Short Answer

4. List, and briefly describe in one sentence, the four ideal characteristics of criminal law that distinguishes criminal laws from other rules in society. (4 points).

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                                             Answers: see lecture notes