

Sociology 371 – Criminology

Spring Quarter 2018

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE SECOND EXAM

The second exam for Sociology 371 will take place on Tuesday, May 8 during 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 ball point pen. **Note: Peterson and Krivo (2010) will not be covered on the second exam.**

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

The second exam will cover the following topics (not covered on the first exam):

I. Deterrence and Rational Choice

- A. General vs. Specific Deterrence; Marginal vs. Absolute Deterrence
- B. Variables in the Deterrent Effect
- C. Specific Deterrence Research
 - 1. Minneapolis domestic assault study
 - 2. Replications
- D. General Deterrence Research: Denver Deterrence Study
 - 1. Experiential learning of perceived risk of arrest
 - 2. Rational choice, deterrence, and crime
 - 3. Findings
 - 4. Conclusions
- E. Readings:
 - Marshall, Chris E. 2002. "Deterrence Theory." Pp. 512-515 in *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment*. Edited by D. Levinson. Beverly Hills: Sage.
 - Levitt, Steven D. 2002. "Deterrence." Pp. 435-450 in *Crime: Public Policies for Crime Control*. Edited by J.Q. Wilson and J. Petersilia. Oakland, CA: ICS press.
 - Berk, Richard A. 1984. "The Specific Deterrent Effect of Arrest for Domestic Assault." Pp. 357-361 in *Classics of Criminology*. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.

II. Criminal Careers and Selective Incapacitation

- A. Incapacitation vs. Selective Incapacitation.
- B. Criminal Career Research.
 - 1. Delinquency in a birth cohort.
 - 2. Crime rates = (participation rates) x (frequency rates).
 - 3. Gottfredson and Hirschi's critique based on the age-crime curve.
 - 4. Moffitt's response: adolescent limited vs. life course persistent offenders.
- C. Greenwood's RAND Study Predicting High Rate Criminals.
 - 1. Seven-point scale.
 - 2. Sentencing strategy and predicted results.
 - 3. RAND followup of Greenwood's study.
 - 4. Potential problems.
- D. Readings:
 - Blumstein, Alfred, and Jacqueline Cohen. 1987. "Characterizing Criminal Careers." *Science*, 237:985-

III. Social Disorganization and Cultural Transmission

- A. Chicago School of Human Ecology
 - 1. Invasion, competition, succession
 - 2. Concentric zones
- B. Spatial Distribution of Delinquency: Four Facts to be Explained
- C. Social Disorganization
- D. Cultural Transmission
- E. Chicago Area Projects
- F. Readings:
 - Shaw and McKay, "Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas." Pp. 13-19 in *Classics of Criminology*. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.
 - Shaw and McKay, "Differential Systems of Values." Pp. 193-200 in *Classics of Criminology*. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.

Note: Peterson and Krivo (2010) will *not* be covered on the second exam.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Part I. Multiple Choice

1. In their article, “Characterizing Criminal Careers,” Blumstein and Cohen decomposed the crime rate into participation and frequency (lambda) and argued that selective incapacitation has potential only when
 - a. Participation is high and frequency (lambda) is low.
 - b. Both participation and frequency (lambda) are low.
 - c. Both participation and frequency (lambda) are high.
 - d. Participation is low and frequency is high.
 - e. None of the above.

2. As discussed in lecture, Peter Greenwood’s RAND study of high rate offenders developed a seven-point prediction scale, and developed a sentencing rule in which high rate robbers would get 8 years in prison, and all others would get 1 year. He ran some simulations and suggested that this would
 - a. reduce the robbery rate but be very expensive.
 - b. reduce the robbery rate by fifteen percent and reduce the number of imprisoned robbers by five percent.
 - c. have no effect on the robbery rate but reduce the number of imprisoned robbers by fifteen percent.
 - d. increase the robbery rate by five percent and increase the number of imprisoned robbers by fifteen percent.
 - e. increase the robbery rate by five percent and reduce the number of imprisoned robbers by fifteen percent.

Answers: 1d, 2b

Part II. Short Answer

1. In class, we discussed the deterrence doctrine, which specifies three variables in the deterrent effect (originally specified by Beccaria) which help explain whether punishment will have a strong deterrent effect or not. These are:

Answers: See Notes