Sociology 401D – Crime and the Life Course
Spring Quarter 2013

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE FIRST EXAM

The first exam for Sociology 401D will take place on Thursday, April 18 in lecture. Please be sure to bring (a) a scan sheet (the large version, which you may purchase from the bookstore) and (b) a number 2 pencil.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

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

I.   **Definition of Crime, Delinquency, and Behavior Problems**
    A.   Criminal Behavior.
        1.   Definition
        2.   Measurement (UCR, Victimization Surveys, Self-Report Surveys)
    B.   Juvenile Delinquency.
        1.   Delinquent acts, status offenses, wards of the juvenile court.
        2.   Invention of the juvenile court.
    C.   Child Behavior Problems.
        1.   Continuity with delinquency and crime.
        2.   Achenbach behavioral checklist.
    D.   Readings
        Bensen (2013), Chapter 1. Pages 1-31.

II.   **Life Course Approach.**
    A.   Definition of the Life Course.
    B.   Life Course Perspective.
        1.   Life course event, transition, trajectory, turning point.
        2.   Age, period, and cohort effects.
    C.   Readings:
        Elder, Glenn H. 1985. "Perspectives on the Life Course". Pp. 23-48 in *Life Course Dynamics: Trajectories and Transitions, 1968-1980*, edited by G.H. Elder. Ithaca: Cornell,*
        Caspi, Avshalom, Glen H. Elder, and Daryl J. Bem. 1987. "Moving Against the World: Life-Course Patterns of Explosive Children." Developmental Psychology 23:308-313.

III. **Age-Crime Curve and Trajectory Groups.**
    A.   Shape of the Age-Crime Curve
    B.   Hirschi and Gottfredson: Invariant Age-Crime Curve
        1.   No social theory can explain it.
        2.   Life course, criminal careers, longitudinal data, selective incapacitation all drawn into question.
    C.   Moffitt's Developmental Taxonomy
        1.   Adolescence-limited offenders.
        2.   Life course persistent offenders.
    D.   Empirical Evidence on Trajectory Groups.
    C.   Readings:
        Bensen (2013) pp. 84-94 and pp. 96-104.

IV. **Low Self Control Theory**
    A.   Unobserved Heterogeneity versus State Dependence.
    B.   Three Facts Criminological Theories Cannot Explain
        1. Stability.
        2. Versatility.
        3. Age-crime curve.
    C.   Characteristics of Crime & Criminals.
    D.   Criminal events vs. Criminal Propensity.
    E.   Origin of Low Self Control.
    F.   Criticisms (Tautology).

G.   Readings
Bensen (2013), pp. 94-104
Gottfedson, Michael R., and Travis Hirschi. 1990. *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford, CA: Stanford, Chapter 5
(pp. 85-120).

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

For the following questions, select the letter that corresponds to the SINGLE best answer. Multiple answers will be counted worng.

1.   A life course transition is **best** defined as:

a.   an event that has important implications for the life course.
b.   a move from one life course state or role to another.
c.   the effect of unobserved heterogeneity on crime over time.
d.   all of the above.
e.   none of the above.

2.   In the reading, "Perspective on the Life Course," Glen Elder discussed a number of important features of the life course, including

a.   trajectories and transitions.
b.   the interdependence of the life course.
c.   the context of lives.
d.   interlocking trajectories over the life course.
e.   all of the above.

3.   In the reading, "Moving Against the World," Caspi et al. argue that temper tantrums early in life can lead to maladaptive behaviors later in life through interactional continuity. This refers to

a.   the progressive accumulation of the consequences of maladaptive behavior.
b.   evoking maintaining responses from other during reciprocal social interaction.
c.   interacting with the same people over time.
d.   all of the above.
e.   none of the above.

4.   According to lecture, low self-control is an example of

a.   state dependence
b.   life course transition.
c.   life course turning point.
d.   unobserved heterogeneity.
e.   none of the above.