

Sociology 401D – Crime and the Life Course

Spring Quarter 2013

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE SECOND EXAM

The second exam for Sociology 401D will take place on Tuesday, May 14 during 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. Informal Social Control Theory

- A. Hirschi's Social Control Theory
 - 1. Four Bonds to Society
 - 2. Delinquent Peers.
- B. Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control (Sampson and Laub)
 - 1. Informal Social Bonds vary over the Life Course
 - 2. Stability and Change in Offending
 - 3. Trajectories and Turning Points
 - 4. Delinquent Peers
 - 5. Selection into Life Course Roles.
 - 6. Laub and Sampson: Three additional Concepts
- C. Readings
Bensen (2013), pp. 104-107.
Sampson, Robert J., and John H. Laub. 1993. *Crime in the Making*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard, Chapter 1 pp. 6-24.

II. Differential Association Theory

- A. Normative Conflict
 - B. Differential Association Process: Learning in Primary Groups
 - 1. Criminal skills and techniques
 - 2. Definitions favorable and unfavorable to crime
 - C. Five Techniques of Neutralization (Sykes and Matza)
 - D. Necessary and Sufficient Conditions for Crime
 - E. Differential Social Organization
 - F. Criticisms.
- Readings
- Matsueda, Ross L. 2001. "Differential Association Theory," In *Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior, Vol.1*, edited by Clifton D. Bryant. New York: Taylor and Francis.*

III. Social Learning Theories

- A. Differential Reinforcement
- B. Definitions of delinquency as discriminative stimuli
- C. Imitation, Modeling, and Vicarious Reinforcement
- D. Social Structure and Social Organization
- E. Criticisms.
- F. Readings
Sellers, Christine S., and L. Thomas Winfree, Jr. 2010. "Ronald L. Akers: Social Learning Theory." Pp. 21-29 in *Encyclopedia of Criminological Theory*, edited by F. T. Cullen, and P. Wilcox. Beverly Hills: Sage.

IV. Rational Choice Theory

- A. Utility Maximization Theory
- B. Bounded Rationality

V. Symbolic Interaction Theories

- A. G.H. Mead and American Pragmatism
- B. Blumer: Symbolic interaction
- C. Mead's Analysis of the Social Act
- D. Taking the Role of the Other (Mead)
 - 1. Habitual behavior

2. Problematic situation
3. Role-taking: Inner dialogue between phases of the self
4. Generalized Other
5. Implications
- E. Role-Taking and Crime
 1. Identity Theory
 2. Reference Groups
 3. Meaning of Crime
- F. Symbolic Interaction, Crime and Life Course
- G. Labeling Theory
- H. Conclusions
- I. Readings:

Bensen (2013) pp. 144-145.

Matsueda, Ross L., and Karen Heimer. 1997. "A Symbolic Interactionist Theory of Role Transitions, Role Commitments, and Delinquency." *Advances in Criminological Theory, Vol. 7, Developmental Theories of Crime and Delinquency*, edited by Terence P. Thornberry. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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

1. In his original social control theory, Travis Hirschi (1969) argued that the delinquency is controlled by strong bonds to society, which includes:
 - a. Attachment to others
 - b. Commitment to conventional lines of action
 - c. Involvement in conventional activities
 - d. Belief in the single moral order
 - e. all of the above
2. In the reading, "A Symbolic Interactionist Theory of Role Transitions, Role Commitments, and Delinquency." Matsueda and Heimer argue in favor of:
 - a. control theories of life course and crime.
 - b. abandoning study of the life course
 - c. emphasizing operant conditioning over the life course
 - d. strain theories of life course and crime
 - e. none of the above.
3. According to lecture, the necessary and sufficient conditions for crime for differential association are:
 - a. learning the techniques and skills for crime.
 - b. learning an excess of definitions favorable to crime.
 - c. having the objective opportunity to commit crime.
 - d. all of the above.
 - e. a and b only.