

LESSON PLAN:  
Introduction to Criminological Theory  
**August 19 – August 25**

**Description:** This lesson offers an introduction to criminology as the scientific study of the making of laws, violation of norms, and society’s response to law. This lesson describes the social construction of crime in a society where laws are arrived at by the consensus of most members of society. Students will also examine the uses and usefulness of the discipline of criminology.

**Learning Goal:** The goal of this lesson is to introduce the use and usefulness of criminology and the concepts that explain criminal behavior; and then, to distinguish between different types of criminology.

**Lesson Objectives:**

Comprehension	Identify the philosophical assumptions on which all theories are based
Knowledge	Define the social construction of crime
Application	Describe how an individual has “promoted his or her own interpretation” of a social construction of criminal behavior
Synthesis	Explain why Fielding is the father of criminology
Analysis	Assess why theory is important
Evaluation	Examine the distinctions between analytic and experimental criminology

**Resources, Activities, and Assessments:**

1. Two Required Readings (~20 pages):
  - Bohm and Vogel text: Chapter 1- An Introduction to Theory (p.1-11)
  - (PDF) Lawrence, Sherman. “The Use and Usefulness of Criminology, 1751-2005: Enlightened Justice and Its Failures” (p.24-32)
2. Lecture: The Social Construction of Crime
  - Definition of crime, intent, defense, social construction of crime
3. YouTube Video: “Implementing Criminological Theories” (1:14)
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSTeqjoMEuA>
4. Two Learning Assessments (100 points):
  - Crime and Theory Essay (40 points) **DUE 8/22 by 11pm**
    - Theory, components of theory, philosophical assumptions, importance of theory, social construction of crime (~3 paragraphs)
  - Article Summary and Analysis (60 points) **DUE 8/25 by 11pm**
    - Enlightenment, Fielding, Beccaria, and Bentham, Cambridge-Somerville, Martinson-Wilson, Stewart, analytic criminology, experimental criminology (~3 ½ paragraphs)