

module one notes

definition of criminology

- criminology: a study that focuses on understanding crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system

· causes, consequences, prevention

* Why do crimes occur?

* What are the patterns?

* What are the trends in criminal behavior?

- theoretical criminology: explaining why individuals commit crimes

· strain theory

· social learning theory

· rational choice theory

- criminal profiling: analyzing offender characteristics, behaviors, and patterns of criminal activity to develop profiles that aid in identifying/apprehending criminals

- penology: study of punishment/rehabilitation of offenders

· effectiveness of correctional programs

· impact of imprisonment

- victimology: investigating the experiences/consequences of crime on victims, as well as the factors that contribute to victimization and ways to support and empower victims

- comparative criminology: comparing crime rates, criminal justice systems, and crime prevention strategies across different countries to understand the impact of social/cultural factors

* criminology: comprehensive understanding of crime/contribute to the development of evidence-based policies/interventions to prevent/address criminal behavior in society

Why do individuals engage in crime?

1) rational choice theory: engage bc crime is a profitable/low risk activity (weight of crime vs. weight of punishment)

2) social structure theory: social institutions (family, education, economy, community) play a role in how likely a person will become a criminal

3) social learning theory: individuals mimic the behavior of the criminals around them

4) strain theory: when ppl experience strain/pressure in their life, they engage in criminal behavior

5) routine activities theory: motivated offender, suitable target, absence of capable guardians

6) self-control theory: criminals have low self-control