

# Theories of Causation

**Why do teenagers commit crime?**

CRIM 3090 Juvenile Justice

Dr. Alvarez



I genuinely want to help you be  
successful writers...

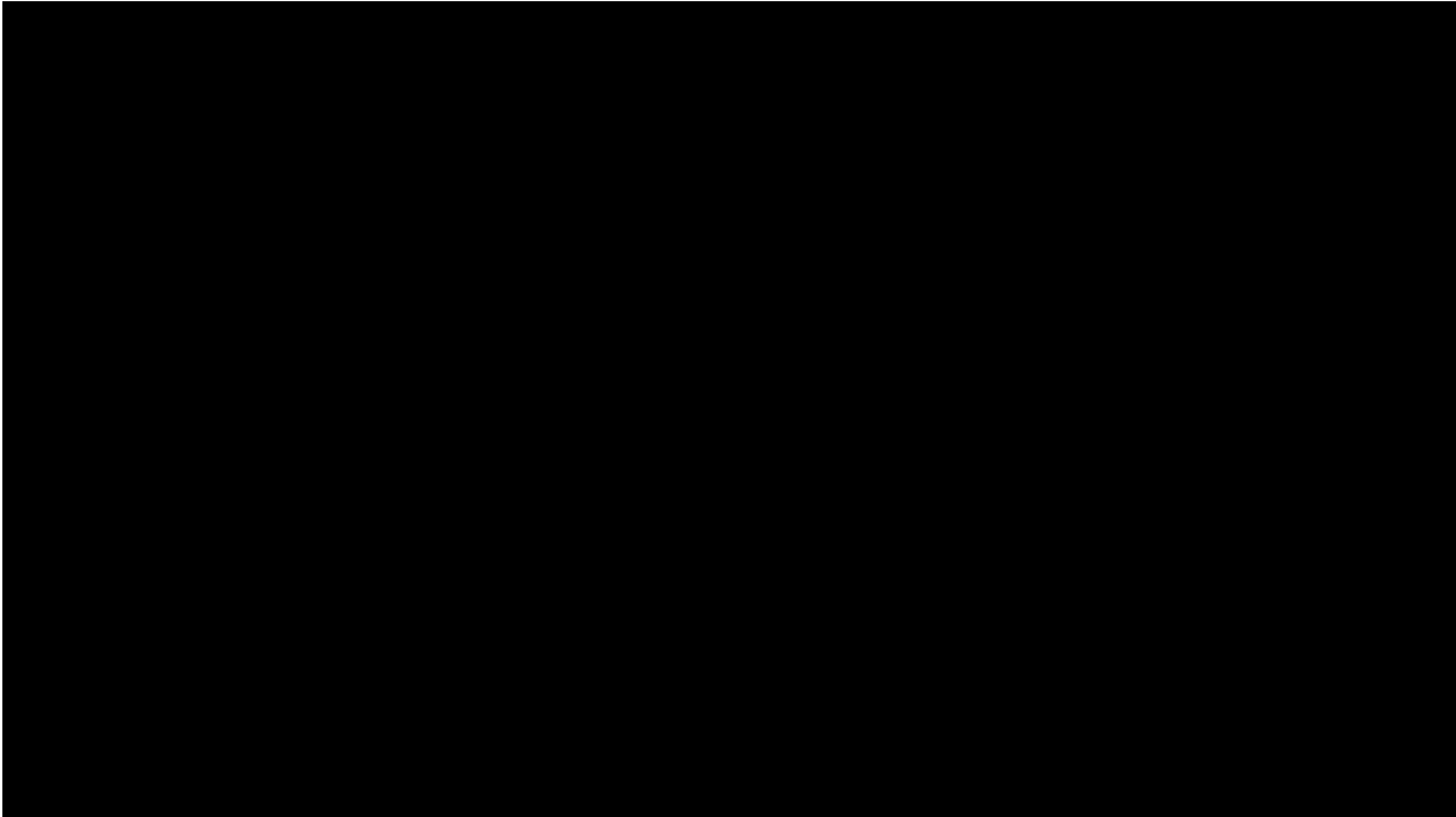


**grammarly**



**grammarly**

- I'm not sure if I ever shared this with you but, I was very insecure with my writing, so I had to find ways to help myself feel more secure.
- I encourage you to use programs like Grammarly.
- As Cal State LA students, you get the paid version for FREE!!!
- Create an account using your MyCalStateLA ID account (@calstatela.edu) but DO NOT USE your campus password at Grammarly.
- You will receive an email to confirm your Grammarly registration. Your account will be active after the registration.
- Let me show you how the program works!



# Basic APA Stuff

- You are required to apply APA to all your writing prompts.
- The majority of you are missing the BASIC APA mark so I want to talk to you today about APA....
  - Citations
  - References

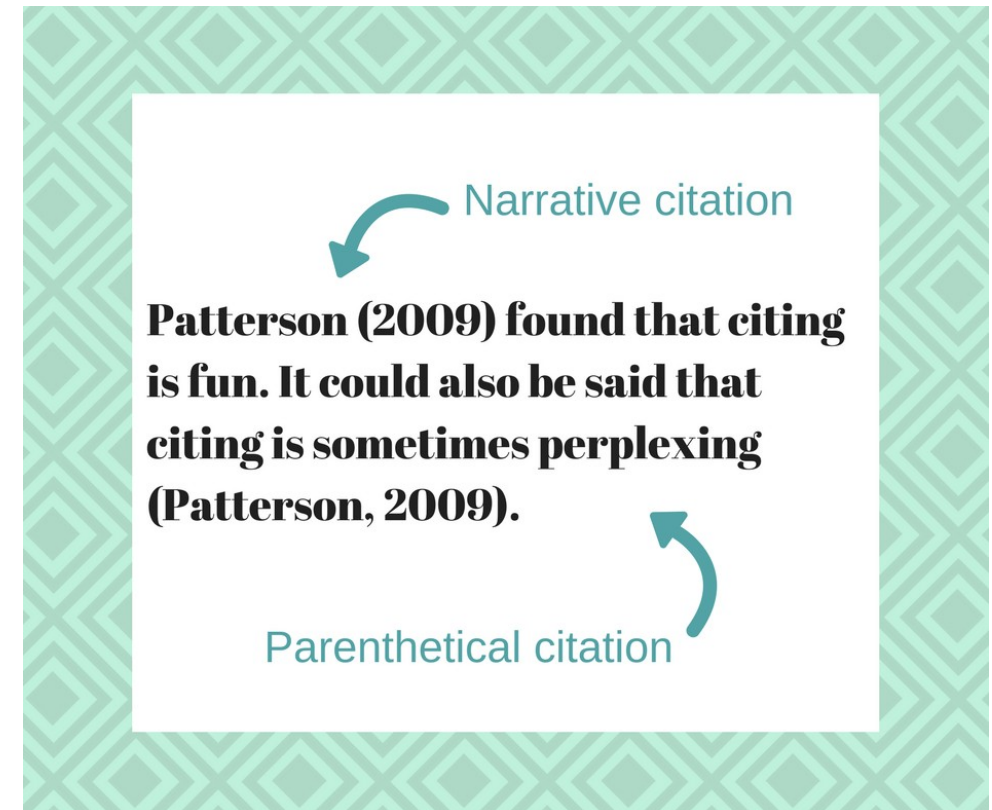


**APA  
STYLE**



# Citations

- Citing your sources is an APA writing approach that gives credit to the authors you got the information from.
- In APA you can cite your sources in two ways.
  - In-text (Narrative)
  - Parenthetical
- You will need to cite if you are writing about:
  - An idea or concept belonging to some else
  - A direct sentence from the author or source



# Citations Continued... In-Text

- An in-text (also known as narrative) citation means you cite your source within your sentence.
- For example:
  - According to Velazquez (2023), it is important to cite your original source to give them credit for their work and ideas.
  - Research conducted by Velazquez and Alvarez (2023), suggest that most students are expected to learn APA but are never formally taught how to apply this writing style.

**EXAMPLE**

# Citations Continued... Parenthetical

- A parenthetical citation means you cite your source at the end of the sentence.
- For example:
  - It is important to cite your original source to give them credit for their work and ideas (Velazquez, 2023).
  - Most students are expected to learn APA but are never formally taught how to apply this writing style (Velazquez & Alvarez, 2023).

**EXAMPLE**





# Citations

## Two Ways to Insert Your Citation

### Parenthetical Citation

- 1) **Author's family name** and **Year** is included **at the end** of a sentence in **parentheses**.
  - Example: ...virtues of wit (Smith, 2010).

### Narrative Citation

- 1) The **author's family name** is included as **part of a sentence** followed by the **Year** in **parentheses**.
  - Example: Smith (2010) discusses how....
- 2) The **Year** may also be included as **part of** the narrative.
  - Example: In 2010, Smith noted that....



# Citations Continued...

- Rule of thumb:
  - Only use last names of the authors and the publication year (no initials)
  - If you use in-text, make sure to put the year the sources were published in parenthesis
  - If you use parenthetical citations make sure the “and” turns into an “&”

- For example:
  - According to Velazquez (2023)
  - (Velazquez & Alvarez, 2023)

UNCOMMON  
KNOWLEDGE

- <https://youtu.be/Wfzo80CELqw> (style experts provide an in-depth look at the APA Style citation system)
- <https://apastyle.apa.org/guidelines/citations/classroom-intranet-sources>





# Reference Page

- Like everything we just talked about, the reference page also has formatting rules we need to follow.
- The first rule is the word “Reference” is in **bold** and starts on a new page on your word doc.
- Your sources must be alphabetized.

## References

- Amrein-Beardsley, A., & Holloway, J. (2017). Value-added models for teacher evaluation and accountability: Commonsense assumptions. *Educational Policy*, 33(3), 516–542.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0895904817719519>
- Ballou, D., & Springer, M. G. (2015). Using student test scores to measure teacher performance. *Educational Researcher*, 44(2), 77–86. <https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189x15574904>
- Ballou, D., Sanders, W., & Wright, P. (2004). Controlling for student background in value-added assessment of teachers. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 29(1), 37–65.  
<https://doi.org/10.3102/10769986029001037>
- Robbins, S., & Judge, T. (2019). *Organizational behavior*. Pearson Education Limited.
- Whitehead, M. (n.d.). *Teachers look at supervision - ASCD*.  
[http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed\\_lead/el\\_195211\\_whitehead.pdf](http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed_lead/el_195211_whitehead.pdf)

# Reference Page Continued....



Page number

5

**Bold**

**References**

**Indented  
second line**

**Everything is  
double spaced**

Fleishman, L. J., Ogas, B., Steinberg, D., & Leal, M. [FunctionalEcology].

(2015, June 24). *Why do Anolis dewlaps glow? An analysis of a translucent visual signal* [Video]. YouTube.<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=errevFcr01k>

McDaniel, D. (n.d.). *Anolis cristatellus*. Animal Diversity Web.

[https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Anolis\\_cristatellus/](https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Anolis_cristatellus/)

Vanhooydonck, B., Herrel, A., Van Damme, R., Meyers, J., & Irschick, D. J.

(2005). The relationship between dewlap size and performance changes with age and sex in a Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) lizard population. *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* 59(1), 157-165.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00265-005-0022-y>

# Reference Page Continued....

THE  
FORMULA

- The formula to create a reference page is simple...
  - The author or authors last name and first initial
  - The publishing year
  - The title
  - The source
    - The source is where things change depending on if it is a book, a PowerPoint, a webpage, or a film.
- For example:
  - Sapolsky, R. M. (2017). Behave: The biology of humans at our best and worst. Penguin Books.
  - Mack, R., & Spake, G. (2018). Citing open source images and formatting references for presentations [PowerPoint slides]. Canvas@FNU. <https://fnu.onelogin.com/login>
  - Bologna, C. (2019, October 31). Why some people with anxiety love watching horror movies. HuffPost. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/anxiety-love-watching-horror-movies\\_I\\_5d277587e4b02a5a5d57b59e](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/anxiety-love-watching-horror-movies_I_5d277587e4b02a5a5d57b59e)



# Reference Page Continued

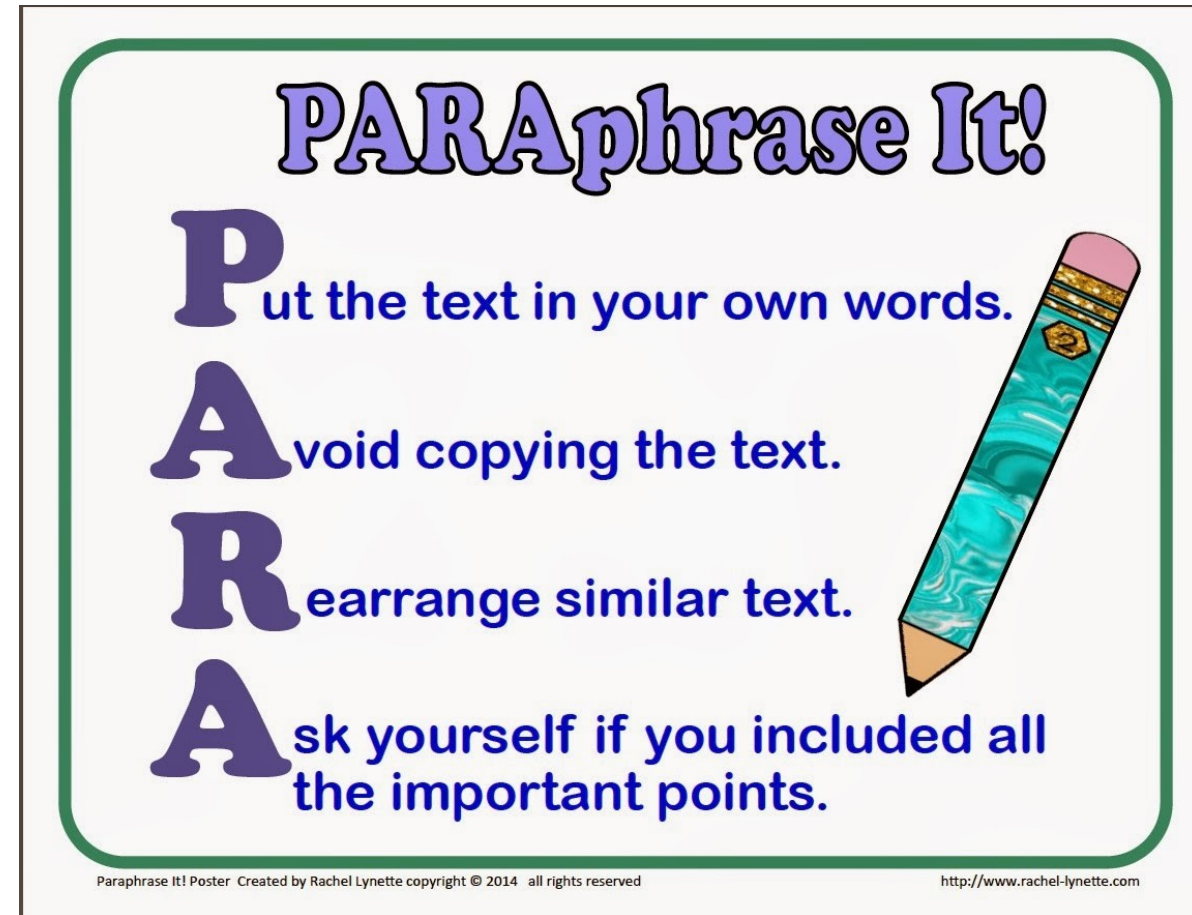


- <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/k-references>
- <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/erpoint-references>
- <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples/film-television-references>
- <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples/web-page-website-references>



# Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing is important to help minimize similarity score!
- Some professors will not take the time to review what the plagiarism flags and base your grade ONLY on that score.
- To minimize your Turnitin similiter score ALWAYS paraphrase and avoid direct quotations!





SO ... DO YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS FOR ME?





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Extra Credit Opportunit

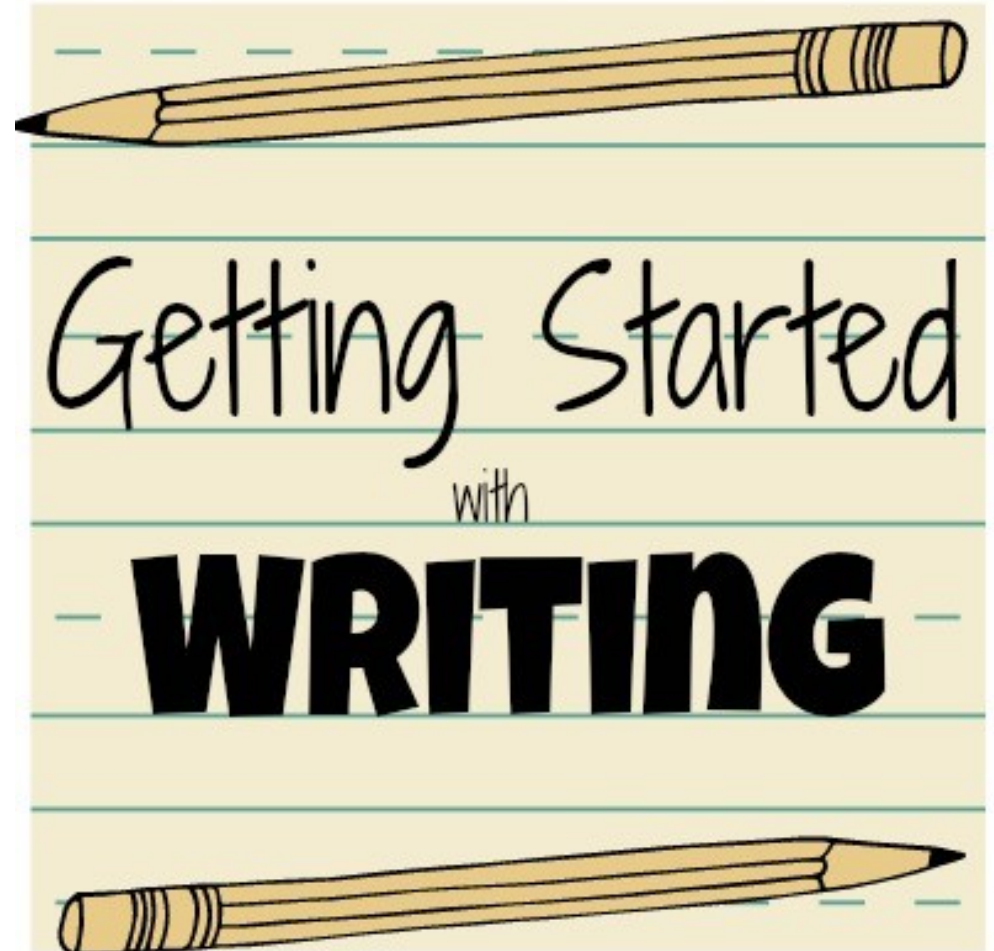


- Write a one-page FULL page paper outlining what you learned in the APA lecture from today.
- In your one-page paper you must provided perfect examples of a narrative citation, parenthetical citation, and a perfect reference (using your textbook and my lecture).
  - If order for you to get the extra credit your examples must be perfect.
- Due this Friday by 11:59PM



# Chapter 4 Writing Prompt

- Pick one of the scientific theories (considered early and biological theories) and discuss some of their key characteristics.
  - Please make sure to pick one of the 8 different theories covered and only focus on providing 2-3 key characteristics.
- You will have 10 minutes to work on your response.
- Make sure you use in-text (narrative) citations and have a reference at the end of your response.
- Again, the link will close at the end of class.





- Pick one of the scientific theories (considered early and biological theories) and discuss some of their key characteristics.
- Please make sure to pick one of the 8 different theories covered and only focus on providing 2-3 key characteristics.

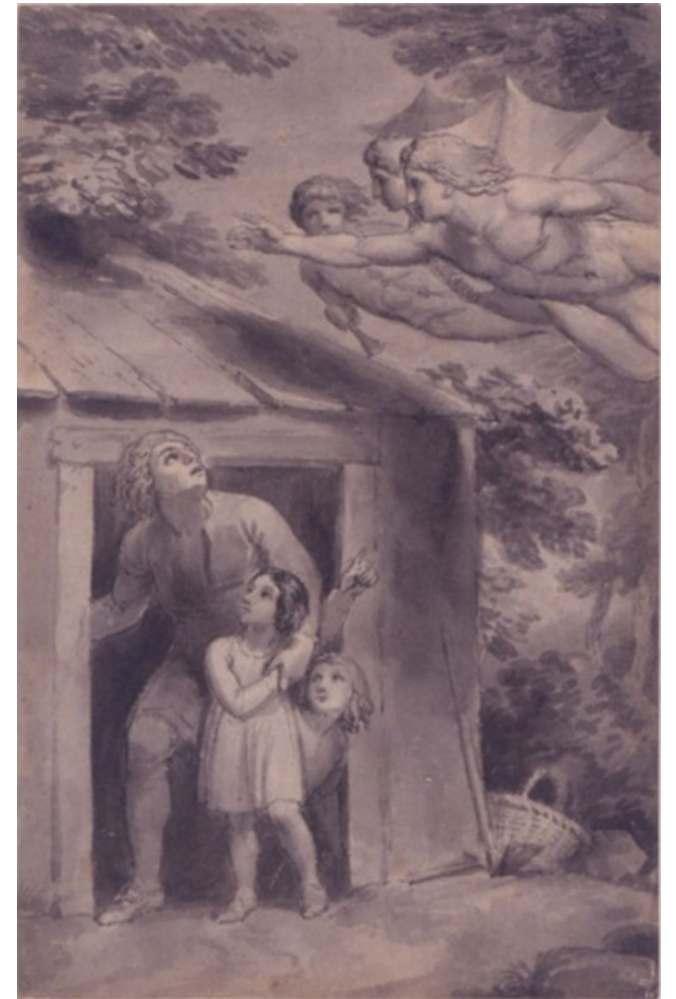
# AGENDA

- Early Theories
- Biological Theories
- Psychological Theories
- Sociological Theories

# Early Theories of Causation

## Demonology

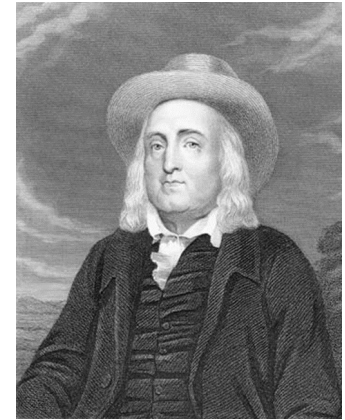
Early attempts to explain various forms of deviant behavior focused on possession of demons or evil spirits.





# Classical Theory

- Last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century people started to explain criminal behavior under the belief of “free-will”
  - Human behavior results from rationally calculating rewards and costs in terms of pleasure and pain.
  - Free will enables human beings to purposely and deliberately choose to follow a calculated course of action.
- Cesare Baccaria & Jeremy Bentham



# Cesare Beccaria (bakka'ri-a)

Early Theories

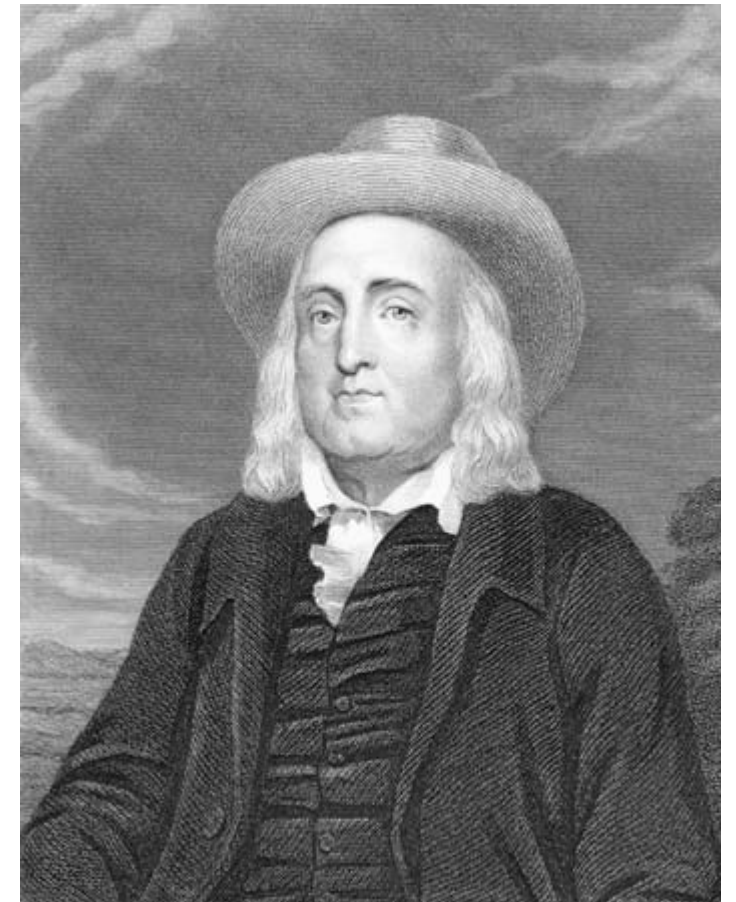


- He wrote *On Crimes and Punishment*, a passionate plea to humanize and rationalize the law and make punishment more just and humane.
- He advocated for equals to be treated equally, with the crime that offenders had committed being the only “relevant difference” to be considered.
- He also focused on stating that the responsibility for determining the facts of a case should be placed in the hands of ordinary citizens, not simply a judge who had little idea of what life was like for the ordinary person.



# Jeremy Bentham

- Bentham's major work, *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (1789), is a philosophy of social control based on the principle of utility- "the greatest happiness for the greatest number."
- Any human action should be judged moral or immoral by its effect on the happiness of the community.
- **Hedonism** is a principle with the central belief that the achievement of pleasure is the main goal of life.





# Rational Choice Theory



- Rational Choice theory believes that criminal behavior is ultimately a choice, the choice is made in the context of personal and situational restrictions and opportunities.
- Good or bad behavior is designed to produce some form of positive advantage for the person.
- ALL people will find ways to rationalize their behaviors based on maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain (Hedonistic Calculus).
- Humans have the capacity to make choices and the responsibility to make moral ones regardless of internal or external constraints.

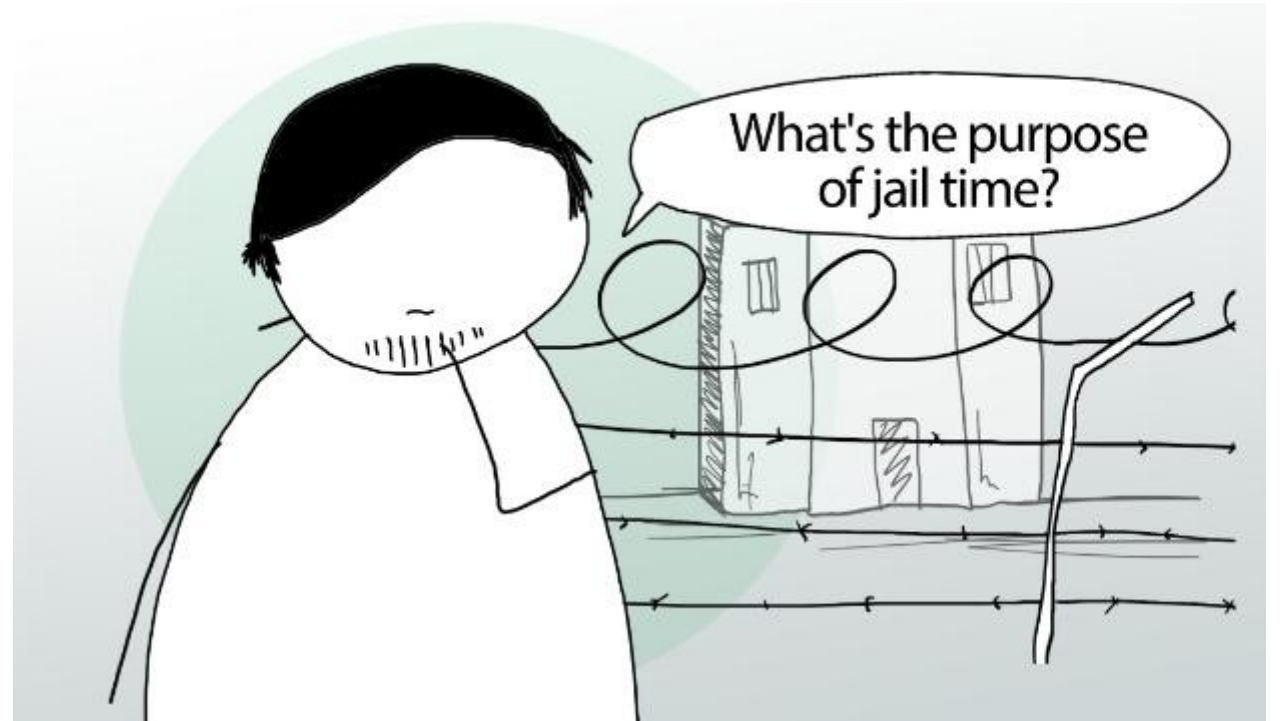




Think of some examples  
of crimes that may use  
Rational Choice Theory...



- Braking into a car / home
- Rape
- Driving under the influence
- Insurance Fraud
- Kidnapping
- Bribery
- Forgery
- Prostitution



# Deterrence Theory

- Pain Versus Gain
- Behaviorism behavior is governed by its consequences
  - That is, if a behavior is followed by something rewarding, the behavior tends to be repeated; if followed by something unpleasant, it tends not to be repeated
- Deterrence is the prevention of criminal acts by the use or threat of punishment and may be either specific or general



# Deterrence Theory Cont.....

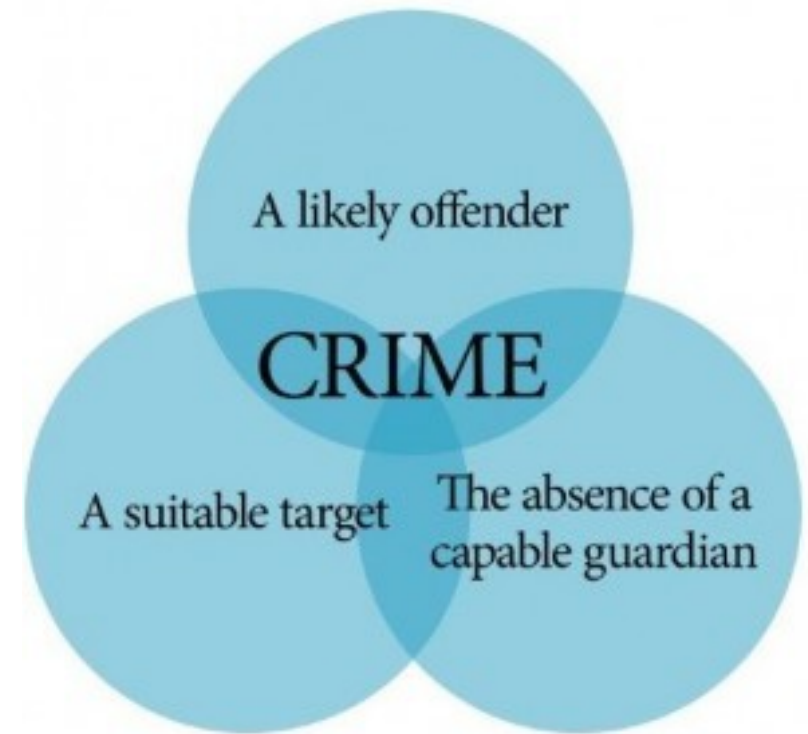


- **Specific deterrence** refers to the effect of punishment on the future behavior of the person who experiences the punishment
- Committing another crime after previously being punished for one is called **recidivism** (“falling back” into criminal behavior)
- The effect of punishment on future behavior also depends on the **contrast effect**, which is the distinction between the circumstances of punishment and the usual life experience of the person being punished.
- **General deterrence** is the preventive effect of the threat of punishment on the general population; that is, on potential offenders

# Routine Activities Theory



- Routine Activities: The normal day to day activity patterns that characterize a particular place that invite or dissuade crime.
- Routine activities theory is the idea that society or neighborhoods invite or prevent crime.
- Just like Rational Choice Theory, Routine Activity Theory focuses on situations in which criminal victimization is likely to occur.
  - Crime is the result of motivated offenders meeting suitable targets that lack capable guardians



# Changing Gears

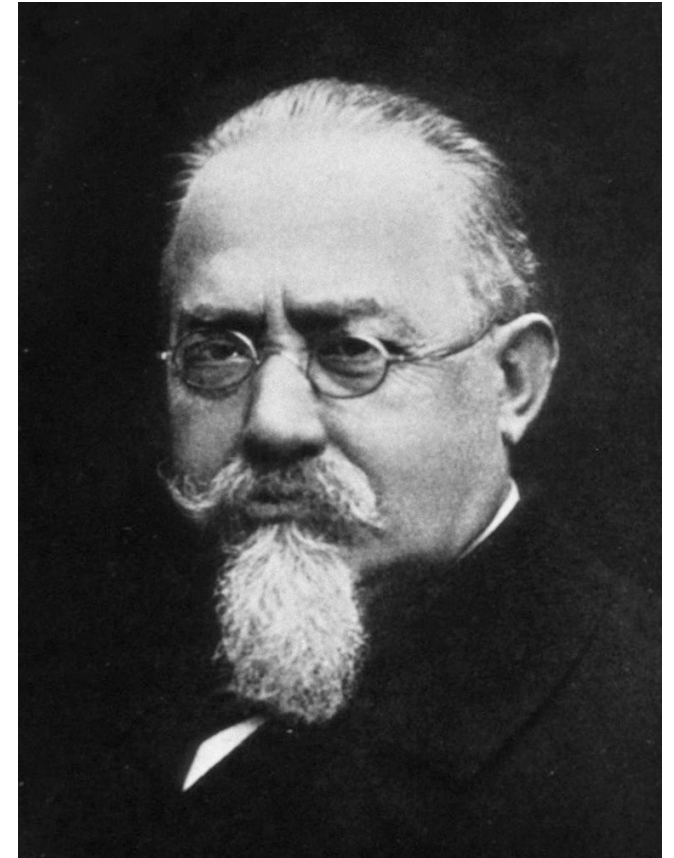
## Biological Theories

- In the 19th century criminologists began to move away from the classical assumptions and toward a more scientific view of human behavior.
- The increasingly popular view among criminologists of this period was that crime resulted from internal and/or external forces imposing on individuals, biasing, or even completely determining, their behavior choices.

# Cesare Lombroso



- Lombroso's basic idea was that many criminals are born as such, and they are evolutionary throwbacks to an earlier form of life.
- In addition to atavistic AKA-"born criminals", Lombroso expanded his typology to include two additional types of offenders:
  - According to Lombroso, **insane criminals** bore some stigmata, but they were not born criminals but rather had undergone some kind of "alteration of the brain."
  - **The criminaloid** had no physical peculiarities of the born or insane criminal and were considered to be less dangerous.

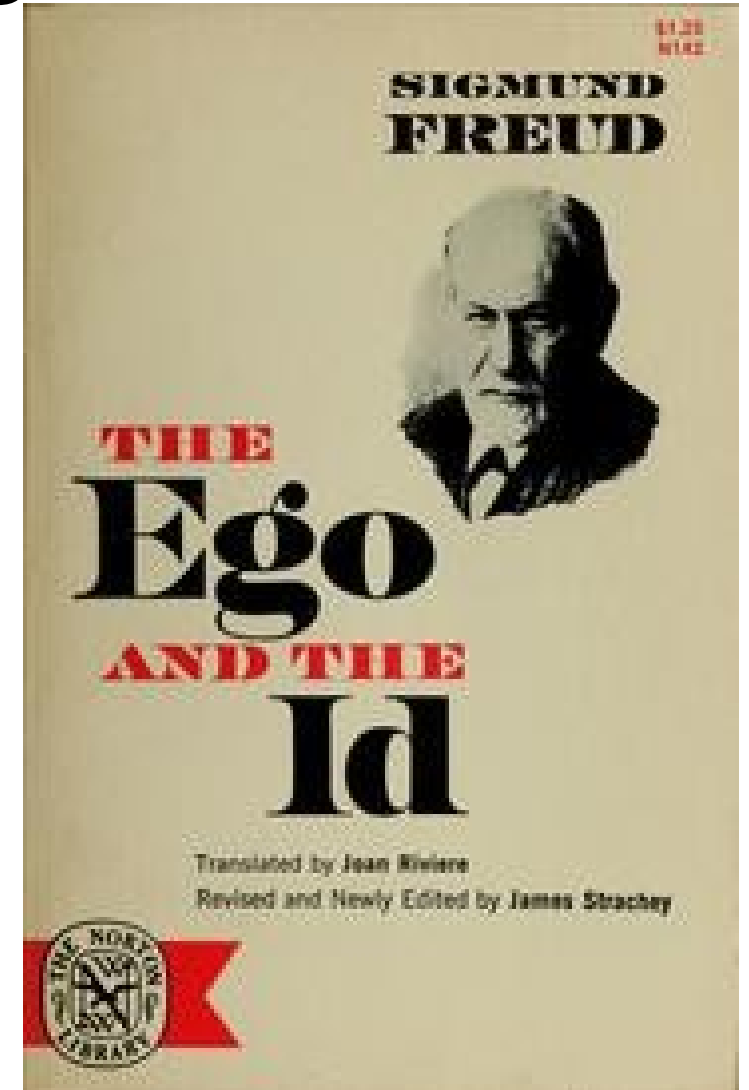




# Changing Gears

## Psychological Theories

- Some argued that psychological theories are concerned with the individual, as well as that individual in terms of their relationships with others (Blackburn, 1993).
- In addition, the causes are dysfunctional, abnormal emotional adjustment or deviant personality traits formed in socialization and childhood development.
  - In other words, some theorist believe that the lack of establishing positive and balanced relationships with others in the stages of socialization and childhood makes an individual destined to become criminal.







# Sociological Theories

- The discipline of Sociology attempts to explain human behavior through analysis of the society in which we live.
- It usually concerns itself with the social rules and processes that bind and separate people not only as individuals but as members of associations, groups, and institutions.
- Sociology is interested in our behavior as social beings; thus, the sociological field of interest ranges from the analysis of short contacts between anonymous individuals on the street, to the study of global social processes.



# Anomie & Strain Theory

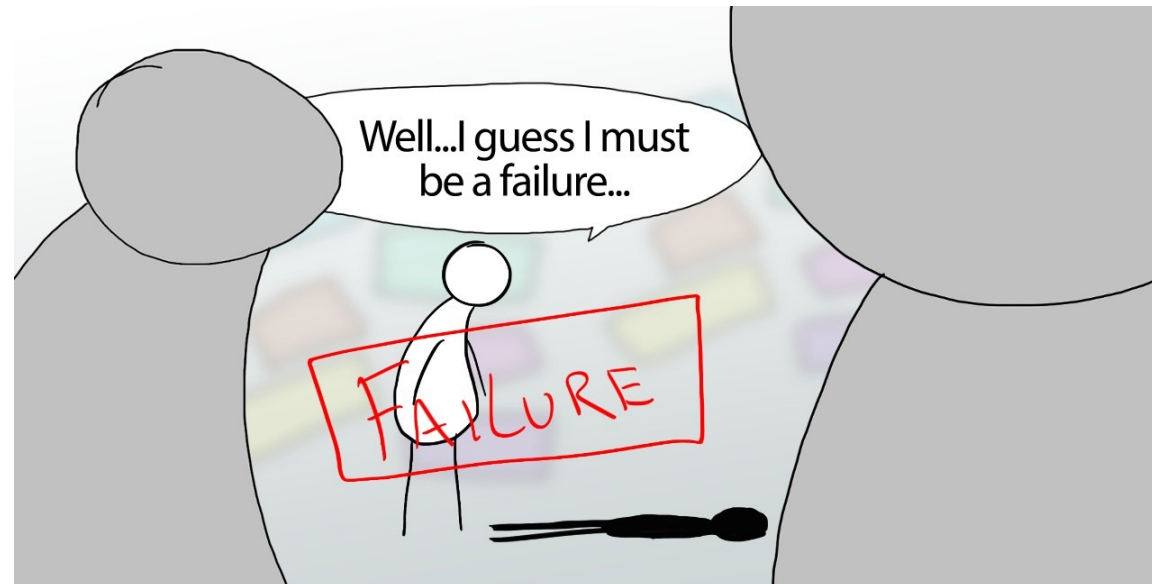


Sociological Theories

- It argues that the strains within our society, and the pressures placed upon us to succeed, ultimately force a person to become deviant.
- Anomie and strain theory focuses on serial murders struggle within society, and how this can push a person so far into desperation, they see murder as their only release.
- Suggesting that social classes with high aspirations may be most susceptible.

# Labelling Theory

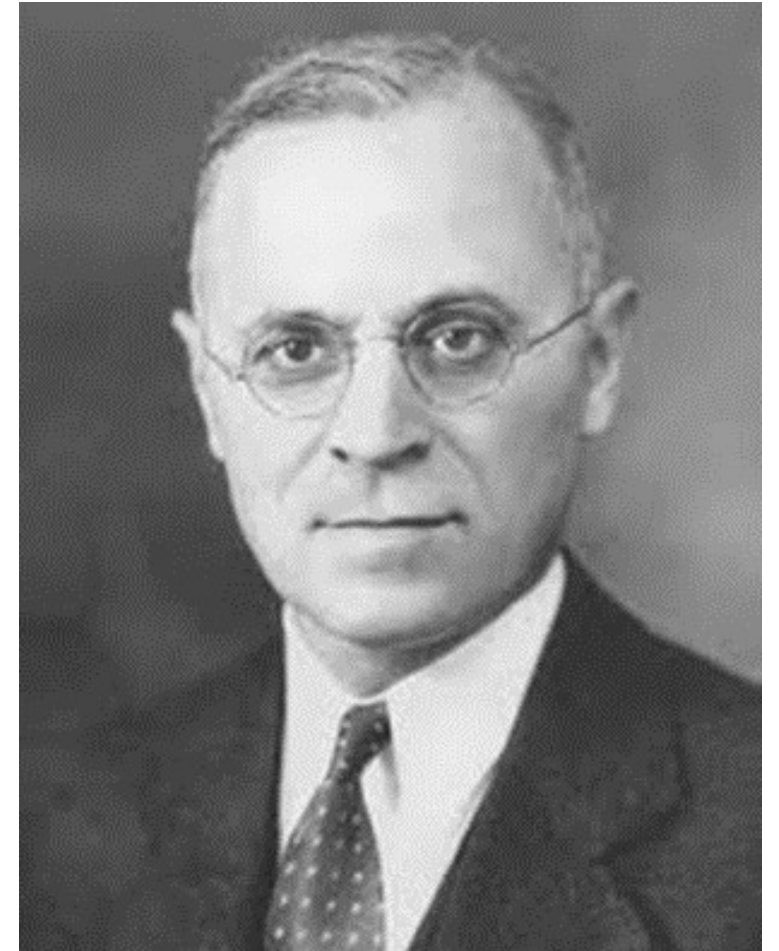
- The theory believes that if a person is labeled deviant, and this label is reinforced, the individual will accept that label, thus affecting the person's self-concept, leading them to see themselves as deviant and engage in such behavior.



# Differential Association



- Edwin Sutherland
- Criminal behavior is learned in intimate social groups
- Sutherland's approach combines some the principles of learning theory with the notion that learning takes place in interaction with social groups
  - Primary group is family (or gangs) is the focal point of learning social behavior including deviant behavior.





# Social Control

- Social control theories ask why people refrain from committing crime, not why they commit crime.
- For Example: We obey society's rules because we believe that they are right and just, not because we fear formal sanctions. In other words, we have our own internalized police officer and judge in the form of our conscience!





**EXAMPLE**

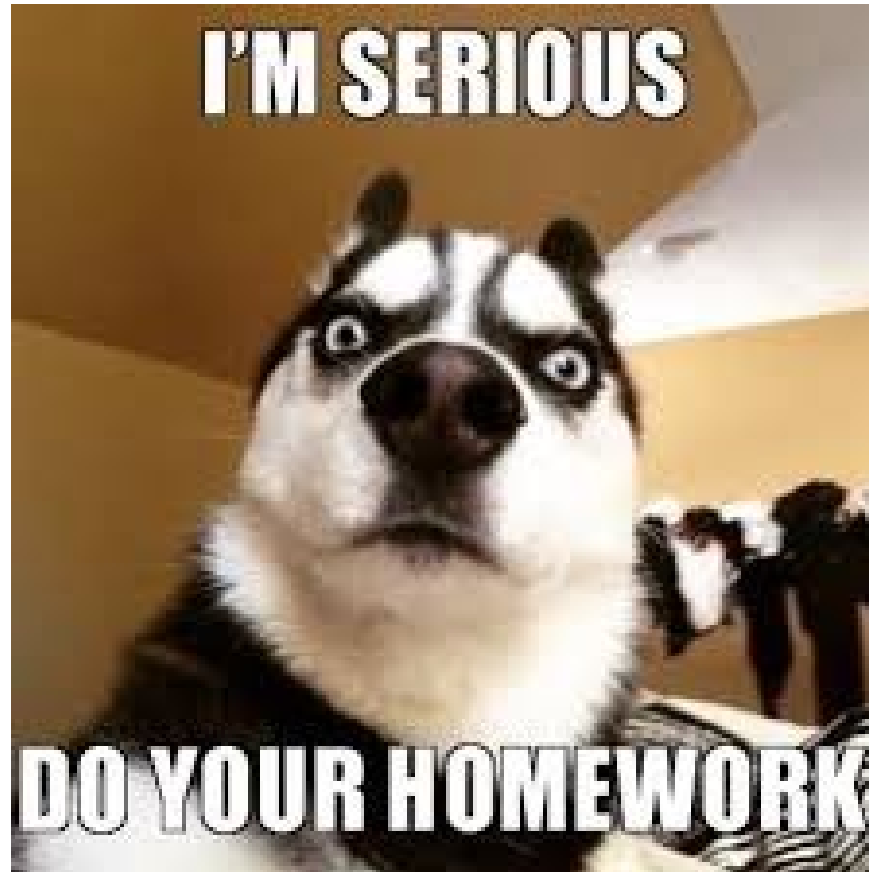
# Social Control



- Travis Hirschi
- He proposes four dimensions to account for why people do NOT commit crimes.
  - Attachment
    - The emotional component of conformity, such as bonds to key social institutions like the family and the school.
  - Commitment
    - The rational component of conformity, such as the investment of considerable time and energy in the pursuit of a lawful career.
  - Involvement
    - An outgrowth of commitment, this refers to the time and energy limitations that result from participation in lawful activities.
  - Belief
    - The acceptance of the social norms regulating conduct.

SO ... DO YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS FOR ME?





Writing Prompt Next  
Week on Chapter 5