The two-course sequence (C228 & C229) has the purpose of introducing students to the dominant theories in modern criminology, their theoretical antecedents and extensions, major empirical tests and implications for programs, policy and practice. This list follows generally the topics covered in these courses and offers recommended readings as students prepare to delve further as they prepare for comprehensive exams. It is not meant to be exhaustive; policy applications in particular are not thoroughly covered.

**Theory texts and edited volumes that provide overviews, critiques, etc:**

- **Cullen, Francis T and Robert Agnew (Eds), 2006.** *Criminological Theory, Past to Present: Essential Readings*, 3rd edition, Roxbury.

**Thinking about and studying criminology**

- **Austin, James. 2003.** “Why Criminology is Irrelevant.” *Criminology and Public Policy* 2:557-564.

**Biological, bio-social, psychological and rational choice perspectives**


Rational choice and deterrence


Strain theory (micro)


**Learning Theory**


**Control Theories.**


Social reaction theories (labeling and reintegrative shaming)


**Developmental/life course and integrated perspectives**

Note: The edited volume, *Life Course Criminology* (edited by Piquero and Mazarolle) includes selections of some of the readings described below (denoted below by P&M).


**Extensions, Expansions, and Interactions**


MACRO LEVEL

Anomie/Strain theory (macro)


Social Disorganization Theory


**Subcultural Theories**


Kubrin, Charis E. and Ronald Weitzer. 2003. “Retaliatory Homicide: Concentrated Disadvantage and

Routine activities, environmental and situational perspectives


**Critical, conflict, and feminist perspectives**


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**Punishment and inequality**


**Prison culture/collateral consequences**


**Macro changes in crime**


