Instructor: Ms. Saci Meriem Faculty: Humanities and Social Sciences

Module: English Level: 2<sup>nd</sup> year LMD Sociology

Criminology

I. What is Criminology?

Criminology is the scientific study of the non-legal aspects of crime and delinquency, including

its causes, correction, and prevention, from the viewpoint of such diverse disciplines as

anthropology, biology, psychology, and psychiatry, economics, sociology, and statistics.

II. What Causes Crimes?

How do some people decide to commit a crime? Do they think about the benefits and the

risks? Why do some people commit crimes regardless of the consequences? Why do others never

commit a crime, no matter how desperate their circumstances? Criminology, as we mentioned

earlier, is the study of crime and criminals by specialists called criminologists? Criminologists

study what causes crime and how might be prevented.

Reasons for committing a crime include greed, anger, jealously, revenge, or pride. Some

people decide to commit a crime and carefully plan everything to increase gain and decrease risk.

These people are making choices about their behavior; some even consider a life of crime better

than a regular job-believing crime brings in greater rewards, administration, and excitement-at

least until they are caught. Others get an adrenaline rush when successfully carrying out a

dangerous crime. Others commit crimes on impulse, out of rage or fear. The desire for material

gain (money or expensive belongings) leads to property crimes such as robberies, burglaries,

white-collar crimes, and auto thefts. The desire for control, revenge, or power leads to violent

crimes such as murders, assaults, and rapes. These violent crimes usually occur on impulse or the

spur of the moment when emotions run high. Property crimes are usually planned in advance.

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III. How Criminology Works?

In essence, criminologists examine every conceivable aspect of deviant behavior. That includes

the impacts of crime on individual victims and their families, society at large, and even criminals

themselves. Page 2 of 3 Some of the specific areas that criminology covers include:

• Frequency of crimes.

• Location of crimes.

• Causes of crimes.

• Types of crimes Social and individual consequences of crimes.

• Social reactions to crime.

• Individual reactions to crime.

• Governmental reactions to crime.

Criminologists conduct research and analyze data to help understand, deter, and prevent crime.

They also develop theories based on the research they conduct to help translate data into action.

Some criminologists also evaluate, develop, and implement criminal justice policies and

procedures.

IV. Origins of Criminology

Criminology is the scientific procedure to studying both social and individual criminal actions. It

is divided up into several separate disciplines including psychology, economics, political science,

natural science, biology and the evolution and development of people. While other investigative

professionals are in charge of who committed a crime and how, criminologists are responsible for

answering why someone would be led to breaking the law or causing a crime. The field of study

has a long, rich history and has changed a lot. The roots of criminology trace back to a movement

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to reform criminal justice and penal systems more than 200 years ago. The first collection and use of crime statistics in the 19th century then laid the groundwork for generations of increasingly sophisticated tools and methods, leading to our modern use of descriptive statistics, case studies, typologies, and predictive analytics.

## V. Criminology and The Legal Perspective

Criminologists study crime as an illegal action society punishes through the government's legal system. Researchers focus on the causes, prevention, and correction of crime generally. By contrast, the legal industry's perspective of crime emphasizes specific crimes and punishments governed by statutes and regulations, as well as established legal processes.

## VI. Examples of Crimes all Over the World

- Murder and Homicide.
- Manslaughter.
- Robbery. Burglary.
- Arson.
- Kidnapping.
- Theft and Larceny.
- Conspiracy.
- Terrorism.
- Bribery.
- Tax evasion.
- Money laundering.
- False imprisonment.
- Vehicular manslaughter.
- Drug possession.
- Vandalism.
- Fraud.
- Property crimes.
- Disorderly conduct.
- Violent crimes.
- Weapons charges.