INTRODUCTION

The list is divided across the three related areas of crime, punishment, and the sociology of law. These three sections should not be thought of as independent sets of readings but rather as overlapping lists that are somewhat artificially sorted on the most relevant categories. Note that some scholars engage the criminology and punishment readings together, while others understand punishment scholarship as part of the law-and-society tradition. The list does not differentiate sociology of law from the broader, multidisciplinary scholarship on “law and society” or “sociolegal studies”.

Within each section and subsection, readings are listed alphabetically, although we recommend reading them chronologically and finding your own ways to connect, compare, and contrast them.

Because this list is supposed to represent three large areas of scholarship, it is necessarily partial. It has fewer texts that are heavily empirical. It leaves out scholarship on many regions of the world and many important publications, especially historically seminal ones. The synthetic review pieces should provide overviews of some of those publications. The comprehensive exam committee members hope you will record and share with us your suggestions for improving the list.

I. CRIME

1. Early Foundations

Examples of some of the early writing on crime and critiques.


2. Theoretical Trajectories

Section 2 covers the main theoretical trajectories of criminology in approximate chronological order of the theory to the field.
2.1 Anomie / Strain Theory


2.2 Social Learning / Differential Association Theory


2.3 Labeling Theory


2.4 Control Theory


2.5 Juvenile Delinquency


2.6 Routine Activity Theory


2.7 Identity/ Masculinity Theory


2.8 Life-Course Theory


3. Sociological Interventions

This section includes major theoretical developments in criminology but represents distinct sociological pivots focusing on group dynamics and inequality, neighborhood inequality, and intersections of inequality in relationships to crime.

3.1 Criminal Groups


### 3.2 Communities & Crime


**Recommended**


### 3.3 Inequality & Crime


**Recommended**


**II. PUNISHMENT**

**1. Foundational Theories**

The following covers key readings that are foundational to punishment and society. The readings emphasize the complex social processes and, in particular, the intersection between social, economic and political powers that informs punishment in society.


2. The Late-Modern Punitive Turn

These readings analyze and explain the shift in penal politics associated with the rise of neoliberalism and actuarial risk management. They explore the new modes of governing through crime control.


### 3. Penal Trends


4. Policing and Punishment


Fassin, D. 2015. *At the Heart of the State: The Moral World of Institutions*. Pluto Press. [Chapter 4: “Maintaining Order”]


5. Courts and Punishment


6. Spatial Regulation and Quasi-Punishments


7. Crimmigration and Immigration Detention


8. Gender, Sexuality and Punishment


9. Indigenous Peoples and Injustice


10. The Global South


III. SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

1. Overview & Theoretical Foundations

*This section includes synthetic reviews of the multidisciplinary field of law and society scholarship as well as a sampling of influential theoretical texts.*


**Recommended**


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**2. Legal Disputing and Legal Mobilization**

The scholarship on legal disputing has focused largely on people’s engagement with formal legal institutions, while research on legal mobilization tends to center on social movements’ use of law. However, this work overlaps considerably.


Recommended


3. Legal Consciousness
Some scholars have approached the topic of legal mobilization by examining individual- and group-level legal consciousness. Ewick and Silbey’s book is seminal in this area, especially for its theoretical sophistication, although most subsequent scholarship does not rely on their empirical formulation of the concept of legal consciousness.


Recommended

4. Law, Diversity, and Injustice

Critical race theory (CRT) was initially formulated and advanced by scholars of colour, particularly African Americans. In more recent years, researchers have developed the subfield of empirical critical race theory (eCRT), to encourage the use of empirical methods to examine and test theoretical suppositions.


Recommended


5. Indigenous Law and Settler Colonial Law


**Recommended**


**6. Law and Organizations**

Lauren Edelman’s theoretical and empirical scholarship has been central to scholarship on organizations, legal compliance, and legal regulation. Her 2016 book summarizes and builds on the foundational research she has published over many decades. Work by Edelman and other scholars on this list exemplify the importance of neo-institutionalism for this subfield.


**Recommended**


7. Legal Profession

The scholarship on the legal profession has three main streams: (1) the social structure of the bar and large law firms; (2) lawyers’ work and legal careers; and, (3) lawyers, politics, and globalization. This section provides a selection of each of the three streams.


**Recommended**


8. Law and Globalization

Law and globalization is a rapidly growing area of sociolegal research. Readings in this section provide an overview of the major perspectives on the globalization of law, ranging from neo-institutionalism and field theory to postcolonial globalism and recursivity.


