



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY & SECURITY STUDIES (CSS)  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
2023\_2 EXAMINATIONS—

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COURSE CODE: CSS 801

COURSE TITLE **Advanced Theory of Criminology and Security Studies**

CREDIT UNIT : 3

TME ALLOWED : 3 HOURS

MARKS: 70%

**INSTRUCTION:** Answer **four out of five** of the questions.

1. Many of the leading theories of crime were developed with males in mind. There have been essentially three responses to this situation: (1) the explanations of crime offered by the leading theories are equally applicable to males and females; (2) existing theories need to be revised or extended to explain female offending; and (3) new theoretical perspectives that account for female criminality need to be developed. What is the state of the empirical evidence on this issue? In your essay, consider the strengths and weaknesses of each response.
2. Social disorganization theory grew out of the spatial analytic work of Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay and others in the early Chicago School. The theory became one of the most prominent perspectives of mid-20th century criminology. Then it faded into relative obscurity before rising to prominence again in the late 1900's and early 2000's. Comment on the reasons for the waxing and waning of social disorganization theory, its current empirical standing, and how it has evolved over time. Does social disorganization theory make significant contributions to contemporary criminological thought? Or has it been supplanted by other ideas? Finally, can social disorganization theory – in its contemporary form – inform criminal justice policy? If so, how? If not, why not?
3. Increasingly, our field is making use of so-called “natural experiments” to measure scientifically interesting treatment effects. One of the supposed virtues of the natural experiment is that it simultaneously raises both internal and external validity – a hard thing to do. Identify and describe a natural experiment in criminology and do the following: (1) explain why you think the study you identified is a natural experiment; (2) summarize the key question the study sought to answer; (3) characterize the major findings of the study; (4) measure that study's methods and results against the benchmark of raising both internal and external validity (compared to an observational study, a lab experiment, or a field experiment).

4. Over the past year-and-a-half, several unarmed, Nigerian, African American men have been killed at the hands of police officers sparking outrage, protests, and even violence in several cities across the country. Such events have revived the discussion on the tensions between law enforcement and disadvantaged, inner-city communities. Based in theory, design a program that aims to improve community police relations in Nigeria cities. Then, describe how you would evaluate the program you have designed. Your description should include the following:

- Clear statement of the research design
- Sample selection and recruitment
- Data collection methods
- Data analysis plan
- Strategies for enhancing the study's rigor
- Possible limitations or weaknesses of your approach

5. Early biological theories lacked validity, they were among the first to use the scientific method. The process of measuring body parts, shapes, and sizes represented a dramatic shift from the philosophical approach offered by the classical school. Discuss.