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Criminology
Teaching Life Course Theory
Course Information

Life course or developmental criminology is a relatively new area of criminological research. As a growing part of criminology, it is important to understand the development of the theory, what criminologists know as a result of the theory, and how the theory is expected to grow. These videos featuring life course theory experts can be used to supplement lectures on life course and developmental theory, broaden students’ knowledge of the theory, and open the classroom to discussion on a variety of topics related to life course criminology.

Dr. Wesley Jennings: Quantitative Research and Statistics
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/quantitative-research-and-statistics

Dr. Wesley Jennings explains life course criminology as an area of research that examines why some people commit crimes only during certain times of their lives. This type of criminology incorporates both static and dynamic risk factors.

Jon Heidt Discusses Criminological Theory

Dr. Jonathon Heidt discusses criminological theory and the study of theory. Criminological theory tries to explain criminal behavior through interdisciplinary methods. Heidt discusses the value of learning criminological theory, developments in the field, and key research in the field.

Matt DeLisi Discusses Career Criminals
http://sk.sagepub.com/video/matt-delisi-discusses-career-criminals

Professor Matt DeLisi discusses career criminals and his research on the subject. Career criminals are a small subgroup of criminal offenders, yet they are responsible for 60–90% of the most serious forms of crime. DeLisi discusses the challenges that career criminals pose to the criminal justice system, the predictability of career criminals, and research that has been done about them.

Suggested Courses or Topics

These videos can be used in a variety of criminology courses, which might include:

- criminological theory,
- juvenile justice, or
- at-risk youth and crime.

Classroom Clips

- Dr. Wesley Jennings—Quantitative Research and Statistics: This clip gives a brief overview of life course and developmental criminology, referencing different types of risk factors. Clip 0:09 – 1:56.
- Jon Heidt Discusses Criminological Theory: This clip explains what life course theory is and how it has impacted criminology. Clip 14:09 – 16:40.
- Matt DeLisi Discusses Career Criminals
  - This clip defines career criminals and provides statistics about the crime committed by career offenders. Clip 0:16 – 0:43.
  - How has technology affected career criminals in the justice system. Clip 3:37 – 4:34.

Research Assignment

Dr. DeLisi discusses how technology affects the justice system, especially with regard to career criminals (Clip 3:37 – 4:34). Find, read, and summarize five research studies that examine how technology is used in the criminal justice system. Then discuss how technology can be used to deal directly with career criminals.
Classroom Discussion

Dr. DeLisi discusses several intervention techniques for career criminals (Clip 17:55 – 20:30). Which types of interventions are most practical? Which kind do you think are most effective? How should practitioners determine who should be put in intervention programs? What issues can accompany intervention placement methods?