

Week 3

Classical criminology

- Are we naturally good or bad?
- Do we weigh costs and benefits?
- Or are we risk-takers?

Classical criminology: Beliefs

- Human beings are rational and weigh costs and benefits
- We are motivated by self-interest

Deterrence Theory

- People are deterred from crime when they see other being punished

Deterrence

- The act of preventing crime before it occurs through the threat of punishment

Deterrence theory: Necessary ingredients

- Certainty, celerity and severity of punishment

Types of deterrence

- Specific deterrence (getting arrested)– Focuses on an individual, discourage the person from future criminality
- General deterrence (police visibility) – Focuses on general public, receive punishment in public view

Initial deterrence

- 1. Residual deterrence: takes people awhile to learn that it's safe again
- 2. Decay: Initial positive effects diminish when people realise they won't get caught

Deterrence: What do we know from research?

- Certainty has a greater impact
- Perceived risk more important than objective risk
- Jurisdictional comparisons unsatisfying (more police = more crime)

Difference between rational choice and deterrence

- Rational choice – Focuses on crime situation, costs related to effort
- Deterrence – Focuses on criminal, costs related to consequences

Rational choice theory

- Assumes individuals make rational calculations based on maximising pleasure

Assumptions of rational choice theory

- Individuals are goal-oriented
- Individuals have ordered preferences
- Individuals make rational calculations

- Seek to understand the purposes of the offender

Situational perspective

- Given the opportunity, people will always commit crime
- Opportunity theories-> Focus on situations that offer opportunities
- Situational selection-> The type of situation that provides the opportunity

Situational crime prevention

- Reduces opportunities for crime in immediate physical environment

Situational crime prevention: 3 techniques

- Increasing the effort for crime
- Increasing the risks of committing crime
- Reducing the rewards

Routine activities theory: 3 things converging

- A likely offender
- A suitable target
- Absence of guardian

Routine activities theory: diagram



Routine activities theory: 3 types of targets and their interventions

1. Offenders – intimate handler
2. Places – place manager
3. Victims/targets – capable guardian

Operation ceasefire

- Goal-> reduce gang violence
- Offenders – gang members
- Places – locations for gang violence
- Targets – guns
- Handlers – parole officers
- Managers – Police attention on those places
- Guardians – Guardianship amongst those selling weapons