Criminology
Criminology Defined

- The sociological and scientific study of the causes, effects, and impacts of criminal activity in a society.
- Studies trends, patterns, and statistics related to criminal activity.
  - Tries to explain patterns of criminal prevalence in societies
Criminal Behavior as Deviance

• **Crime** is the violation of a norm that has been codified into law.
  • **Violent crime** is a crime in which violence is either the objective or the means to an end, including murder, rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.
  • **Property crime** is crime that does not involve violence, including burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.
  • **White-collar crime** is crime committed by a high status individual in the course of her or his occupation.
Approaches to Limiting Criminal Activity

• **Deterrence** is an approach to punishment that relies on the threat of harsh penalties to discourage people from committing crimes
  • Ex. Knowing that crimes result in jail time results in the less people willing to commit a crime
Approaches to Limiting Criminal Behavior

• **Retribution** is an approach to punishment that emphasizes retaliation or revenge for the crime as the appropriate goal
  • The Eye for an eye principle
  • Used as a way of justifying the use of capital punishment

“An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”
- Mohandas Gandhi
Approaches to Limiting Criminal Behavior

• **Incapacitation** is an approach to punishment that seeks to protect society from criminals by imprisoning or executing them
  
  • Justification is that it is not possible for a criminal to commit the same crime if they are removed from society
Approaches to Limiting Criminal Behavior

• *Rehabilitation* is an approach to punishment that attempts to reform criminals as part of their penalty

• Through education, counseling, and therapy the goal is to release the offender back into society to be a fully functioning contributor again
Alternative Punishments

• Shunning – Purposefully avoiding or ignoring someone as a way to ostracize someone who has committed a crime

• Banishment – Removal of an individual from a community for a set period of time or permanently

• Corporal Punishment – Physical punishment for committing a crime that includes physical harm

• Capital Punishment – Executing a criminal, usually only used in extreme cases
Punishing Criminal Behavior

• Most serious crime in the United States today is punished by imprisonment, but many other societies lack the resources to build and maintain prisons
  • Need money for buildings, to pay guards, and to feed/clothe prisoners
  • The United States spends around $32,000/yr per prisoner

(Note: Chart is for California)
FIGURE 3
U.S. Incarceration Rate, 1880-2008

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census Bureau, and Cahalan (1986). See Appendix for further details.
Capital Punishment Nationally

Executions By State
1977 - 2013

- States with no death penalty
- Alaska
- Connecticut
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York

- Maps showing executions by state from 1977 to 2013.
Capital Punishment Internationally

Death-penalty status, June 2015
- Abolished/
none
- Retained for
exceptional crimes *
- Abolished in
practice
- In use for
ordinary crimes
*Such as military crimes and terrorism

Sources: Amnesty International; press reports

Economist.com
## Incarceration Levels by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Prison population</th>
<th>Population per 100,000</th>
<th>Jail occupancy level %</th>
<th>Un-sentenced prisoners %</th>
<th>Women prisoners %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>2,193,798</td>
<td>737</td>
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*Source: International Centre for Prison Studies*