Criminology and Deviancy Bibliography in Preparation for
M.A. Comprehensive Exam

Sample Comp Exam Question for Criminology & Deviancy

According to current debates and trends of punishment in the United States, certain racial minority groups are disproportionately incarcerated, which suggests that certain racial minority groups are more inclined to commit certain crimes than others. This relationship has been posited for decades and a number of sociological theories have been applied to explain this phenomena. Engage the debate of criminality versus criminalization of racial minority groups, based on the literature on punishment and incarceration.

1. First, review evidence in the research literature, and provide a descriptive overview of incarceration rates by race.
2. Identify two plausible criminological theories that offer explanations for the disparity of incarceration rates and overrepresentation of racial minorities. Explain the tenets and propositions of each theory you choose.
3. Third, drawing from your explanations of the theories, as well as your review of relevant literature, choose the most suitable theory to apply and explain the racial disparities in certain types of criminality, incarceration and punishment in the United States.

General Topics, Themes and Issues in the Study of Criminology and Deviancy


Sutherland, Edwin M. and Donald R. Cressey (any edition) *Criminology*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott. (Read chapter on differential association theory.)
