

Memo
Fall 2010 Graduate Theory
Department of Criminal Justice

TO: Students in 8106 Fall 2010 Graduate Theory
FROM: R. B. Taylor
DATE: 5 December 2010
RE: Tips on getting ready for the theory advanced exam

1. Go back over each of the books we have read this semester, except for Enron, and be sure you are familiar with the model, evidence, and issues.
2. Try and find a review of each book in either *Contemporary Sociology* or *Contemporary Psychology*. Reviews may appear in other journals as well, and you could find those reviews by using the *Web of Science* citation search. WOS is accessed through the Paley database front end.
3. For each of these theories, be aware of at least some relevant empirical work, either supporting or not supporting the theory.

I have given you many leads to these sources in the various memos introducing and then commenting on each theory. Use citation searches to find more. *Ask me or someone else how to use Web of Science* for citation searching if you do not know how to do this.

When looking at evidence about a theory try and stick with the major criminal justice / criminology / sociology journals. In CJ those are:

Criminal Justice and Behavior
Criminology
Criminology & Public Policy
Crime & Delinquency
Journal of Criminal Justice
Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology
Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency
Journal of Quantitative Criminology
Justice Quarterly
Law & Society Review
Theoretical Criminology

In sociology those journals at the very top include:

American Sociological Review
American Journal of Sociology
Social Forces

Other good ones include:

Sociological Quarterly
Social Problems
Social Science Quarterly
Social Psychology Quarterly

Others may differ with these lists.

4. Work your way through the major additional readings highlighted on the main course page. *These are going to be updated, so be sure to check back.*
5. Read a good undergraduate selection. I recommend: Bachman and paternoster (2000) *Explaining criminals and crime* (Roxbury). Their introductory sections are invaluable.
6. *Talk to each person who is on the theory committee about a semester before you are scheduled to take it.* Get suggestions from them about important new works to be covered.
7. *Develop specific stages of preparation.* Happy to provide more details on this for those who wish. Suggested *distinct* stages include reading; re-reading and outlining; index cards for concepts and models and key studies; and writing practice questions under simulated conditions.