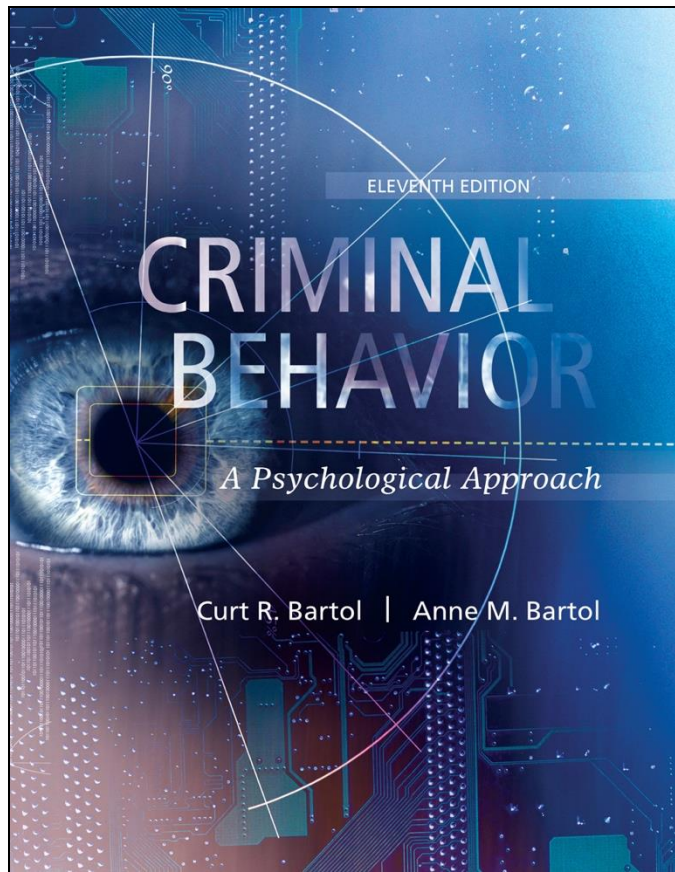


Criminal Behavior

A Psychological Approach

Eleventh Edition



CHAPTER 4

Origins of Criminal Behavior: Learning and Situational Factors

Chapter Objectives

- Present learning and cognitive factors as key elements in the development of delinquent and criminal behavior.
- Review the historical background of behaviorism and its contributions to understanding human learning of delinquent and criminal behavior.

Chapter Objectives

- Define and describe classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and social learning.
- Review the fundamental principles of social learning and its contributions to understanding antisocial behavior.

Chapter Objectives

- Introduce frustration-induced crime.
- Describe the power of the social situation, authority, and deindividuation in instigating criminal actions.
- Discuss and review research on the bystander effect.
- Provide overview of recent research on moral development and moral disengagement.

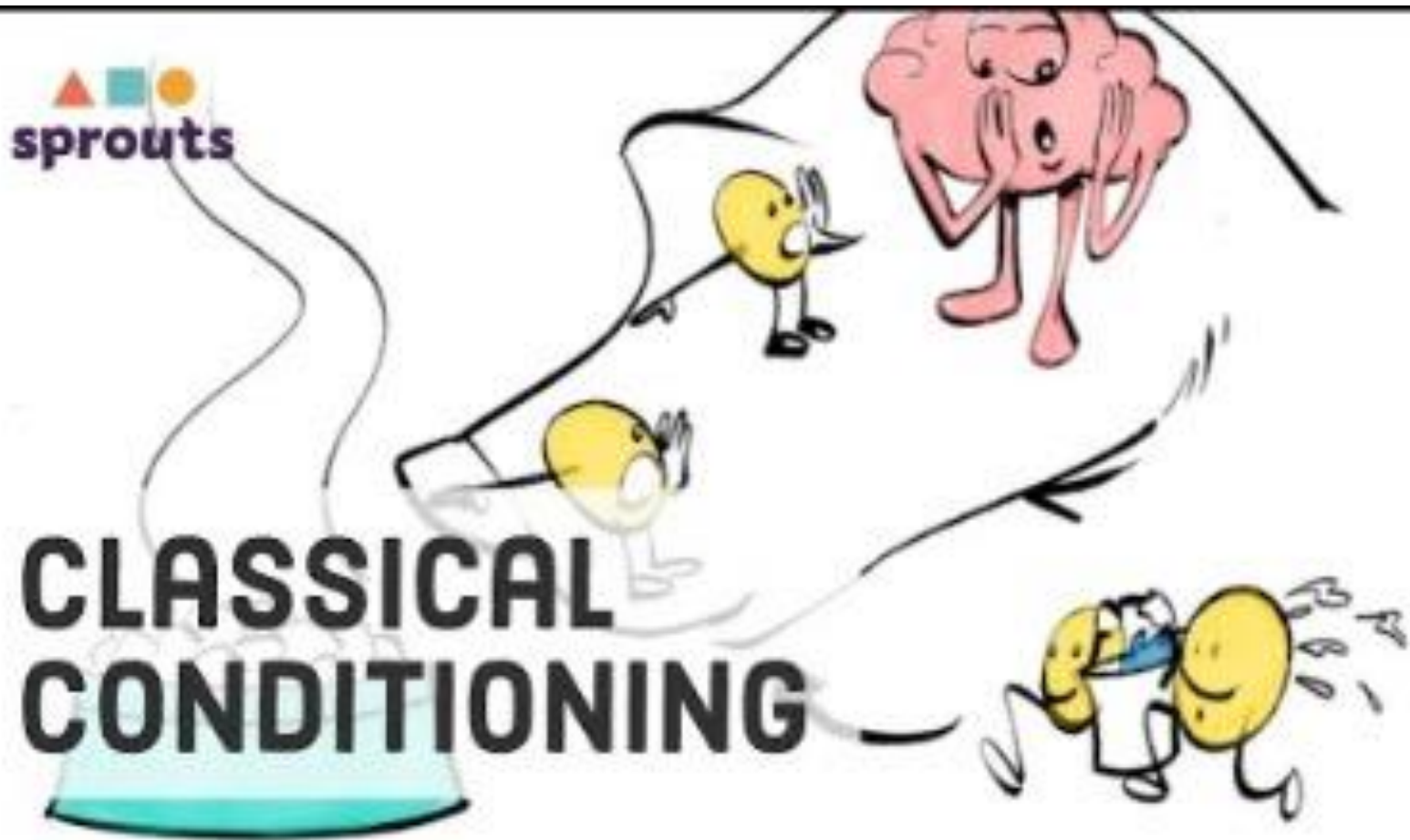
Three Types of Learning

1. Classical conditioning
 - Pavlovian
2. Instrumental learning
 - Operant conditioning
3. Social learning

Behaviorism

- John B. Watson's 1913 publication of *Psychology as the Behaviorist Views It*
 - Official beginning
- Pavlov's classical conditioning
- Stimulus and response

Classical Conditioning (Sprouts 5:33)



Watson & Behaviorism (Sprouts 5:49)



Operant Conditioning (Sprouts 4:51)



Behaviorism

- In Classical Conditioning, no cognitive processes are involved in the final actions.
 - They are autonomic reflexes
 - Conditioned Stimuluses and Conditioned Responses must be closely paired
 - Does the criminal justice system work this way?
 - How much human behavior do you think is classically conditioned?
 - What types of crimes might be associated with this type of conditioning?
 - How would that affect what you might do in a rehabilitation program for such offenders?

Behaviorism

- B.F. Skinner
 - Environmental stimuli
 - Independent variable
 - Behavior
 - Dependent variable
 - Rewards (positive reinforcement) vs Punishment (negative reinforcement)
 - People do what gives pleasure and avoid what gives pain
 - Remember Early Classical Criminology:
 - Free will and an individual analysis of pleasure vs pain determines if someone will commit a crime

Behaviorism

- All behavior is the result of stimuli in the environment
- Learning is important as this affects how stimuli affect the individual
 - Since each person learns different things in different ways, the same stimuli affects each person differently.
- Skinner argued that punishment does not work because the stimulus is only temporary.
 - Does this explain high rates of recidivism?

Behaviorism

- Under this theory, individual traits do not matter, it is the environment that is solely responsible.
 - Why then isn't everyone in a high crime area a criminal?
 - Are they not all exposed to the same environmental stimuli?

Operant Learning and Crime

- In order to eliminate crime, we must design a society in which members learn very early that positive reinforcement will not occur if they transgress against these rules and regulations, but will occur if they abide by them.
- Prison does not deter crime because it is a temporary reinforcer.
- As with classical conditioning, operant conditioning suffers in application to the criminal justice system due to long periods of time between stimulus and response.

Social Learning

- Emphasis on cognitive processes
 - Since all human behavior is learned, it can be changed via the same process
 - Learn by observing and listening to people around us
 - More influence from those we respect
- Learn criminal behavior from modeling the behavior of others
 - This does also require positive reinforcement for the criminal behavior to continue

Social Learning

- Expectancy theory
 - A person's performance level is based on that person's expectation that behaving in a particular way will lead to a given outcome.
 - This expectation is based on prior experience, personal or vicarious
 - Personal assessment of outcome probabilities based on prior experience
 - Will commit a crime if the expected outcome is something desired such as money, status, power.
 - Crimes of violence can be linked to power and status for some criminals

Social Learning

- Imitational aspects of social learning
 - Bandura
 - The famous “Bobo experiment”
 - We learn behaviors from watching others
 - We do not need any reinforcement to learn the behavior
 - Father beats mother, child models this later in life
 - No personal reinforcement while observing the father’s behavior

Social Learning

- Could someone learn violence this way watching television or playing violent video games?
 - Or can we separate out what is real from what is not real?
 - People die in a video game, reset button
 - Kill an animated person in a video game, you win, kill someone in real life, you lose.
- Research has suggested that modeled behavior is more likely to continue if it is rewarded.
 - Again, the reward can be status, power or financial, anything of value to the individual.

Bobo Experiment (Sprouts 5:07)



Social Learning

- Differential association-reinforcement theory
 - People learn to commit deviant acts through interpersonal interactions with their social environment.
 - Differential association theory
 - Associate with non criminals, do not go into crime
 - Associate with criminals, become a criminal
 - Deviant behavior continues because it is reinforced by valued peers in the deviant group.

Social Learning

- Deviant behavior is defined as positive by the deviant group thus reinforcing it
- This seems to explain a good deal of female criminality for crimes not related to simple theft
- Getting someone out of the deviant group and to value non-criminal behavior in a non-deviant group will tend to extinguish criminality
 - Move and hang out with a different non-criminal group

Differential Association (Sprouts 3:38)



Frustration-Induced Criminality

- When behavior directed at a specific goal is blocked, arousal increases, and the individual experiences a drive to reduce that arousal.
 - Serial Rape
 - A thief who constantly sees something he cannot afford finally steals it
 - Bullied student, school ambivalent, school shooter

Frustration-Induced Criminality

- Constantly feel mistreated by the government (real or imagined) and nothing you or your community does to correct it legally works:
Riot
 - The frustration does not have to be based on reality, it is just the perception that counts.
 - Media manipulation

Frustration-Induced Criminality

- The socialized offender
 - Offend because they have learned to through social environment
- The individualized offender
 - Product of series of frustrations resulting from unmet needs
 - Parental neglect
 - High expectation of reaching goal

Frustration-Induced Criminality

- Frustration and crime
 - The more intense and frequent the thwarting or frustration in a person's life, the more susceptible and sensitive the person is to subsequent frustration.

Situational Instigators and Regulators of Criminal Behavior

- Authority
 - Crimes of obedience
 - Just following orders
 - Stanley Milgram's experiment
 - Dissociation between word and action
 - “I can’t do this”, but they go on and do it anyway
 - All for \$4
 - Milgram did the experiment in 1963
 - Was it unique to the times?
 - Burger 2009

Milgram Experiment 1963 (PsychHub 2:17)



Situational Instigators and Regulators of Criminal Behavior

- Deindividuation
 - Loss of individuality and self-imposed controls in crowds or groups
 - Act differently in a group rather than if alone
 - Cannot be singled out
 - Go with the flow
 - Group morality vs individual morality
 - Looters
 - Would they do the same thing if others were not also doing it?
 - Lynch mobs

Stanford Prison Experiment



Bystander Effect

- The bystander effect
 - Not so much a cause of crime, but something that allows an in-progress crime to go unabated
 - Do not want to get involved.
 - Catherine (Kitty) Genovese case
 - The Camera affect
 - Will body-worn cameras increase police peer intervention in officer misconduct?
 - Should we have good Samaritan laws requiring public peer intervention like we do for police?
 - At least as far as mandating calling 911 if safe to do so

Bystander Effect



Moral Disengagement

- Moral Disengagement & Dehumanization
 - A frequent psychological defense mechanism for terrorists
 - Detachment from personal moral principles for the greater good
 - Victims are things not people
 - Did the “guards” in the Stanford experiment dehumanize the “inmates”?

Key Concepts

- Behaviorism
- Bystander effect
- Classical or Pavlovian conditioning
- Cognitive processes
- Crimes of obedience
- Deindividuation
- Dependent variables

Key Concepts

- Differential Association-Reinforcement (DAR) Theory
- Discriminative stimuli
- Expectancy theory
- Extinction
- Frustration
- Fundamental attribution error
- Imitational learning

Key Concepts

- Independent variable
- Individual offender
- Instrumental learning/operant conditioning
- Models
- Moral agency
- Moral disengagement
- Negative reinforcement

Key Concepts

- Observational learning (modeling)
- Positive reinforcement
- Punishment
- Reductionism
- Reinforcement
- Response
- Self-serving biases
- Simulation

Key Concepts

- Situationism
- Social learning
- Socialized offender
- Stanford Prison Experiment
- Stimulus
- Variable
- Victimology

Other Resources

Videos:

Pavlov's Classical Conditioning. (2020) Sprouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd7Jdug5SRc>

Watson's Theory of Behaviorism. (2020) Sprouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V09FuazW8bc>

Skinner's Operant Conditioning: Rewards and Punishments (2020) Sprouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne6o-uPJArA>

Social Learning Theory: Bandura's Bobo Beatdown Experiments. (2022) Sprouts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHIhkM1cAv4>

Differential Association: 9 Rules for Becoming a Criminal. (2022) Sprouts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED7sZbfIP_k

Milgram Experiment 1963, (2014) PsychHub.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kzd6Ew3TraA>

Stanford Prison Experiment. (2022) Practical Psychology.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXv91xFipLM>

The Bystander Effect. (2009). CoolPsychologist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSsPfbup0ac&t=2s>