

Centre for Criminology & Sociology

Recommended Introductory Reading



Book title	Why read this book?
Bartol, C. R. and Bartol, A. M. (2012) <i>Current Perspectives in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Behaviour (3rd ed.)</i>. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.	Fantastic introductory text which covers biopsychosocial models of offending and motivations as well as numerous aspects of the CJS including the police and courtroom behaviour. Although psychological, much of the information can be used in parallel with understanding theories behind offending behaviour and societal responses.
Bauman, Z. (2010) <i>44 Letters from the Liquid Modern World</i>. London: Polity.	Short, engaging essays from one of Sociology's most important contemporary thinkers. Topics covered include health panics, young people and drugs, consumerism, and fashion.
Bauman, Z. and Tim, M. (2001) <i>Thinking Sociologically</i>. London: Wiley-Blackwell.	A brilliant introduction to Sociology with engaging examples and clear exposition of social theory.
Carrabine, E., Iganski, P., Lee, M., Plummer, K. and South, N. (2008) <i>Criminology: A Sociological Introduction</i>. London: Routledge.	This book offers an excellent introduction to key areas studied in undergraduate criminology including history of criminology and criminological theory, criminal justice system, policing and prisons, crime patterns and ways of thinking about crime and prevention.
Cuff, E. C. (2006) <i>Perspectives in Sociology</i>. London: Routledge.	Concise yet still authoritative discussion of classical and contemporary Sociological theory.
Ellis, T. and Savage, S. P. (2012) <i>Debates in Criminal Justice: Key Themes and Issues</i>. New York: Routledge.	Great book examining some of the critical and key debates in criminal justice. Provides both sides of each argument as well as further information for students to expand their understanding.
Fevre, R. (2010) <i>Dead White Men and Other Important People: Sociology's Big Ideas</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.	A textbook with a twist! The reader is introduced to sociology through Mila, a student grappling with 'sociology's big ideas'.
Fulcher, J. and Scott, J. (2011) <i>Sociology</i>. Oxford: OUP	Accessible and comprehensive overview of Sociology.
Howitt, D. (2012) <i>Introduction to Forensic and Criminal Psychology</i>. Essex: Pearson	Comprehensive and readable, providing a good understanding of how psychology relates to criminal justice and law
Maguire, M. (ed) (2012) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Criminology</i>. Oxford: OUP	Comprehensive and detailed chapters on many areas of Criminology written by relevant experts.
Newburn, T. (2012) <i>Criminology</i>. London. Routledge	Comprehensive textbook by one of the major figures in British Criminology
Pakes, F. and Winstone, J. (2007) <i>Psychology and Crime</i>. Devon: Willan	A short and accessible book that focuses on understanding and tackling offending behaviour, drawing on sociological and psychological explanations.
Reiner, R. (2007) <i>Law and Order: An Honest Citizen's Guide to Crime Control</i>. London: Polity.	This is a short and really accessible book that gives a critical overview of contemporary criminal justice policy in the UK.
Webber, C. (2010) <i>Psychology and Crime</i>. London: Sage	An introduction from a criminological (rather than a psychological) perspective, which could accompany the more classic contributions from Howitt and Pakes & Winstone (see above)
Young, J. (2011) <i>The Criminological Imagination</i>. London: Polity.	A lively discussion about the current state of the discipline of Criminology from a key theorist.

NB Many of these books are reprinted frequently and while the most recent editions will have the most up-to-date content, previous editions are usually just as good and much cheaper.