What is Criminology?

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[Criminology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criminology) is a field of study focused on criminals, crime, and criminal behavior. Criminologists primarily study crime from a social perspective, investigating the impact of crime on both individuals and society as a whole. Criminology incorporates psychology, sociology, and law enforcement, as criminologists seek to understand the psychological motivations behind crime, as well as how criminal acts and punishments are defined differently by different societies.

Differing criminological theories attempt to explain and analyze crime in various ways. Classical criminology believes that criminal behavior occurs when the benefits to the criminal outweigh the costs. Positivist criminology holds that internal and external factors contribute to criminal behavior, some of which are outside the criminal’s control. The individual trait theory posits that individual biological and psychological traits are the biggest cause of criminal behavior.