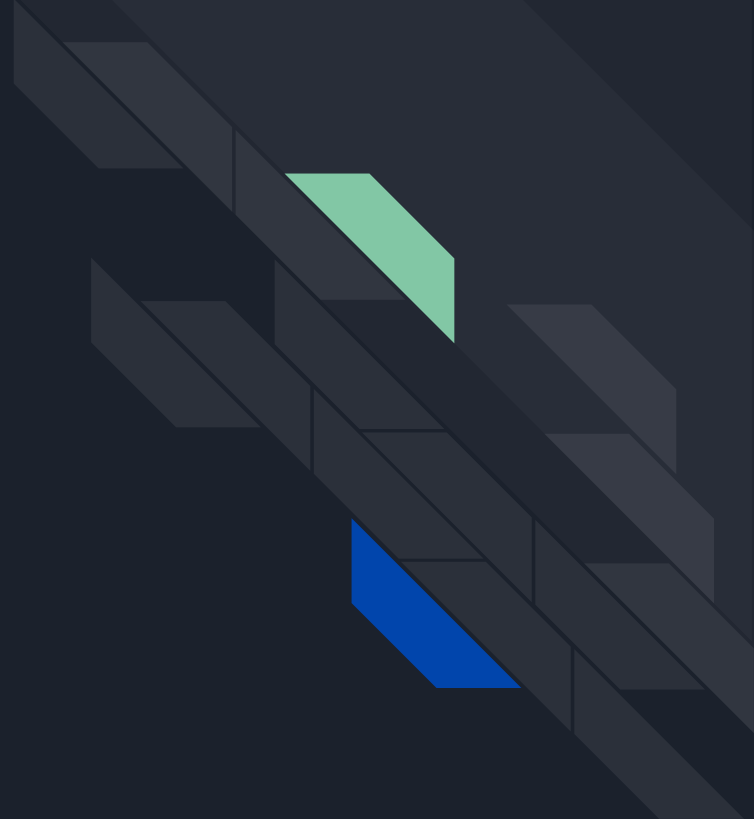




# An Introduction to Criminology

Day 2: Historical and Famous Crimes

Small Updates





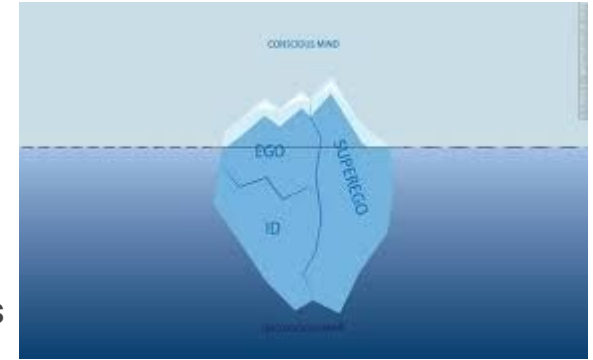
# Small Updates

- If you miss a class, that's perfectly ok! (No need to email me)
  - Slides will be sent out via email and on the website shortly after the class
- Today is a day where we start going over more difficult topics
  - Nature of the class, so be prepared

# Psychological Theories

- Psychodynamic theory

- Id: Primitive/Instincts
  - Pleasure principle (i.e. gratification)
  - Criminals having no concern for anyone but themselves
- Superego: Morals
  - Moral standards and values from community, parents, friends, etc.
- Ego: Mediates between Id and Superego
  - Reality principle
  - Following rules/boundaries (e.g. not crying while waiting in line)
- Theory suggests criminal offenders are frustrated and aggravated (why might this be the case?)
  - Underdeveloped superego
  - Weak ego



# Psychological Theories

- Behavioral Theory

- Human behavior is learned
- Social learning theory (Bandura)
  - Humans are not born bad
  - Learn through family, experiences (such as living in a crime prone areas), media (violence, desensitization)

- Cognitive Theory

- Individual's perception of the world and how this perception is developed
- Moral development → how to develop morals and reason
- Information processing → acquiring, retaining, and retrieving information
- How people perceive the world and create their own values can predict crime

- Nature vs. Nurture debate



# Psychological Theories

## Advantages:

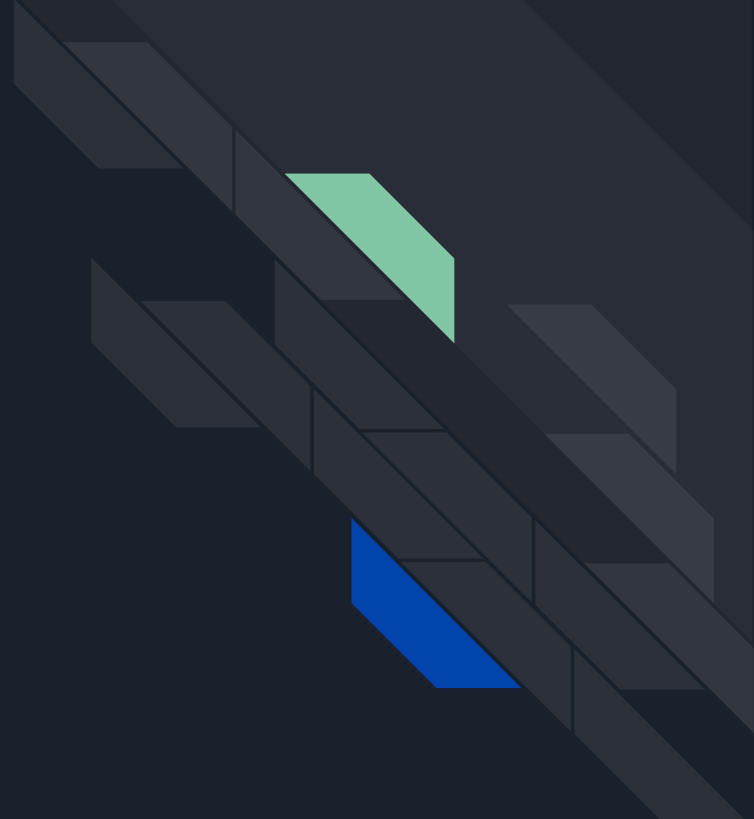
- Points out to specific areas of concern
  - Ex: For behavior theory, place a child in a safe learning environment
- Can support rational choice theory
  - How does one view something as good/bad?



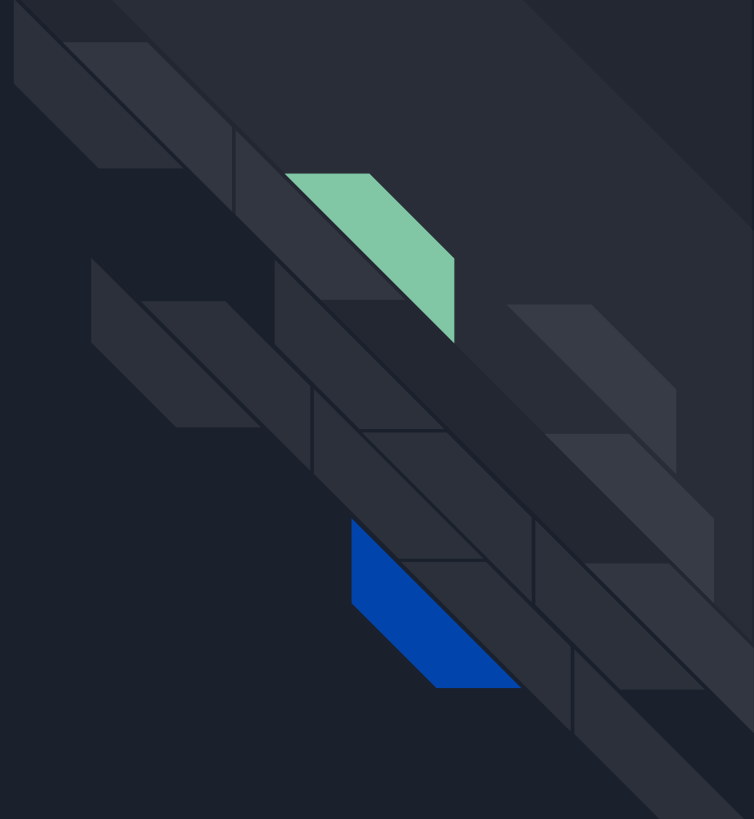
## Disadvantages

- Nature vs. Nurture debate
  - More likely that both have some effect on behavior
  - Question is how much of an impact does nature have relative to nurture?
- Contradictions between theories
  - Ex: Freud's Id suggests that some behavior is innate while Bandura's behavior theory does not allow this
- Complex
  - Could be a good thing in better understanding behavior
  - More difficult to propose solutions to prevent crime

# Crime in the News



Warning: The following material may be distressing



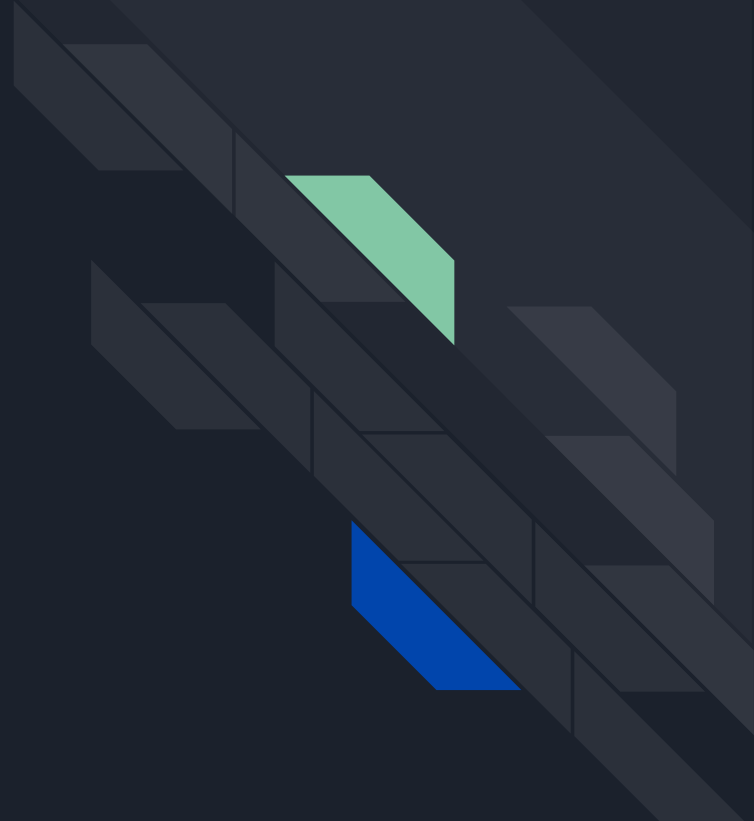


# Surveillance of Uvalde Shooting Released

- Disclaimer: Talk to your parents/guardians before diving too deep into the tragic events that follow
- Background of gunman (Source: [Washington Post](#))
  - Bullied for childhood speech impediment
  - Lonely
  - Lashes out violently to peers and strangers
  - Bought weapons/ammo shortly after his 18th birthday
- Upon release of surveillance footage, debates around how to prevent similar events from happening



Why was the crime committed?





# Surveillance of Uvalde Shooting Released

## Theories Covered so Far:

- Rational Choice Theory
  - If benefits > downsides, crime is committed
- Routine Activities Theory
  - Willing offender, suitable target, absence of guardian
  - Need all three for crime to occur
- Psychological Theory
  - Id: Primitive
  - Superego: Morals
  - Ego: Mediates between Id and Superego
- Behavioral Theory
  - Human behavior is learned
- Cognitive Theory
  - Poor moral development and information processing lead to criminal activity

Using the theories on the left, why was the crime committed?

## Responses:

- Absence of guardian made it easy for entering the school (no police/security, kept doors open, easy access to deadly weapon)
- Poor upbringing
- Learned about how to commit violent acts
- Antisocial disorder
- Poor role models
- Mental illnesses
- Unstable household

# Other viewpoints: Columbine and Sandy Hook Shootings

Columbine High School (1999)



Sandy Hook Elementary (2012)



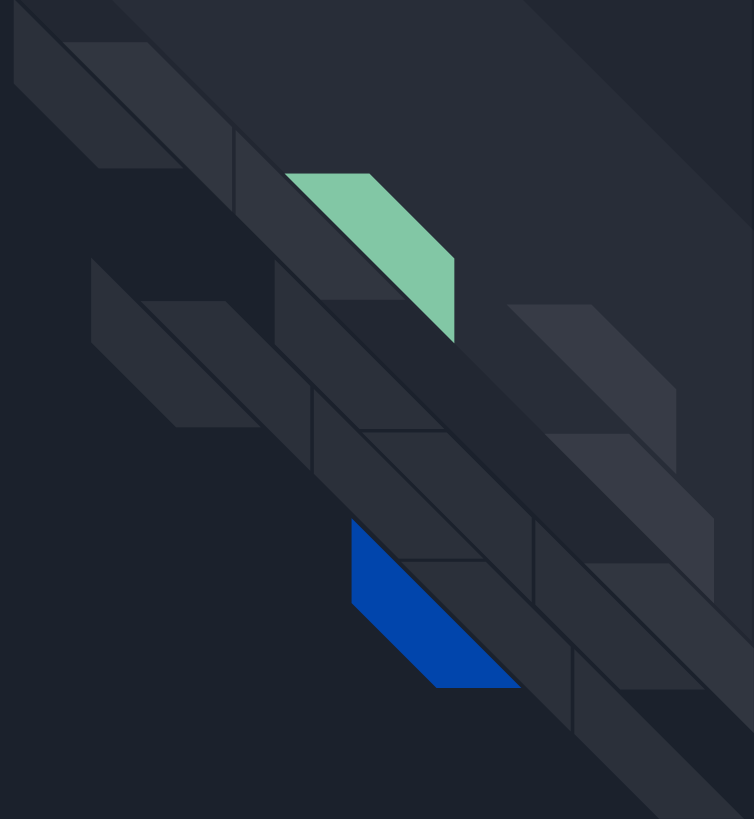


# Potential Parallels:

- All similar ages
  - Columbine: Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were 17-18 yrs old
  - Sandy Hook: Adam Lanza was 20 years old
  - Robb Elementary: Salvador Ramos was 18 years old
- Online Presence
  - Harris had a blog that threatened a classmate
  - Lanza lived in almost total isolation and only digitally communicated with those with interests in mass murder
  - Ramos used a French social networking site called Yubo and had disturbing content

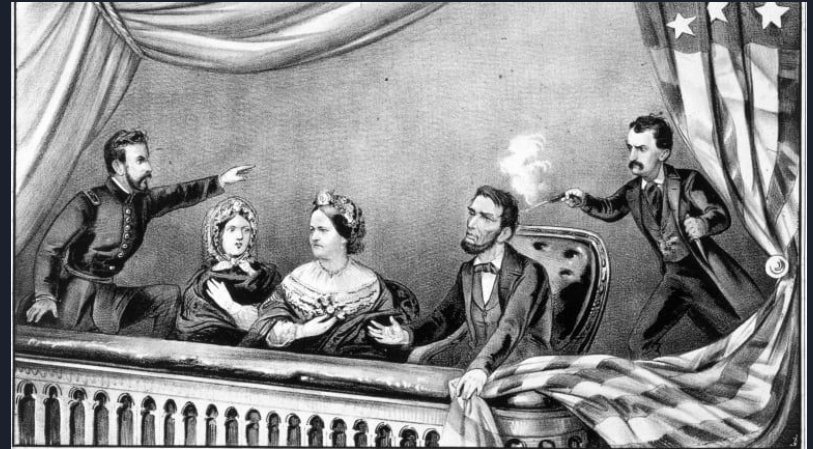
As of today, the motives for these crimes remain unknown.

# Historical and Famous Crimes



# Presidential Assassinations: Lincoln and Kennedy

- Perpetrator: John Wilkes Booth
  - Confederate sympathizer
- Scenario:
  - Of the plotters (others being Powell, Herold, and Atzerodt), only Booth would have realistic access to the Presidential Box
  - Entrance to box was unguarded (policeman Parker was away during intermission)
  - Booth knew the play by heart and timed his shot when the audience and Lincoln were laughing





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Using Routine Activities Theory, identify the willing offender, suitable target, and absence of a guardian. Then, explain how the assassination could have been prevented:

## Response:

- Willing offender: Booth
- Suitable target: Lincoln
- Absence of guardian: policeman Parker away
- How to prevent the crime
  - Second policeman and more security
  - Searching for weapons
  - Not go to the theatre
  - Locking the door
  - Security to everyone
  - Don't let former confederates into theater



# Presidential Assassinations: Lincoln and Kennedy

- Perpetrator: Lee Harvey Oswald
  - Former US Marine
- Motive and conspiracy, if any, remain unknown
  - US House Select Committee on Assassinations had majority agreement in no clear conspiracy
- Since then, presidential state cars became heavily protected





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- Details behind the motive remain fuzzy...

Why is it difficult to understand why Oswald assassinated Kennedy?

## Responses:

- He died two days later
- Might not know his childhood or background
- Schizophrenia
- US Marine background
- Possible motive is to be remembered? Politics? Thrill? PTSD? Trouble holding a job?

# Prohibition Era



# Prohibition Era

- For a funny summary, look up “Homer vs. The Eighteenth Amendment”
- 18th Amendment (ratified in 1919)
  - Only amendment to be repealed (1933 via 21st Amendment)
- Had roughly equal support from both major political parties
- Prohibited sale, manufacture, and distribution of alcohol
- Result: Initial reduction in alcohol consumption and fewer liver problems



# Prohibition Era

- But illegal importation and production rose
  - Speakeasies and bootleggers
- Enforcement was limited and difficult
  - Too many in prison
  - Briberies



# Prohibition Era

Using Rational Choice Theory, explain why people violated the 18th amendment.

Response:


- Benefits:
  - Thrill
  - Being able to drink
  - Money
  - Easy to access
  - Forgetting your problems
  - Power
- Downsides:
  - Illegal
  - Might get caught
  - Addiction
  - Liver and other health problems
  - Criminal record
  - Death from overconsumption
  - Production is dangerous



# Trayvon Martin

- Perpetrator: George Zimmerman
  - Community watchman
  - Shot Martin in self-defense (at least, that was claimed at the time)
- Verdict: Insufficient evidence to charge Zimmerman
  - But...the charges were strange...





# There are different types of murders...

- **1st Degree Murder:**
  - Premeditated killing
  - Intentional target
- **2nd Degree Murder:**
  - No premeditation or deliberation
  - Malice aforethought
  - This is what Zimmerman was charged for during the trial
- **Voluntary manslaughter**
  - Intentional killing due to “heat of passion” or “adequate” provocation
  - Loss of self-control
- **Involuntary manslaughter**
  - Killing without intent
  - Usually due to negligence
  - Ex: Vehicular manslaughter due to driving while drunk





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Given the details that you know (either from outside knowledge or from a couple of minutes ago), what would be a more “reasonable” charge for Zimmerman?

## Response:

- 2nd degree
- Voluntary manslaughter
- Maybe involuntary manslaughter



# Other historical/famous crimes

- OJ Simpson (1995)
- Zodiac Killer (late 1960s)
- Watergate scandal (1972-74)
- Boston Bombing (2013)
- George Floyd (2020)
- Michael Jackson (2009)



# Next time...

## More micro-level theories

- Social Learning
- Differential Association
- Labeling

## Macro-level theories

- Strain
- Peacemaking and Restorative Justice

(other theories if time)