

# CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY

## NATURE, NURTURE, CULTURE

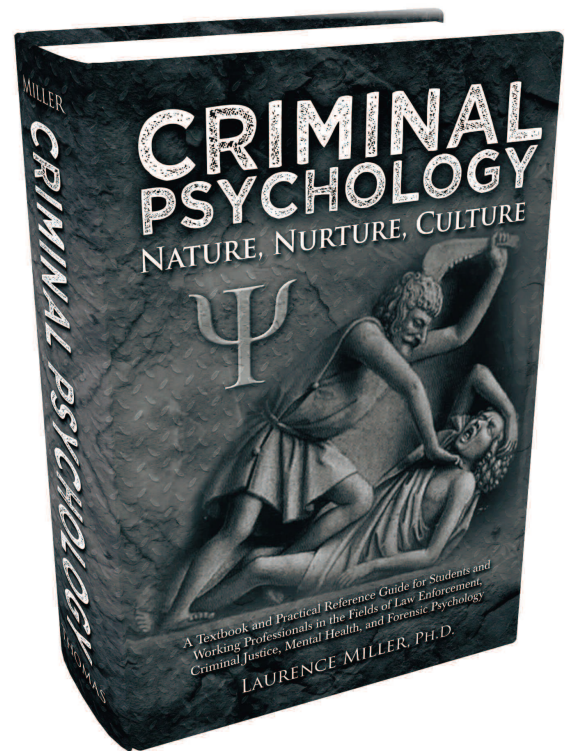
A Textbook and Practical Reference Guide for Students  
and Working Professionals in the Fields of Law  
Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and  
Forensic Psychology

by

Laurence Miller, Ph.D.

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Criminal Psychology is the application of the principles of normal and abnormal psychology to the understanding, prediction, and control of criminal behavior. ***Criminal Psychology: Nature, Nurture, Culture*** provides an in-depth yet readable introduction to the foundations of criminal psychology as it is understood and practiced from the classroom to the courtroom. The book is organized into five sections. **Part I** examines the nature and origins of criminal behavior. These chapters outline the role of psychology in the criminal justice system, and review the biology, psychology, and sociology of crime to develop a naturalistic model of criminal behavior that can guide theory and practice in law enforcement, criminal justice, and forensic evaluation. **Part II** examines the major classes of mental disorder that may be associated with criminal behavior, including psychotic disorders, mood disorders, organic brain syndromes, substance abuse, and personality disorders. Each chapter consists of a description of the syndrome, followed by applications to law enforcement, criminal justice, and forensic mental health issues of competency, sanity, and criminal culpability. **Part III** deals with death. Topics include homicide, serial murder, mass homicide, workplace and school violence, and terrorism. **Part IV** covers sexual offenses and crimes within the family, including rape and sexual assault, sex crimes against children, child battery, domestic violence, and family homicide. **Part V** discusses the psychological dynamics of a variety of common crimes, such as stalking and harassment, theft and robbery, gang violence, organized crime, arson, hate crimes, victimology, the psychology of corrections, and the death penalty. Each chapter contains explanatory tables and sidebars that illustrate the chapter's main topic with examples from real-life cases and the media, and explore controversies surrounding particular issues in criminal psychology, such as criminal profiling, sexual predator laws, dealing with children who kill, psychotherapy with incarcerated offenders, and the use of "designer defenses" in court. Grounded in thorough scholarship and written in a crisp, engaging style, this volume is the definitive handbook and reference source for forensic psychologists, mental health practitioners, attorneys, judges, law enforcement professionals, and military personnel. It will also serve as an authoritative core text for courses in forensic psychology, criminology, and criminal justice practice.

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# CONTENTS

Preface  
Chapter

## PART I. THE NATURE AND ORIGINS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

1. PSYCHOLOGY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
2. BIOLOGICAL THEORIES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
3. PSYCHOSOCIAL THEORIES OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

## PART II. PERSONALITY, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND CRIME

4. BRAIN SYNDROMES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
5. SCHIZOPHRENIA AND PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS
6. ANXIETY AND MOOD DISORDERS
7. PERSONALITY DISORDERS
8. ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER AND THE PSYCHOPATH

## PART III. THE HOMICIDES

9. HOMICIDE
10. SERIAL HOMICIDE
11. MASS HOMICIDE I: WORKPLACE VIOLENCE
12. MASS HOMICIDE II: SCHOOL VIOLENCE
13. MASS HOMICIDE III: TERRORISM AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

## PART IV. SEX CRIMES AND FAMILY CRIMES

14. SEX CRIMES I: RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
15. SEX CRIMES II: SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN
16. FAMILY CRIME I: CHILD ABUSE AND FAMILY VIOLENCE
17. FAMILY CRIME II: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## PART V. SEX CRIMES AND FAMILY CRIMES

18. STALKING AND HARASSMENT
19. JUVENILE CRIME
20. OTHER CRIMES
21. CORRECTIONS, THE DEATH PENALTY, AND CRIME VICTIMS

Bibliography  
Index

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Laurence Miller, Ph.D.** is a psychologist in Boca Raton, Florida, specializing in clinical psychology, neuropsychology, forensic psychology, police psychology, and business psychology. Dr. Miller is a consulting psychologist for the West Palm Beach Police Department, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Troop L of the Florida Highway Patrol, and several other local, regional, and national law enforcement agencies. He is a court-appointed forensic psychological examiner for the Palm Beach County Criminal, Juvenile, and Family Court, and he serves as an independent expert witness in civil and criminal cases locally and around the country.

Dr. Miller is an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach State College, and is the author of over 300 professional and popular publications and on-line resources. He is the editor of the *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*, and writes the *Practical Police Psychology* column on the [PoliceOne.com](http://PoliceOne.com) website. Dr. Miller can be reached at 561-392-8881 or at [docmilphd@aol.com](mailto:docmilphd@aol.com).

		PHONE:		FAX:		EMAIL:		MAIL:
		1-800-258-8980 or (217) 789-8980		(217) 789-9130		books@ccthomas.com		Charles C Thomas • Publisher, Ltd. P.O. Box 19265 Springfield, IL 62794-9265
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