# Discussion #4 Case Breakdown

## Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize and describe major psychological theories of crime
2. Apply psychological theories of crime to analyze and interpret criminal behavior in various contexts

## Instructions:

Choose **one** of the following five cases: Israel Keyes , Ted Bundy, Aileen Wuornos, Charles Manson, or Richard Kuklinski. [websites]

**Examine** them under the Psychological Theories spotlight we have been in this week.

**Choose one** (or more) Psychological Theory(ies) from this week and walk through how this theory explains how those factors led to this crime being committed.

   A. **Create** a Post & **Explain** your viewpoint on this theory's credibility.

## Exemplar:

**Case:** The Stanford Prison Experiment

**Theory Applied:** Differential Association Theory

**Factors:**

1. Criminal behavior is learned.
2. Criminal behavior is learned during interactions with others through communication.
3. All interactions with others are not equal. They can vary in frequency, intensity, priority, and duration.

**How These Apply to this Case:**

1. Criminal behavior is learned. Within the Stanford Prison Experiment we saw that some guards were not initially willing or inherently violent. Some were docile and attempting to verbally coerce the inmates into appropriate behavior. It was not until influenced that we saw a change in behavior.
2. Criminal behavior is learned during interactions with others through communication. The change in behavior I spoke of in factor #1 was due to the interactions with others through communication which led to violent behavior of guards to induce reactions from the inmates as well as the researchers.
3. All interactions with others are not equal. They can vary in frequency, intensity, priority, and duration. As the study went on, we saw an increase of

abuse. Many guards felt pressured to increase intensity and frequency of said abuse.

**Credibility:** I believe this case reinforces the credibility of the Differential Association Theory because it demonstrated how individuals can learn deviant behaviors through exposure to negative influences. This was made clear by the transformation of ordinary college students into abusive guards and submissive prisoners within a simulated prison setting.

## Evaluation:

Discussion are assessed based on the following Rubric and written feedback will be provided within the discussion.

- **Rubric Criteria**

_____ / 5 Well thought-out original post that demonstrates an understanding of materials and connections to class. All prompts are addressed.

_____/5 Responds to peers in a timely and respectful manner on responses

There are no word requirements for this assignment, I just want to see thoughtful posts and responses that reflect understanding.