Class Activities

# Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminology

**Class Activity 1: What is Crime?**

**Case Studies**

**Instructions:** Let’s examine some case studies.Read the scenarios carefully. Determine what crime or crimes have been committed. Classify each as either *mala in se* or *mala prohibita*. Explain your classification.

1. You are a police officer and you are buying a cup of coffee at the local “Stop and Rob” convenience store. You see a juvenile male place a quart of milk inside his jacket. You approach the person and tell him to open his jacket. He complies. He apologizes for his actions. He explains that he could not afford to buy the milk, but he needs it for his child. He promises not to do it again and asks you to let him go.
2. A major pharmaceutical company introduces a new weight-loss drug. Although the pharmaceutical company knows that the drug may increase the chances of heart attacks and strokes, the company’s warning label states that, “Product X has no known side effects.” After the drug is linked to hundreds of heart attacks and strokes and dozens of deaths, the company pulls the drug off the market.
3. Laura has had a hard day at work. Before going home, she decides to stop at a local bar and have a couple drinks. After consuming several drinks, she decides to drive home. She runs a red light and crashes head-on into another vehicle. The two occupants of the other vehicle are killed. One of the occupants of the car was 6 months pregnant at the time of the crash. Laura’s blood alcohol content was .18. She has a previous conviction for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).
4. John and Amy have been in a relationship for 10 years. Amy has grown tired of the relationship and has been having an affair with another man for the last 6 months. Amy and her lover make a plan to kill her husband. Amy takes out a $500,000 life insurance policy on her husband. Several weeks later, her lover breaks into Amy’s house and shoots and kills her husband. He takes a few valuables from the house to make it look like a burglary.
5. You and your partner are dispatched to a domestic dispute. When you arrive, you hear loud voices inside the house. You knock on the door and announce that you are with the police department. A small-framed male answers the door. You advise him that you’ve received a call about a domestic dispute. You notice that the man has a small amount of blood dripping from his lower lip, which also appears to be bruised. You ask the man if he is okay or in need of medical attention. In an effeminate voice, he advises you that he and his “roommate” have had a little fight that “got out of hand.” A larger male is standing in the kitchen and he seems irritated that you are there. He speaks up and says “We were arguing and I lost my temper a little.” The smaller male advises you that he does not need medical attention and that he does not want to press charges.

**Class Activity 2: Comparing Juvenile and Criminal Justice Terms**

**Reading and Critical Reflection**

**Instructions:** Please read the section “Comparing Juvenile and Criminal Justice Terms.” Answer the questions below.

1. What was the ruling in *In re Winship* (1970)? Do you agree with this ruling? Why or Why not?
2. What was the ruling in *Kent v. United Sates* (1966)? Do you agree with this ruling? Why or why not?
3. Define the term *juvenile waiver*. Describe a situation in which you think a juvenile should be tried as an adult. Generally speaking, do you agree with juvenile waiver? Why or why not?

**Class Activity 3: Victim’s Rights on College Campuses**

**Compare and Contrast**

**Instructions:** Please read the section on Victim’s Rights. Now, go to your campus website and find the Victim’s Rights for your campus. Select a second college or university and see what Victim’s Rights information is presented.

1. Do both campuses have the same victim’s rights statements?
2. What are some of the differences in the victim’s rights?
3. Which right(s) do you think your campus should have that it does not? Why?